

# THE CALL

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

March 2024

Volume 79, Issue 2

Lent, properly understood, is less a season and more a practice: practicing the presence of God. Protestants in general and modern people in particular tend to reduce spirituality and religion to information—data about God and Jesus. Information about God and Jesus is important, but since we are very finite creatures speaking of infinite and eternal subjects, our information is at best highly incomplete and at worst altogether wrong.

The thing we get most wrong is that we treat the triune God as an object, a thing that is “out there” to which we ascribe attributes and about which we presume to deduce intentions and future actions. But if God is God, then God is no object at all. If God is God, then there is no valid sentence that can ever be uttered beginning with the words “God is . . .” because God is necessarily and always so beyond any attribute we might utter. The real art of prayer is unlearning how we normally think in our dualistic mental habits of subject and object. Despite how things may appear inside our own self-obsessed heads, we the “I” of our lives are never the subject. Only God is subject and we and everything else in all creation are objects.

Because God is not out there, God is already in here, already in the depths of our consciousness and being. That is the presence of God within and between us that Paul calls Spirit. If you are a creature within creation (*and you are*) then God is already fully and completely accessible to you, within you. This communion is not a task to be achieved, but simply a state of being to be uncovered that is already latent within you. You and I are the branches and God is the living vine curling its way through every moment and every breath from the depths of our being. We of course do not like to go there. We prefer the distractions of our egos, anxieties, and the endless internal and external chattering of our minds and social media. We erect cacophonous barriers of ceaseless banal thought and often foolishly call that monologue our life. But our real lives are not our thoughts. Our real lives lie somewhere else entirely.

There is a way around it all, back to the source and foundation of our being. You can let go. Jesus did, most dramatically through the cross. Letting go of all the distractions so you can pay attention to the one true thing is the key. The purity of the human heart is to will one thing. *James 4:8*. To let go of all the distractions, all the idols internal and external (*the most insidious idols are the ones inside our heads*) and with a simple intention to seek God with all our attention is the essence of all Christian spiritual practice. All it takes is a little intention, a little attention, and a lot of patient practice. But it works. It always works because God is always there just waiting for you. God is not actually hidden. We are distracted.

May you have a holy and blessed Lent, now and always. And may you experience moments of resurrection life on this side of the grave.

-Brian

## WORSHIP

In-person Casual Service 8:30am

Traditional Service 10:30am

Our Traditional 10:30am worship offering will be live-streamed beginning at 10:15am on YouTube.

Visit [www.fairmontchurch.org/online](http://www.fairmontchurch.org/online) for links to all past and upcoming live streams.

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March 3 3rd Sunday in Lent/Communion  
Lesson: Romans 8:12-17

March 10 4th Sunday in Lent  
Lesson: Romans 8:17-21

March 17 5th Sunday in Lent  
Lesson: Romans 8:22-27

March 24 Palm Sunday  
Lesson: Romans 8:28-30

March 28 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm  
Lesson: 1 Corinthians 11:18-34

March 29 Good Friday Service 7:00pm

March 30 Holy Saturday

March 31 **Easter Sunday**  
Lesson: Romans 8:34-39

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### Bible Study

Thursdays, 12:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82002536057>

Meeting ID: 820 0253 6057

### Connections

Wednesdays, 7:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82945327813>

Meeting ID: 829 4532 7813

## CONNECTIONS

### Connections: The Foundations of Christian Mystical Spirituality

Beneath the shared traditions we call religion lies something deeper and more powerful—actual encounter with God. From the very earliest centuries of the church, the quest for the experience of God, as opposed to information about God (theology) has driven our faith but is often spoken about in hushed whispers. We will be examining the shared history of these experiences, the spiritual quest for God, and the tradition of reflections upon all of this in our Connections classes every Wednesday night.

