

THE CALL

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

February 2026
Volume 81, Issue 1

Lent is a season for letting go. We tend to trivialize this practice by making it all about giving up certain decadent pleasures during Lent. It is easy to give up chocolate for forty days. Excessive self-regard, disruptive anxiety, the need to control, and a thousand other attachments that regularly lead us astray are altogether more difficult to relinquish. But letting go is not merely the theme, but the essence of the season and a method to achieve something more.

The formal name for Jesus' self-relinquishment of the prerogatives of divinity through his journey to the cross and death is called *kenosis*, literally in Greek, emptying. Jesus lets go of power, control, agency, and ultimately mortal life itself. Kenosis is the central mystery of the Christian faith—somehow, somehow letting go of everything results in receiving even more. It is not so much a paradox as a mystery, but a mystery into which Jesus invites his followers then and now.

Most Christians do not observe Lent. We prefer a post-resurrection, triumphal Jesus. But the Gospels spend enormous time and attention on Jesus' long journey to the cross. Mark, for example, is really a passion narrative with a long introduction. In the church we sort of allude to Jesus' arrest, imprisonment, trial, torture, and death by allusions safely hidden away on Good Friday, when we offer no sermon and only the most faithful attend. Otherwise, we presume you picked up the essence of the story somewhere along the way. But those final days reveal final truths about God . . . and us. While solely focusing on Jesus' passion is misguided, so too is ignoring it altogether. Betrayal, abandonment, injustice, torture, and death are never popular topics for reflection, but they do place God's work and our opposition to it in sharp contrast.

In our lectionary, that prescribed calendar of texts for Sunday morning worship, the accounts of Jesus' passion are reserved for the weeknights of Holy Week between Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Because Presbyterian churches never hold worship on those nights (except Maundy Thursday) we never read or reflect upon them. We never reflect on Jesus' death in Lent. That needs to change.

Throughout this Lent we will be considering the story of Jesus' end, what he releases, how the people around him respond, and what all of this means for God and for us. The story is neither easy nor pleasant. In Connections we will study all four Gospels' accounts. In worship we will preach and pray on it and ask the question, if letting go was Jesus' way towards resurrection life, what is ours?

40 days is not such a long journey, but in this case, it leads to life.

-Brian

WORSHIP

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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- February 1 4th Sunday after Epiphany/
Communion
Lesson: Psalm 27
Sermon: The Tightly Braided Cord
- February 8 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Lesson: Matthew 4:1-11
Sermon: Wilderness
- February 15 Transfiguration of the Lord
Lesson: Exodus 24:12-18
Sermon: The Brilliant Darkness
- February 18 Ash Wednesday Service
7:00pm. in the Sanctuary.
- February 22 1st Sunday in Lent
Lesson: Matthew 26:36-46
Sermon: Crushed

ONLINE MINISTRIES

Bible Study

Tuesdays, 12:15pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81913644664>

Meeting ID: 819 1364 4664

Connections

Wednesdays, 7:00pm

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

Meeting ID: 896 7888 9451

SHROVE TUESDAY DINNER

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

February 17th at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Come and join the Deacons for our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It will be held on February 17th at 6pm in Fellowship Hall and it is a fun, family-friendly event to kick off the Lenten season. All are welcome to come and enjoy pancakes and fellowship.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 18th at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary

“You are of the dust and to the dust you shall return . . .” On Ash Wednesday we begin our journey and practice of Lent. Please join us for this important service of worship as we together commence our journey of Lent. Ashes for the rite of penitence will be available for pick up from outside the church office door starting on Monday February 16th.

BIBLE STUDY

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

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

- February 3 Matthew 4:1-11
- February 10 Exodus 24:12-18
- February 17 Matthew 26:36-46
- February 24 Matthew 26:47-56

CONNECTIONS

February Connections

The Power of Music in Faith

Communities to Comfort, Disrupt, Teach, & Invite

February 4th and 11th at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights on Zoom with Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Hess

Why do we sing hymns in worship? What gifts do instruments bring to our faith life together? Why do so many of us have such strong feelings about these things? These Connections weeks will offer a variety of lenses into deeper appreciation of music's purposes for each of us, all of us, in worship and beyond.

