

THE CALL

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

March 2023

Volume 78, Issue 1

Salvation is easy. In fact, it is free, at least for us. Discipleship is hard. It demands everything and then a bit more. I am saved by grace through faith. But my discipleship? Well, let's just charitably say that is a work in progress.

Once upon a time I knew a passionate and rather know-it-all young man in the church who left as a teenager because he started reading the New Testament. He could not reconcile the radical demands and claims of Jesus with the accommodating ministry of the congregation. He asked too many questions that people, especially youth group leaders, did not want to address. Curiosity led to judgment which led to estrangement. It is not an uncommon progression. Young people are acutely sensitive to hypocrisy in all its self-justified forms.

Nowhere is the distinction between what Jesus intends and what we have made sharper than in his Sermon on the Mount. It presents a radical break with all our assumptions of polite society and informs us that true discipleship will be far more costly than we thought. To follow Jesus as Messiah and Lord will simply require everything, and a bit more. It is no wonder that the Sermon on the Mount is universally admired, but rarely considered a normative rule for living. Christian theologians have spent the past 15 centuries explaining that Jesus surely could not have meant what he said.

To paraphrase Mark Twain (*a Presbyterian!*), it is not the parts of the Bible that I do not understand that bother me. It is the parts that I do. And the Sermon on the Mount is straightforward and clear. Clever translations, contextual readings, and subtle hermeneutics will not get us off the hook. Jesus is ethically, morally, and spiritually demanding and to ignore those demands is to ignore him. We happily celebrate Jesus as savior who freely shares redemption with us, but Jesus as Lord who makes demands, not so much.

That young smart aleck grew up and somewhere along the way became middle-aged. Life has a way of teaching one nuance, complexity, and ambiguity. Time, circumstance, and the big muddies of moral ambiguities softened his judgments, but never resolved the inherent tension between God who loves us and saves us precisely as we are and God who so desperately wants us to become something more. So here I sit, every Lent, pulled between the poles of God's grace freely offered and the true cost of discipleship.

I believe with all my heart that I belong to Jesus. And I know with all my mind that I am not what Jesus hopes of me or for me. The tension between those certainties is the driving dynamic of my life and faith . . . and Lent.

Lent is the season of the church that confronts us with the hard examination of our lives in light of the cross. Lent does not provide us with simple answers. Lent instead mocks all our attempts at juvenile dualities and hollow judgments. Lent improves the quality of our questions and in doing so the quality of our lives.

I have no simple answer for the challenge of Lent. All I can offer is my companionship as we stumble forwards, humbled cowards, hypocrites, and the redeemed all, towards our journey's end and a new beginning.

-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 for links to all past and upcoming live streams.

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March 5 2nd Sunday in Lent/Communion
Lesson: Matthew 5:21-26
Sermon: Reconciliation Comes First

March 12 3rd Sunday in Lent
Lesson: Matthew 5:27-37
Sermon: Danger of Desire

March 19 4th Sunday in Lent
Lesson: Matthew 5:38-48
Sermon: Love Your Enemy

March 26 5th Sunday in Lent
Lesson: Matthew 6:1-16
Sermon: True Worship

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Connections

Wednesdays, 7:00pm

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

Meeting ID: 829 4532 7813

Bible Study

Thursdays, 7:00pm

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

Meeting ID: 820 0253 6057

CONNECTIONS

March 2023 Connections:

The World of the New Testament

Join us Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom, we will be exploring the context of the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth through the lens of the Gospel of Matthew. Together we will explore the ways in which Jesus' world was so different from our own.

March 1 Jesus and the Roman World
(The Hellenistic World)

March 8 Jesus and the Roman World (the local context of Galilee)

March 15 Jesus and other Messiah Claimants

March 22 Jesus and Popular Religion

March 29 Women, Children, and Families in the Roman World

Wednesdays, 7:00pm

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

Meeting ID: 829 4532 7813

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom we will be prayerfully considering the text for the following Sunday morning. You do not need any preparation and everyone is welcome. We read through a few different translations together, talk about funny words and contexts, and then consider what it may mean both to people long ago and for us today. Most of all, questions are invited. In fact, the questions are the best part! You are invited.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Easter Egg-stravaganza!

Fairmont's annual Easter event returns **Saturday, April 1st at 10:30am!** Join us for crafts, activities, and an egg hunt followed by a hot dog lunch! Reach out to Lorelei to volunteer!