On Wednesday nights throughout March at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

March 6 Gregory of Nyssa

March 13 Augustine

March 20 Dionysius

March 27 No Connections for  
Holy Week

## BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Thursdays at 12:00pm. We will be convening hybrid Bible Study in person in the Upper Room for those who wish to participate in person and simultaneously on Zoom for those who wish to share virtually. In this way we hope to make Bible Study as accessible as possible.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30am Worship

After the Time with Children, children will follow their teachers to a classroom on the lower level where they will learn about God while enjoying bible stories, crafts, and fellowship with their peers. We are using a new curriculum in our elementary classes: "Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living."

Quarterly, Pastor Kelley will also be sharing beautiful **Godly Play** storytelling during the Sunday school time slot. Sunday school classes are open to children ages 4 - grade 5. Any questions, contact Pastor Kelley.

### MARCH FAIRMONT CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Children's Choir rehearsal continues Sunday mornings in Lent from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Children's Choir room. The children will be singing in the 10:30 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, March 24** for Palm Sunday.

*Mark your calendars: March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24*

Ages 4 - grade 5 are invited to participate. We are pleased to have Deanna Ullery leading the Children's Choir. Contact Pastor Kelley for questions.

### MARCH FAIRMONT FAMILY PIZZA NIGHT

All Fairmont families of children and youth are invited to a Family Pizza Night. Join us on Friday, March 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Marion's Piazza in Kettering.

**WHEN:** Friday, March 15, 2024

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Marion's Piazza  
50 E. Stroop Road Kettering

For questions, contact Pastor Kelley at (937) 751-0752 or [kshin@fairmontchurch.org](mailto:kshin@fairmontchurch.org).

### UPCOMING CHILDREN'S EVENTS

- March 15: Fairmont Family Pizza Night
- March 23: Easter Egg Hunt, Lunch, and Easter Activities
- March 24: Children's Choir Sings for Palm Sunday
- May 5: Last Day of Sunday School before Summer Break
- May 12: Children's Choir Sings for Mother's Day (Youth Sunday)
- May 17: Fairmont Family Picnic Night
- June 10-13: Vacation Bible School

### EASTER EGG HUNT



Fairmont's annual Easter event will be held Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30am.

Join us for crafts, activities, and an egg hunt followed by a hot dog lunch! Reach out to Pastor Kelley to volunteer!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### SPLASH: Waters of Baptism!



Vacation Bible School 2024: June 10-13, 9:00am-12:00pm

VBS is open to children ages 4 through children who have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Splash VBS:** Join us for four fun-filled mornings with Godly Play bible stories, awesome music, water games, fun crafts, and yummy snacks! Come experience Waters of Creation, Waters of Promise, Waters of Forgiveness, and Waters of Baptism!

Registration information to come soon!

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## FAIRMONT YOUTH MINISTRY

(Grades 6th -12<sup>th</sup>)

Sundays, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Fairmont Youth Ministry will meet on Sundays in-person from 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. (**unless otherwise noted in bold print**). There will be faith conversations, games, activities, and lunch!

## MARCH YOUTH SCHEDULE

March 3 Lent: Lunch, Faith Conversations, Games

March 10 Special Youth Event  
(12:00pm - 6:00pm)

March 17 Lent: Lunch, Faith Conversations, Games

March 24 NO YOUTH: SPRING BREAK

March 31 NO YOUTH: EASTER

Pastor Kelley may be reached by email at [kshin@fairmontchurch.org](mailto:kshin@fairmontchurch.org) or by text or phone at (937) 751-0752.

## CHOIR

The music program at Fairmont welcomes new members at any time during the year! With many voices we can make the rafters ring in praise and worship of God! Chancel Choir meets on Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:30 and sings at the 10:30 service. No musical experience or training is required, only the desire to sing! Please contact Coleman Clark at [cclark@fairmontchurch.org](mailto:cclark@fairmontchurch.org) with questions or for more information about any of our music programs at Fairmont!

## WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT 2024

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Mark your calendars for Spring 2024 Women's

Retreat at Hueston Woods on April 26 & 27, 2024! Registration information and brochures are in the Fellowship Hall and Narthex.