LENTEN CONNECTIONS CLASS

The 24 Hours That Changed the World

Come and join us during Lent beginning Sunday, February 22nd in-person in the Upper Room at 11:45am or beginning on Wednesday, February 25th at 7:00pm on Zoom as we explore the final day of Jesus ministry in Jerusalem and what it means for ever day before and after. Using Adam Hamilton's Book, *The 24 Hours That Changed The World*, we will be exploring what happened, why, and what it means for us and for our world. Each class will include a short video presentation and discussion led by Pastor Brian and will feature a very detailed parallel Bible study. This course is intended for adults as well as teenagers and older elementary age children. Come and join us, bring your friends.

There are three ways you can participate in this course and you can do all three. First, please simply come. For those who do not wish to do any preparation the courses will provide more than enough to stir your imagination. Second, if you want to go deeper in your understanding, →

we invite you to follow along with the companion book, *The 24 Hours That Changed The World*, available from Amazon and other booksellers. If you want to pray through Lent more deeply a companion devotional guide is available. Additionally, there are age-appropriate books for children as well. If you would like the church to order any of these for you, please contact the church office.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOK STUDY

Beginning on Thursday, February 26, 2026

Join Pastor Brian on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom throughout Lent as we reflect upon *Here: A Spirituality of Staying in a Culture of Leaving* by Lydia Sohn. Here provides a contemplative guide for finding meaning, purpose, and value inside a culture obsessed with comparison, competition, and change. Following the inspiration of ancient Benedictine practices, Sohn provides a field guide in how to live a grounded life within an ungrounded age.

ADAPTIVE CHANGE CONVERSATION

We continue our bi-monthly conversations on adaptive change at Fairmont on Saturday February 21 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. At this meeting we will be discussing chapters 3-5 of Michael Adam Beck's, *Gardens in the Desert*. Additionally, Pastor Brian will be sharing examples of denominational efforts at both technical and adaptive change. All are welcome.

WHERE'S BRIAN

Where's Pastor Brian?

On February 2-12, Pastor Brian will be co-leading a study and spiritual renewal trip for FBI Chaplains alongside his dear friend Rabbi Brad Hirschfield. Please pray for them.

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. This year we will again be using the PC (USA) curriculum, "Follow Me."

Pastor Kelley and our newly trained Godly Play teachers, Ginny, Sue, and Britton, will be sharing Godly Play also as part of our Sunday School program. Sunday School classes are open to children ages 4-grade 5. Any questions? Contact Pastor Kelley.

UPCOMING CHILDREN'S EVENTS



- February 17: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
March 28: Easter Eggstravaganza
April 26: Children's Choir Rehearsal
May 3: Children's Choir Rehearsal
May 10: Children's Choir Sings,
Youth Sunday, Mother's Day
June 1-4: Vacation Bible School

FAIRMONT YOUTH MINISTRY

FAIRMONT YOUTH MINISTRY

(Grades 6th -12th)

Second Sunday of the Month

12:00 p.m.

Fairmont Youth Ministry will meet the Second Sunday of each month following worship (**unless otherwise noted by ***). There will be Food, Faith Conversations, & Fun Events.

FEBRUARY

February 8 Lunch, Faith Talk, and Bowling at Woodman Lanes

Weekly Youth Dinners Out: Pastor Kelley is available once-a-week on either Wednesday evening or Thursday evening for a dinner out with at least 2 and up to 4 youth at a restaurant of the youth's choosing. Dinner will be covered by the church. Please contact Pastor Kelley. Pastor Kelley may be reached by email at kshin@fairmontchurch.org or by text or phone at (937) 751-0752.

SPIRITUALITY FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE

Spiritual Wisdom and Practice in Times of Grief and Healing

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Second Wednesday of the Month

FEBRUARY DATE: February 11, 2026

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? 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 meeting is February 11th at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel. This will be a time to share or listen to stories of healing and grief. If interested, please contact Pastor Kelley at kshin@fairmontchurch.org.

