

THE CALL

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

October 2026
Volume 81, Issue 8



**FAIRMONT
CHURCH**

ROOTED IN FAITH,
GROWING TOGETHER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

For the past year, our Trustees, Session, and bi-monthly public gatherings have explored Fairmont's future through the lens of adaptive change. Adaptive change refers to deeper changes in values, hopes, culture and relationships that lay underneath all the immediate sorts of technical changes. For example, starting programs, changing worship, and creating new media are all forms of technical changes. Changing why we do those things, changing the goals we seek after, and reaching out to different people for different sorts of relationships would all be adaptive forms of change. Adaptive change is harder than technical change first because there is no clear guide or solution to changing values, hopes, and culture, and second because people generally resist letting go of values, hopes, and culture. Indeed, real adaptive change is usually met with emotional resistance and sabotage, which is why it rarely happens. It is no coincidence that when Jesus nudged his neighbors towards adaptive change, they turned on him. The real reason so many congregations fade is because they cannot face adaptive change.

Adaptive change does not lie in *doing* anything different. Adaptive change lies entirely in our motives for change, the *how* and the *why* behind all our doings. For example, we could switch from two Sunday morning worship services to one. There would be a lot of technical questions about such a change, but those can all be solved with the application of some hard physical work. Adaptive work relates to the feelings and motives behind the changes. Why would we or would we not want to make such a change? If the reasoning is "I like this" or "I don't like that" then the underlying criteria for how and why we do worship is simply consumer choice and we are not so different from any other retail business. If consumer preference were our rationale, we would simply be repeating the essentially secular attractional model of church that has been around since 1945. However, if the underlying conversation and motives are more like, "how could a different worship service reach people who do not worship?" or "what kind of worship would cultivate hope for despairing people?" or, "how could worship help people experience God?" then we would be operating by entirely new values and hopes. Changing people's values, motives, hopes, and culture is always harder than moving pews.

Fairmont has been fabulously successful doing precisely what we are designed and equipped to do. We are a relatively healthy, thoughtful, cooperative congregation that successfully serves the people who are already here, while devoting almost no organizational capacity (volunteering, money, and staff) to forming the congregation that will need to exist 10-15 years from now after the baby boomer generation passes from active membership. The challenge is how do we become a spiritually vital Christian community that actually forms, welcomes, and belongs to those future generations? We already have all the resources (location, staff, confidence, and relationships) necessary to make that happen. All we need is first the collective will to choose reaching out and embracing new sisters and brothers over contentment and familiarity. And second, we need to decide how to reorganize the gifts we already possess around our mission to nurture people to live Spirit-filled lives rather than mere preservation.

The future God offers to Fairmont looks bright, but it will require collective courage and curiosity.

-Brian

WORSHIP

Casual Service 8:30 AM

Traditional Service 10:30 AM

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

Visit www.fairmontchurch.org/online for links to all past and upcoming live streams.

October 4 19th Sunday after
Pentecost/Communion
Lesson: Philippians 3:4-14

October 11 20th Sunday after
Pentecost
Lesson: Matthew 22:1-14

October 18 Children's Sabbath/21st
Sunday after Pentecost
Lesson: Matthew 22:15-22

October 25 SINGLE SERVICE/
Reformation Heritage
Sunday
Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Bible Study

Tuesdays, 12:15 PM

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81913644664pwd=YVGX6g0uPPRzkd8PvdDTcO04HW0hv5.1>

Meeting ID: 819 1364 4664

Connections

Wednesdays, 7:00 PM

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89678889451pwd=4gS2oyi8a2597GTpUxFhW6SEjGcrV2.1>

Meeting ID: 896 7888 9451

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 12:15 PM In-person and on Zoom

Join us each week as we consider the Bible texts for the following Sunday. Bring your questions!