**THEME:** Mary & Martha: Waiting on God

**LEADERS:** Rev. Kelley Shin, Rev. Lisa M. Hess, and CRE Gidget Collins

**DATE:** Friday, April 26, 5:00 p.m. to Saturday, April 27, 3:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Hueston Woods Lodge & Conference Center

### REGISTRATION

Sign-up Sheets and Brochures are at the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall doors or email Pastor Kelley at [kshin@fairmontchurch.org](mailto:kshin@fairmontchurch.org). **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 20, 2024.**

Join us for a time of spiritual, physical, and emotional renewal at Fairmont's overnight Women's Retreat. There will be time for small and large group sessions, worship, hikes, meditation and prayer, fellowship, food, and fun! Pick up a brochure at church for information on housing, meals, and cost.

# March

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
|  |  |   |   |   | 1<br>11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)<br>12:00pm: OA (rc)<br>5:00pm: Theology on Tap @ Marion's Piazza 50 E. Stroop Road Kettering        | 2<br>Ruth Smith Memorial Service<br>9:00am-11:00am: Visitation<br>11:00am: Service |
| 3rd Sunday in Lent<br>8:30am: Casual Service (fh)<br>9:30am: Children's Choir Practice<br>10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary)<br>12:00pm: Fairmont Youth  | 4<br>7:00pm: WOF Coordinating Meeting (ur)                               | 5<br>11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)<br>12:00pm: AA (012)<br>12:00pm: OA (rc)<br>2:30pm: Lincoln Park Communion<br>7:00pm: Team Meetings (ur) | 6<br>4:30pm: Praise Band (fh)<br>7:00pm: Connections (online)<br>7:30pm: AA (012)   | 7<br>12:00pm: Bible Study (ur)<br>6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr)<br>7:00pm: NA (012)<br>7:15pm: Choir (cr)                 | 8<br>11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)<br>12:00pm: OA (rc)   | 9  |
| 4th Sunday in Lent<br>8:30am: Casual Service (fh)<br>9:30am: Children's Choir Practice<br>10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary)<br>12:00pm: Fairmont Youth<br><u>Daylight saving time begins</u>        | 11<br>11:30am: Vi MacCagno Memorial Service<br>7:00pm: Circle 1 (parlor) | 12<br>11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)<br>12:00pm: AA (012)<br>12:00pm: OA (rc)<br>7:00pm: Trustees, B&G, Finance (ur)                         | 13<br>3:00pm: Spirituality For Those Who Grieve (chapel)<br>4:30pm: Praise Band (fh)<br>7:00pm: Connections (online)<br>7:30pm: AA (012)  | 14<br>12:00pm: Bible Study<br>6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr)<br>7:00pm: NA (012)<br>7:15pm: Choir (cr)                     | 15<br>11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)<br>12:00pm: OA (rc)<br>6:00pm: Fairmont Family Night @ Marion's Piazza 50 E. Stroop Road Kettering | 16<br>9:30am: Circle 7   |
| 5th Sunday in Lent<br>8:30am: Casual Service (fh)<br>9:30am: Children's Choir Practice<br>10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary)<br>12:00pm: Fairmont Youth<br>6:00pm: Dayton Opera Chorus Practice (cr) | 18<br>7:00pm: Dayton Opera Chorus Practice (cr)                          | 19<br>11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)<br>12:00pm: AA (012)<br>12:00pm: OA (rc)<br>7:00pm: Session (ur)  | 20<br>11:30am: Fairmont Men's Luncheon (offsite)<br>4:30pm: Praise Band (fh)<br>5:30pm: Circle 6 (offsite)<br>7:00pm: Connections (online)<br>7:00pm: Dayton Opera Chorus Practice (cr)<br>7:30pm: AA (012) | 21<br>12:00pm: Bible Study<br>6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr)<br>7:00pm: NA (012)<br>7:15pm: Choir (cr)                     | 22<br>11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)<br>12:00pm: OA (rc)  | 23<br>10:30am: Easter Egg Hunt, Lunch, and Easter Activities                       |
| Palm Sunday<br>8:30am: Casual Service<br>10:30am: Traditional Service<br><b>Easter Sunday</b><br>8:30am: Casual Service (fh)<br>10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary)                                   | 25   | 26<br>11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)<br>12:00pm: AA (012)<br>12:00pm: OA (rc)  | 27<br>4:30pm: Praise Band (fh)<br>No Connections for Holy Week<br>7:30pm: AA (012)  | 28<br>12:00pm: Bible Study<br>1:00pm: Rug Hooking Group (fh)<br>7:00pm: Maundy Thursday Service<br>7:00pm: NA (012) | 29<br>11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)<br>12:00pm: OA (rc)<br>7:00pm: Good Friday Service   | 30<br>Holy Saturday<br>10:00am: Dayton Opera Chorus Practice (cr)                  |
| 31   |  |   |   |   |  |  |