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 4th Sunday after Epiphany/Communion 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) 9:45am: Contemplative Prayer (chapel) 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary)	2 6:30pm: WOF Coord. (ur)	3 11:00am: Fir 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 12:15pm: Bible Study in person & online (ur) 2:30pm: Lincoln Park 7:00pm: Team Meetings	4 4:30pm: Praise Band (fh) 7:00pm: Connections (Zoom) 7:30pm: AA (012)	5 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)	6 11:00am: Fir 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 5:00pm: Theology on Tap @ Archers Tavern (2030 E. Dorothy Lane in Kettering)	7 11:00am: Women of Fairmont Winter Gathering (fh)
8 5th Sunday after Epiphany 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) 9:45am: Contemplative Prayer (chapel) 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) 12:00pm: Youth Group Bowling	9 7:00pm: Circle 1 (fh)	10 11:00am: Fir 4 You 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 12:15pm: Bible Study (in-person & online) 7:00pm: Trustees, B&G, Finance (ur)	11 3:00pm: Spirituality for those who Grieve (chapel) 4:30pm: Praise Band (fh) 7:00pm: Connections (Zoom) 7:30pm: AA (012)	12 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)	13 11:00am: Fir 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	14
15 Transfiguration of the Lord 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) 9:45am: Contemplative Prayer (chapel) 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) 1:00pm: Dayton Music Club (sanctuary & fh)	16	17 11:00am: Fir 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 12:15pm: Bible Study (in-person & online) 6:00pm: Shrove Tuesday Paucake Dinner (fh) 7:00pm: Session (ur)	18 11:30am: Fairmont Men's Group (offsite) 4:30pm: Praise Band (fh) 5:30pm: YMCA Meeting (fh) 5:30pm: Circle 2 (offsite) No Connections 7:00pm: Ash Wednesday Service (sanctuary) 7:30pm: AA (012)	19 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)	20 11:00am: Fir 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	21 9:30am: Circle 3 1:00pm: Adaptive Change Meeting (fh)
22 1st Sunday in Lent 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) 9:45am: Contemplative Prayer (chapel) 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) 11:45am: Lenten Connection Class (ur)	23	24 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 12:15pm: Bible Study (in-person & online)	25 4:30pm: Praise Band (fh) 7:00pm: Lenten Connections (Zoom) 7:30pm: AA (012)	26 1:00pm: Rug Hooking (fh) 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 7:00pm: Lenten Devotional Book Study (Zoom) 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)	27 11:00am: Fir 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	28 11:00am: Wendy Ernst Memorial Service

MISSION BEYOND THE CONGREGATION



Artemis Christmas Tree Stats

This 2025 Christmas season, our Fairmont family supported even more children than ever! Gift tags flew off the trees this year, thanks to everyone who participated. Each of our Christmas tree families received not only their Christmas gifts purchased by our members, but also a large storage tote filled with cleaning supplies and a grocery gift card.

Outreach to Kettering School Children

JFK Elementary: JFK's teachers expressed a pressing need for headphones when their students have digital time. We were able to purchase 60 headphones and deliver them right away! JFK said that was exactly the right amount they needed for this spring. We love our relationship with Kettering schools because it allows us to meet their ever-changing needs.

Fairmont Schools: Our Mission Team also delivered basic hygiene supplies for the school nurses' stations. Kettering Fairmont High School passes the supplies to the various Kettering schools as needed over the course of the next several months. Perfect timing to replenish supplies at the midpoint of the school year!

Winter Spotlight: Brigid's Path

During the months of January and February, we're highlighting Brigid's Path, one of our annual dedicated giving organizations.

Since their opening in 2017, Brigid's Path has helped more than 300 families with infants born exposed to addictive substances. Their missions are to deliver hope to babies and mothers by treating both mother and child together using the latest therapeutic techniques. In late 2025, the organization qualified as a Medicaid provider, which has helped to immensely increase affordability.

Brigid's Path compiled a Most Needed Items List:

- Shampoo and conditioner for moms
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Hand Soap
- Printer Paper
- Pampers Sensitive Wipes
- Nitrile gloves for Nurses
- Clorox Wipes
- Muslin Swaddle Blankets
- Water Wipes

cont. →

We'll be holding a collection over the month of February for the above items.

Brigid's Path also has plenty of volunteer opportunities! If you'd like to cuddle with babies, wash laundry, or assist at events, visit: <https://bridgspath.org> or call 937-350-1785.