October 6 Matthew 22:1-14

October 13 Matthew 22:15-22

October 20 Jeremiah 31:31-34

October 27 Revelations 7:2-4, 9-14

CONNECTIONS

Life After Life After Death -

God's Homecoming

Join us on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM on Zoom starting on September 16th as we explore the precise nature of Christian hope -- what are we hoping for in the resurrection of the dead and God making all things new? We will be using N.T. Wright's new Book, *God's Homecoming* as our guide. Wright excavates the forgotten story of God's original purpose to dwell with us and make his home—and ours—in this new creation. The book is readily available at all bookstores in a variety of formats. Join us as we ask whether there is more to our hope than going to heaven.

WELCOME

Welcome Pastor Marc

Pastor Marc will commence his ministry as Fairmont's Associate Pastor for Family Ministries on Wednesday October 7th. He will be sharing in worship on October 11th.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Stewardship Sunday will be on November 15th and that means it is a time for all of us to think about stewardship as more than sustaining the church we already know. Our generosity gives us the opportunity to build toward the church God is calling us to become.

Fairmont has so many things to be grateful for: meaningful worship, beautiful music, deep friendships, thoughtful Christian faith, compassionate care, and a long commitment to serving others. These are gifts entrusted to us. Our calling is to carry these strengths faithfully into a changing world.

Over the coming years, we will need to direct more of our resources, our money, staff time, buildings, volunteer energy, and imagination, toward welcoming new people, engaging children and families, deepening spiritual formation, strengthening relationships across generations, and becoming more connected with the community around us.

This is why stewardship matters so much. We are not simply funding an institution. We are investing in a future. And that future is built upon your choices and commitments.

Fairmont has a bright future: a spiritually vital, intergenerational community, rooted in faith and growing together, where longtime members and people we have not yet met discover that they belong, are loved, and are invited into deeper life with God and one another.

As Stewardship Sunday approaches, please pray about your financial commitment to Fairmont.

But I also pray about a larger question: What are we willing to invest today so that a new generation can discover the life we have found here?

IMPORTANT NEW CHARITABLE DONATION TAX CHANGES FOR 2026

Beginning in 2026, an exciting change in the tax law takes effect which could be of benefit to you.

If you are one of roughly 90% of taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions (using the standard deduction instead), you will be able to deduct up to \$1,000 for single filers or \$2,000 per married couple filing jointly.

Important to note: The deduction applies only to cash gifts given to a charitable, religious, educational, scientific, or literary organization under IRS rules. Donated goods, mileage, stock, or other non-cash contributions do not qualify for this deduction.

A nice benefit to this change is that everyday generosity and the community impact of this giving is strengthened.

As always, check with your tax professional to see if this option is best for your personal situation.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the September Session meeting:

- Pastor Marc van Bulck will begin as Associate Pastor of Family Ministries on Wednesday, October 7th. A service of installation will be scheduled by the Presbytery this fall.
- Funds were approved to replace our air conditioner condenser-chiller units. (The current units are 23 years old and have been only partially operational for the past year.)

Highlights from the August Session meeting:

- Funds were approved to pay for remediation and plumbing repairs from four separate flooding incidents in June and July.
- Session Committee assignments were authorized for 2026-2027.
- Information about our website was shared. The current website is now more accurate and work has begun on a new improved website.
- The 2026-2027 Operating Budget was reviewed.
- The hiring of Willie Dawkins as the Church Facilities Manager was approved; he will begin September 14.

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It) Session highlights from the past few months:

- The Pipe Organ Restoration project has been approved. The Muller Company has a long list of future restorations; we have secured a spot on their list.

ADAPTIVE CHANGE

**October 31* Adaptive Change,
10AM Fellowship Hall**

Join us on Saturday October 31 as we continue our exploration of Fairmont's future. Our conversation will focus on what our biggest challenge is and how do we cultivate adaptive capacity and courage to face that challenge together.



REFORMATION SUNDAY

Join us for a single service on Sunday, October 25th, as we celebrate our heritage in the Scottish Reformation. The Presbyterian Church is the American offspring of the Church of Scotland. Come and join us as we share with our trans-Atlantic cousins in our shared liturgy, music, and prayers.