Children's Choir Returns!

Fairmont's Children's Choir rehearses Sunday mornings at 9:30am. Ages 4 - grade 5 are invited to participate. Contact Lorelei if your child would like to sing!

Acolytes & Lectors

We are seeking children to serve as acolytes and lectors during 10:30am worship!

Acolytes need the balance required to light the tall candelabras. **Lectors** need good reading skills. Talk with Lorelei if your child would like to be considered for this!

Children's Sunday School

After the Time with Children, kids will be led to a downstairs classroom. Teachers lead discussions about the Bible and God's love using videos, stories, crafts, and fellowship time! Sunday school classes are open to children ages 4 - grade 5.

Sunday Nursery

Nursery care is provided from 8am-12pm on Sunday mornings by Caroline Buchheit. As a reminder, only children birth - 3 years old may stay in the nursery for the safety of our youngest.

cont. →

Upcoming Events:

March 17: Fairmont Family Night

April 1: Easter Egg-stravaganza

April 2: Palm Sunday Children's Choir

April 21: Fairmont Family Night

May 19: Fairmont Family Night

June 12-16: Vacation Bible School

FAIRMONT YOUTH MINISTRY

(Grades 6th -12th)

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 other- wise noted in bold print**). There will be a faith video, games, activities, and lunch!

MARCH LENT YOUTH SCHEDULE

March 5 Holy One: Animate *God*


March 12 Love Incarnate: Animate *Cross*

March 19 Symbols of Grace: Animate

Sacraments

March 26 **Youth Game Day**

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

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday
						4:30pm: Praise Band 7:00pm: Connections 7:30pm: AA (012)
2nd Sunday in Lent/Communion 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) 9:30am: Children's Choir Practice 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) 12:00pm: Fairmont Youth	5	7:00pm: WOF Coordinating (ur)	6	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 7:00pm: Team Meetings (ur)	7	4:30pm: Praise Band 7:00pm: Connections 7:30pm: AA (012)
3rd Sunday in Lent 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) 9:30am: Children's Choir Practice 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) 12:00pm: Fairmont Youth <u>Daylight saving time begins</u> 	12	7:00pm: Circle 1 (parlor)	13	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 7:00pm: Trustees, B&G, Finance (ur)	14	11:30am: Fairmont M Luncheon (012) 4:30pm: Praise Band 5:30pm: Circle 6 (off) 7:00pm: Connections 7:30pm: AA (012)
4th Sunday in Lent 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) 9:30am: Children's Choir Practice 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) 12:00pm: Fairmont Youth	19		20	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 7:00pm: Session (ur)	21	4:30pm: Praise Band 7:00pm: Connections 7:30pm: AA (012)
5th Sunday in Lent 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) 9:30am: Children's Choir Practice 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) 12:00pm: Fairmont Youth	26		27	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	28	4:30pm: Praise Band 7:00pm: Connections 7:30pm: AA (012)

Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
(fh) (online)	1	6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr)	2	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)	3		4
		7:00pm: Bible Study (online)		12:00pm: OA (rc)			
		7:00pm: NA (012)		5:00pm: Theology on Tap (offsite)			
		7:15pm: Choir (cr)					
(fh) (online)	8	6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr)	9	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)	10		11
		7:00pm: Bible Study (online)		12:00pm: OA (rc)			
		7:00pm: NA (012)					
		7:15pm: Choir (cr)					
Men's (offsite) (fh) (site) (online)	15	6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr)	16	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)	17	9:30am: Circle 7 (offsite)	18
		7:00pm: Bible Study (online)		12:00pm: OA (rc)			
		7:00pm: NA (012)		6:00pm: Fairmont Family Night (fh)			
		7:15pm: Choir (cr)					
(fh) (online)	22	1:00pm: Rug Hooking Group (fh)	23	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)	24		25
		6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr)		12:00pm: OA (rc)			
		7:00pm: Bible Study (online)					
		7:00pm: NA (012)					
(fh) (online)	29	6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr)	30	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)	31		
		7:00pm: Bible Study (online)		12:00pm: OA (rc)			
		7:00pm: NA (012)					
		7:15pm: Choir (cr)					

MISSION BEYOND THE CONGREGATION



Fairmont's mission activities focus primarily on local organizations that benefit at-risk families, children, and youth in our community and provide opportunities for hands-on mission work.