HOUSE OF BREAD

House of Bread Mission Opportunity: Mission Beyond the Congregation is inviting you to step into an opportunity to live out Christ's love in action. When we prepare meals, serve with kindness, and care for our neighbors, we become the hands and feet of Jesus in a world that desperately needs His compassion.

House of Bread provides nourishment, dignity, and hope to those who walk through its doors—and we **need volunteers** who feel called to serve.

Volunteer Details:

Groups of **4 volunteers each month**

Hours: **10:00am–1:30pm**

Volunteers must be **16 or older**

Every act of service—every meal prepared, every smile offered—becomes a quiet sermon of God's love. If your heart is nudging you to step forward, we would be grateful to have you join us. We hope to have 3-4 volunteers every month.

To volunteer, contact:

clmaynard828@yahoo.com

937-232-2757 (Christy Maynard)

Visit houseofbread.org for more information.

Let's serve together and shine Christ's light in our community.

LINCOLN PARK

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 2:30pm 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.

WOMEN OF FAIRMONT WINTER GATHERING

Women of Fairmont Winter Gathering will be held on Saturday, February 7, at 11:00 a.m. The kitchen crew has a lovely lunch planned and our own Rev. Lisa M. Hess will be our speaker. Her topic will be:

Stained Glass, Kaleidoscopes, and Mosaics: Mary Magdalene's Word Today (for Those With Ears to Hear): What is an ordained clergywoman-feminist with a forgiveness problem to make of Mary Magdalene today? **The Reverend Lisa Magdalena Hess, PhD** is Professor of Practical Theology at United Seminary here in Dayton, a poet-scholar-author of several books and essays, an avid Cross Fitter and for this context, a feminist with a forgiveness problem, a conscious feminine leader, and a preacher's wife.

Please RSVP to your circle leader or Jennifer in the office by Tuesday, February 3rd.

COOKIE WALK

I want to thank all of the very generous bakers and buyers here at Fairmont Church! Your wonderful support of the Women of Fairmont's annual Cookie Walk is so appreciated. A special thanks to the Women of Fairmont volunteers who helped with decorating, setting up, cleaning up and much more. The proceeds will be dispersed among several worthy needs in our community. Thank you!

Janine Borneman

WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT

SPRING 2026 WOMEN'S RETREAT

"Women Wisdom"

The Wisdom of Old Testament Women

April 10-11, 2026

Mark your calendars for the Spring 2026 Women's Retreat at Hueston Woods on April 10-11, 2026. ***Hueston Woods now requires all registration and rooming lists to be submitted one month before the retreat.*** Watch for registration information in the Fellowship Hall and Narthex in the new year.

DATE: April 10-11, 2026

PLACE: Hueston Woods Lodge

REGISTER BY: March 10, 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAIRMONT MEN'S GROUP

Fairmont Men's Group will meet at MCL Cafeteria on Wednesday, February 18th at 11:30 am. Call the church office at 299-3539 or you may email the church at office@fairmontchurch.org by noon on Tuesday, February 17th, 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.

For the month of February, Theology on Tap will meet at Archers Tavern (2030 E. Dorothy Lane in Kettering) at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026.

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

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937-299-3539

Website: www.fairmontchurch.org

Facebook: Fairmont Presbyterian Church - Kettering, OH

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STAFF

Pastor/Head of Staff: Brian Maguire
Associate Pastor: Kelley Wehmeyer Shin
Director of Music Ministries: Coleman Clark
Organist: Judy Bede

Bookkeeper: Martha Keil
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Mason
Maintenance: Don Hibbard

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February Birthday's

Deanne Harvey	02/01	Mary Davis	02/12
Wynn Adam	02/02	Sara Grillot	02/17
Virginia Caldwell	02/02	Cameron Shearer	02/18
Steve Greene	02/05	James Dault	02/19
Maryann Bausman	02/07	Debbie Heinisch	02/19
Joan Thompson	02/08	Brian Aitchison	02/26
Linda Yoder	02/09	Gail Yarnall	02/26
Elizabeth Favro	02/11	Jeff Ireland	02/28



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT CALL

The deadline for The March Call is Friday, February 20, 2026.

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