We will be joined in worship by the Miami Valley Pipe and Drum Band! Gentlemen, this is a perfect opportunity to wear your kilts! Please check all claymores and dirks at the door.

REFORMATION SUNDAY SCOTTISH TEA

You are invited to an all-church High Tea following our single service of worship on Reformation Sunday, October 25th. Join us for a special celebration of our Reformation Heritage with tea, cookies, sandwiches, and Scottish specialties.

The Deacons of Fairmont will be hosting this special event.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School continues during 10:30 a.m. worship. After the Time with Children, children will follow their teachers to a classroom on the first-floor level where they will learn about God while enjoying stories, crafts, and fellowship with their peers. Sunday School classes are open to children ages 4-grade 5. Any questions? Contact Pastor Brian.



Children's Choir

The Children's Choir will be singing on October 18th for Children's Sabbath worship during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Children's Choir rehearsals continue on October 4 and 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Children's Choir room. We are blessed to have DeAnna Ullery leading our Children's Choir.

**Trunk or Treat: Saturday, October 24th,
4:00 PM**

Get your costumes ready! Trunk-or-Treat will be held in the church parking lot on Saturday, October 24th from 4:00pm to 5:00pm, weather permitting! Please come and share Halloween treats with children from Fairmont and our community. Please arrive by 3:30 p.m. so we can line up cars in the parking lot before inviting children in. We invite you to dress up in your Halloween costumes. Teal Pumpkin" allergy-safe treats will be provided for each trunk!

**Fairmont Youth Group Gaming Day:
Saturday October 10th, 2-4 PM,
Fellowship Hall**

Join us for a fun afternoon of awesome new board games. No gaming experience necessary.

FAIRMONT FALL NATURE WALK

**October 11th at 2:00 PM,
Russ Nature Center**

Join us for a fun and spirit filled nature walk on Sunday October 11 at 2:00 PM at the Russ Nature Center, 2380 Kemp Rd, Beavercreek. All are invited to this leisurely stroll through the autumn woods and wetlands as we consider how the natural world gets ready to winter. The walk will be approximately 2.2 miles long over relatively even gravel and dirt paths.

MISSION BEYOND THE CONGREGATION Helping Hands, Helping Hearts

Did you catch the banner sent by children at JFK Elementary School? Their thanks came in several hand drawn cards and a blue poster larger than our *Mission Beyond the Congregation* table. Three deliveries of the binders, crayons and other new supplies from you were much appreciated.

In October we want to draw your attention to House of Bread. This organization serves a free, hot, nutritious lunch every day of the year to their guests. By serving in a community setting, House of Bread establishes a relationship that can notice other needs.

Consider joining a volunteer party this month --watch the Sunday bulletins for more info. Other ways to support House of Bread include providing their wish list items (see Mission table, 2nd floor).

Throughout the year we collect nonperishable food for FISH Southeast pantry. Bins are located on the first floor by the elevator or office coat closet.

LINCOLN PARK MANOR

Fairmont Cares:
Lincoln Park Manor

Did you know that Fairmont provides a monthly communion service of worship at Lincoln Park retirement community? The first Tuesday of every month at 2:30 PM 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.

ART, ANTIQUE, & CRAFT SHOW

The Fall Bazaar is currently accepting your donations of the jewelry that you no longer want. We accept gently used, not so gently used, quality, broken, cheap, expensive, costume, genuine, precious, out of style, and current. You may bring it to the church bazaar room or call Cindy Youngerman at 937-694-1058.

BAKE SALE AT THE ANNUAL ART, ANTIQUE & CRAFT SHOW

Saturday, November 14th, 9 AM—3PM

We're whipping up something sweet for a great cause-and we need your help! Our beloved Bake Sale is back, and **100% of proceeds support hunger missions.**

How You Can Help

- * Donate baked goods
- * Not a baker? Contributions from neighbors, relatives, or your favorite bakery are warmly welcomed.
- * Volunteer at the sale (cashiering, restocking, set-up, clean-up)
- * Ingredient donations for our signature buckeyes and peppermint patties:
 - Semi-sweet chocolate chips
 - Peanut butter

Baked Goods Pickup

We're happy to pick up your baked items the week before the sale-just let us know.