## MISSION BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

Helping Hands, Helping Heart:



### Winter Spotlight: Brigid's Path

This winter we had a Minute for Mission on the nonprofit organization Brigid's Path, one of the several organizations included in our Mission Team's annual budget. Their primary goal is to care for infants born exposed to addictive substances like opioids or prescription medication. This organization is the first facility in Ohio to offer in-patient treatment in a facility designed to feel like home. Brigid's Path has offered 24/7 care from skilled medical staff and volunteers to 213 babies since December 2017. They also partner with other community resources to support moms, encouraging mothers to room with, care for, and bond with their babies as much as possible to provide them with the long-term stability their child will need. Learn more at [brigid-spath.org](http://brigid-spath.org)!

### March Lenten Food Collection

For the March Sundays in Lent, our Mission Team is hosting a non-perishable food collection to benefit The Food Bank of Dayton and the FISH Food Pantry! This is a great chance to take an action-oriented approach to Lent. All non-perishable foods will be accepted. We invite you to participate as a Lenten practice of giving. Feel free to get the whole family involved in selecting items to bring in!

**When Is the Collection?** We'll be accepting donations March 3<sup>rd</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Nonperishable Food Suggestions:** Although any nonperishable food is needed and will be used, here are some suggestions of items your family might bring:

**Basic Foods:** Hearty soups, stews (beef, chicken and dumplings), chili, peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese

**Meats/High Protein:** Canned meats (ham, chicken, meat spreads), canned fish like tuna, salmon,

sardines or other fish, nuts and seeds, rice and beans

**Dairy Group:** Evaporated milk, powdered milk, puddings, and custards

**Fruits and Veggies:** Canned fruits, canned juices, canned vegetables

**Breads Cereals, and Pasta:** Hot and cold breakfasts like oatmeal or cream of wheat, baking mixes (pancake, corn bread, cake mix, icing, quick breads), pasta, canned sauces.

### How To Get Involved Congregational Ministries Sunday, March 17th

Here comes spring! Buds and blooms are a great analogy for our participation in church ministry. Peep into the variety of roles that are important parts of how our congregation serves our fellow worshippers and the community beyond our doors. Consider starting as a little bud in a small project with the Mission team. Perhaps you are ready to take on a well-rooted task like ushering through the month. Or maybe you would really like to "re-pot" yourself to try a new role and learn about another team's work.

Join us after each worship service in Fellowship Hall on Sunday March 17 to learn about opportunities to support our Christian Formation team, Mission Beyond the Congregation, and others. And let's see what blossoms!

## LINCOLN PARK

### FAIRMONT CARES: LINCOLN PARK MANOR

Did you know that Fairmont provides a monthly communion service of worship at Lincoln Park retirement community? Every month we share in worship, prayer, preaching, and the Lord's Supper with a diverse group of 15-25 residents, most of whom are not members of Fairmont. This is just one of the ways we seek to extend Fairmont's ministry to our community.

## SPIRITUALITY FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE

### SPIRITUALITY FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE

*Spiritual Wisdom and Practice in Times of Grief and Healing*

**MONTHLY MEETINGS:** Second Wednesday of the Month

**MARCH DATE:** March 13, 2024

**TIME:** 3:00pm – 4:00pm

**PLACE:** Chapel

When we are grieving the death of someone we love, we long for the support and compassion of our fellow human beings; a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. How does our faith speak to this grief? How can we find healing through our stories of grief? All who are grieving the loss of a loved one – recently or long ago – are *invited* to share in monthly gatherings led by Pastor Kelley. Our next gathering is March 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel. This will be a time to share or listen to stories of healing and grief. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Kelley at

[kshin@fairmontchurch.org](mailto:kshin@fairmontchurch.org).