Artemis House

In January, Jane Keiffer, CEO of Artemis House, one of our supported organizations, shared an update with members during Church services. The mission of Artemis is "Working with the Community to Empower Survivors to Heal and Live Free of Domestic Violence". Artemis serves survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. They collaborate with many community partners to increase safety for survivors and their children. Artemis offers a safe space where victims can feel seen, heard, believed, and empowered.

For 2021:

- 4,127 survivors were served
- 6,665 hotline calls were completed
- 661 child therapy sessions were held
- 221 court accompaniments were made

Jane thanked Fairmont for our significant financial support over many years. We sent cards of encouragement and also filled and sent two large bins with personal items and household and cleaning supplies for their clients.

Thank you for your support of Artemis. We will collect helpful items again, later in the year.

World Central Kitchen

In 2021, World Central Kitchen was added to the organizations we support, as we focus on those in need. WCK is on site serving chef-prepared meals to communities impacted by natural disasters and during prolonged humanitarian crises. They are a team of food first responders who mobilize with urgency to get meals to the people who need them most. As an example of the power of this organization, to date, WCK has distributed over a million meals to earthquake survivors in Syria and Turkey. If you wish to donate to WCK, simply mark WCK on your check or contribution envelope.

ART, ANTIQUE, & CRAFT SHOW

The Art, Antique, and Craft Show committee is collecting items for the fall Art, Antique, and Craft show. If you are willing to sort out your jewelry, broken jewelry, collectibles, antiques, pottery, vintage items, canning jars (quarts & pints, seasonal items, cookbooks, puzzles, decorative items, Christmas trees and ornaments we would be so grateful!

If you have any questions on any items to donate, please contact Carolyn and our committee.

Thank you!

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 with questions or for more information about any of our music programs at Fairmont!

TURNING PAGES

Visit the church library soon and browse these new books! Please sign them out in the binder at the desk, and remember to return books within three weeks so others can enjoy them.

Children's Picture Books

Maybe God is like that, too, by Jennifer Grant

Snow for everyone! by Antonie Schneider

Resources for Women of Fairmont's study, *Celebrating Sabbath*

Sabbath: finding rest, renewal, and delight in our busy lives, by Wayne Muller

Living the Sabbath: discovering the rhythms of rest and delight, by Norman Wirzba

Reclaiming Rest: the promise of sabbath, solitude, and stillness in a restless world, by Kate H. Rademacher

Sabbath as Resistance: saying no to the culture of now, by Walter Bruggemann

Material World: a global family portrait, by Peter Menzel

And more:

An Altar in the World; a geography of faith, by Barbara Brown Taylor

Holy Envy: finding God in the faith of others, by Barbara Brown Taylor

The Remarkable Ordinary: how to stop, look, and listen to life, by Frederick Buechner

Acting in the Wake: prayers for justice, by Walter Bruggemann

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAIRMONT MEN'S GROUP

Fairmont Men's Group will meet at MCL Cafeteria on Wednesday, March 15th 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 by noon on Tuesday, March 14th, to make a reservation. All the men of the church are invited!

THEOLOGY ON TAP

For the winter months, Theology on Tap will be meeting ONCE a month on the first Friday of each month at the church. All are welcome!

For the month of March, Theology on Tap will meet in-person at *Marion's Piazza on Stroop* (50 East Stroop Road) at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2023.

FAIRMONT FAMILY NIGHT

Join us for our **March Fairmont Family Night** on Friday, March 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Fairmont children, youth, and their families will be meeting **once-a-month** for a fun evening of dinner, games, and fellowship.

WHAT: Fairmont Family Night

WHEN: March 17, 2023

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Fellowship Hall

THEME: St. Patrick's Day

For questions, contact Lorelei Harding or Pastor Kelley

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

3705 Far Hills Avenue

Dayton, OH 45429

937-299-3539

Website: www.fairmontchurch.org

Facebook: Fairmont Presbyterian Church - Kettering, OH

Twitter: @FairmontChurch

Instagram: fairmontpresbyterianchurch

STAFF

Pastor/Head of Staff: Brian Maguire

Associate Pastor: Kelley Wehmeyer Shin

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Lorelei Harding

Director of Music Ministries: Coleman Clark

Organist: Judy Bede

Bookkeeper: Martha Keil

Custodian: Louis Weyrauch

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Mason

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 24, 2023.

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

For website inquiries, contact Lorelei at: lharding@fairmontchurch.org.