Deadline for baked items: Friday, November 12. Drop off in the library or arrange for pickup.

Contact

Christy Maynard
clmaynard828@yahoo.com 937-232-2757

Save the Dates

*Now through November 7: Drop off baking ingredients to Christy Maynard or Susan Calvin

*Saturday, November 7 (8:30 AM-12 PM): Chocolate Dipping Party (buckeyes & peppermint patties)-Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

*Friday, November 13 (5-8PM): Bake Sale Set-Up in library-final prep, packaging, sampling, pizza party.

WOMEN OF FAIRMONT

Fellowship, Bible Study, Service, Mission, and Support

Women of Fairmont is a unique group at Fairmont Presbyterian Church. About a hundred members make up several different Circles that meet monthly from September through May. Together, all Circles meet for Fall, Winter, and Spring Gatherings in the Fellowship Hall. (Individual Circles may meet for a Christmas party or a summer get-together.)

In Circle meetings, we discuss the month's Bible study, share interpretations and prayer, and help one another understand God's word. Fellowship after the study often includes refreshments and offers time to talk, laugh, share family news, and support one another through cares and concerns.

Individual pledges as well as fund-raisers that include the annual Christmas Cookie Walk, support local missions like Hannah's Treasure Chest, Shoes4 the Shoeless, Artemis Center, the Kettering Backpack Program, and Fairmont's own Benevolence Fund.

Women of Fairmont also supports the national and global mission work with the PC(USA) Presbyterian Women organization.

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We hope you will consider joining a Women of Fairmont Circle. Please contact Wynn Adam at 937-271-1371 or email at wwygaladam@gmail.com or Lois Thomas at 937-974-0649 or email at lois.thomas@att.net.

Circle 1 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Circle 2 meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM at Panera Bread on Far Hills.

Circle 3 meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:30 AM at member's homes or at the church.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE CHOIRS AT FAIRMONT CHURCH

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 PM and sings at the 10:30 AM service.

Bell Choir meets on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00 PM and performs periodically at the 10:30 AM service

No musical experience or training is required, only the desire to sing!

Please contact Coleman Clark at cclark@fairmontchurch.org with questions or for more information about any of our music programs at Fairmont!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAIRMONT MEN'S GROUP

Fairmont Men's Group will meet at MCL Cafeteria on Wednesday, October 21st at 11:30 AM. Call the church office at (937) 299-3539 or email the church at office@fairmontchurch.org by noon on Tuesday, October 20th, 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.

October: Theology on Tap will meet at Archers Tavern in Kettering, 2030 E. Dorothy Lane. Meet at 5:00 PM on Friday, October 2nd.



October 18, 2026
10:30 a.m.