## WOMEN OF FAIRMONT

On Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, over 60 members of the Fairmont Community took part in the Fairmont Chili Cook Off. With 14 chilis to sample, yummy deserts and hot dogs for the kids, a good time was had by all! The winners with bragging rights for the best chilis are Cyndi Porter in 1<sup>st</sup>, Jan Runkle in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Kelly Coan took 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our own Brian McGuire and Caroline Wimer were tied for 4<sup>th</sup>.

## ART, ANTIQUE, & CRAFT SHOW

Please consider donating jewelry, Seasonal decorations, pottery, decorative items, collectibles, puzzles, cookbooks, earlier toys, linens, antiques, artwork. This year we are going to have a bookshelf where you can donate good condition used books, soft or hardback.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FAIRMONT MEN'S GROUP

Fairmont Men's Group will meet at MCL Cafeteria on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. Sign "Lunch" on the attendance pad on Sunday or call the church office at (937) 299-3539 or you may email the church at [office@fairmontchurch.org](mailto:office@fairmontchurch.org) by noon on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, to make a reservation. All the men of the church are invited!

### THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap will meet ONCE a month on the first Friday of each month. All are welcome for a time of food, fellowship, and faith conversations.

**MARCH** For the month of March, Theology on Tap will meet at Marion's Piazza on Stroop Road (50 E. Stroop Rd) at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2024.

Daylight Savings begins on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget to





## Fairmont Presbyterian Church

3705 Far Hills Avenue

Dayton, OH 45429

937-299-3539

**Website:** [www.fairmontchurch.org](http://www.fairmontchurch.org)

**Facebook:** Fairmont Presbyterian Church - Kettering, OH

**Twitter:** @FairmontChurch

**Instagram:** fairmontpresbyterianchurch

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### STAFF

**Pastor/Head of Staff:** Brian Maguire

**Administrative Assistant:** Jennifer Mason

**Associate Pastor:** Kelley Wehmeyer Shin

**Bookkeeper:** Martha Keil

**Director of Music Ministries:** Coleman Clark

**Custodian:** Louis Weyrauch

**Organist:** Judy Bede

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### March Birthdays

|                   |       |                  |       |
|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| James Bodner      | 03/01 | James Harper     | 03/20 |
| Drew Borneman     | 03/01 | Jeffery Adam     | 03/21 |
| Jeanette Kruer    | 03/01 | Herb Ernst       | 03/21 |
| Joyce Mackintosh  | 03/02 | Autum Parcels    | 03/21 |
| Jacquelyn Vickroy | 03/02 | David Allison    | 03/22 |
| Abby Cohen        | 03/04 | Tanner Bussey    | 03/22 |
| Casey Gill        | 03/04 | Robert Davis     | 03/22 |
| Hannah Favro      | 03/09 | Richard Ludwig   | 03/23 |
| Peter Guise       | 03/11 | Ellen Ireland    | 03/24 |
| William Walcott   | 03/12 | Don Davis        | 03/26 |
| Carol Kemp        | 03/15 | Sherry Klingel   | 03/27 |
| Rick Schwartz     | 03/15 | Becky Sennet     | 03/28 |
| Lisa Hess         | 03/16 | David Youngerman | 03/28 |
| Martha Taylor     | 03/16 | Kathryn Ellis    | 03/29 |
| Bill Mann         | 03/18 | Sue Knierim      | 03/29 |
| Stewart Adam      | 03/19 | Kathy Shafer     | 03/30 |



### DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT CALL

**The deadline for The April Call is Friday, March 22, 2024.**

Please submit Call & bulletin articles to Jennifer at: [jmason@fairmontchurch.org](mailto:jmason@fairmontchurch.org).