Children Lead Worship

**Kindergarten &
Third Grade Bible
Presentation**

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
								6:00 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal (cr)		11:00 AM: Fit 4 You (fh)			
<u>OCTOBER</u>								7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal (cr)		12:00 PM: OA (library)			
								7:00 PM: NA (012)		5:00 PM: Theology on Tap @ Archers Tavern on Dorothy Lane			
19th Sunday after Pentecost		6:30 PM: WOF Coord. Meeting (ur)		11:00 AM: Fit 4 You (fh)		Welcome to Fairmont Pastor Marc van Bulck		6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal (cr)		11:00 AM: Fit 4 You (fh)		2:00-4:00 PM Fairmont Youth Group Gaming Day (fh)	
8:30 AM: Casual Service (fh)				12:00 PM: AA (012) 12:00 PM: OA (library)		4:30 PM: Praise Band (fh)		7:00 PM: NA (012)		12:00 PM: OA (Library)			
9:45 AM: Contemplative Prayer (chapel)				12:15 PM: Bible Study (in-person & online)		7:00 PM: Connections (online)		7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal (cr)					
10:30 AM: Traditional Service (sanctuary)				2:30 PM: Lincoln Park		7:30 PM: AA (012)							
20 th Sunday after Pentecost		7:00 PM: Circle 1 (fh)		11:00 AM: Fit 4 You (fh)		4:30 PM: Praise Band (fh)		6:00 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal (cr)		11:00 AM: Fit 4 You (fh)		9:30 AM: Circle 3	
9:45 AM: Contemplative Prayer (chapel)				12:00 PM: AA (012) 12:00 PM: OA (library)		7:00 PM: Connections (online)		7:00 PM: NA (012)		12:00 PM: OA (Library)			
10:30 AM: Traditional Service (sanctuary)				12:15 PM: Bible Study (in-person & online)		7:30 PM: AA (012)		7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal (cr)					
2:00 PM: Fairmont Fall Nature Walk at Russ Nature Center				7:00 PM: Trustees, B&G, Finance (chapel)									
Children's Sabbath				11:00 AM: Fit 4 You (fh)		11:30 AM: Fairmont Men's Group (offsite)		1:00 PM: Rug Hooking (fh)		11:00 PM: Fit 4 You (fh)		4:00 PM: Trunk or Treat	
8:30 AM: Casual Service (fh)				12:00 PM: AA (012) 12:00 PM: OA (Library)		4:30 PM: Praise Band (fh)		6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal (cr)		12:00 PM: OA (Library)			
9:30 AM: Children's Choir Rehearsal (music room)				12:15 PM: Bible Study (in-person & online)		5:30 PM: Circle 2 (offsite)		7:00 PM: NA (012)					
10:30 AM: Traditional Service (sanctuary)				7:00 PM: Session (ur)		5:30 PM: YMCA Meeting (fh)		7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal (cr)					
10:45 AM: Children's Choir Sings						7:00 PM: Connections (online)				Call articles are due.			
7:30 PM: AA (012)						7:30 PM: AA (012)							
Reformation Sunday/SINGLE SERVICE				11:00 AM: Fit 4 You (fh)		4:30 PM: Praise Band (fh)		6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal (cr)		11:00 PM: Fit 4 You (fh)		10:00 AM: Adaptive Change (fh)	
9:45 AM: Contemplative Prayer (chapel)				12:00 PM: AA (012) 12:00 PM: OA (Library)		7:00 PM: Connections (online)		7:00 PM: NA (012)		12:00 PM: OA (Library)			
10:30 AM: Traditional Service				12:15 PM: Bible Study (in-person & online)		7:30 PM: AA (012)		7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal (cr)					
11:45 AM: High Tea				7:00 PM: Deacons (ur)									

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

3705 Far Hills Avenue

Dayton, OH 45429

937-299-3539

Website: www.fairmontchurch.org

Facebook: Fairmont Presbyterian Church - Kettering, OH

STAFF

Pastor/Head of Staff: Brian Maguire

Bookkeeper: Martha Keil

Associate Pastor: Rev. Marc van Bulck

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Mason

Director of Music Ministries: Coleman Clark

Custodial/Maintenance: Willie Dawkins

Organist: Judy Bede

October Birthdays

Kris Martin	10/1	Harry Bradbury	10/14
Barbara Shinn	10/2	Caroline Fransman	10/14
Lennox Adam	10/4	Katherine Gonzalez	10/14
Althea Adam	10/5	Jane Davis	10/15
Joseph Bausman	10/7	Pam Ridings	10/16
Christina Harper	10/8	Robert Wunder	10/22
Pat Goss	10/10	William Bergstreser	10/28
Loki Adam	10/11	Julia Buchheit	10/28
Coleman Clark	10/11	Lelie Parker	10/28
Dawson Sennet	10/12	Esther Kremer	10/29
Jackie Susnik	10/12	Andrew Blosser	10/30

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT CALL

The deadline for The November Call is Friday, October 23, 2026.

Please submit The Call & bulletin articles to Jennifer at: jmason@fairmontchurch.org.