

# THE CALL

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

February 2019  
Volume 74, Issue 1

## THOUGHTS FROM BRIAN

The church office is hard at work compiling the annual congregational report. The report has lots of information about all sorts of wonderful things God is doing in and through Fairmont. But behind all the narratives lies a huge question for Fairmont or any church: how do we evaluate faithfulness?

I have slowly come to the conclusion that the faithfulness of a congregation is observable but not necessarily quantifiable. If you want to observe the best measure of faithfulness, watch the quality of relationships between people in the church. Do they trust each other? Do they share? Is there a sense of common purpose and mutual support? Do we forgive each other when we mess up? Are newcomers genuinely welcomed or merely tolerated? And are people eager to serve or dread it? For me these are the true measures of faithfulness that get to the core of what Jesus wanted for his church and his people.

So, how are we doing? I see a community of faith that is growing in confidence to embrace all sorts of new people, some of whom would never formally join the church, but are loved nonetheless. I see a community of caring that are increasingly able to share in our vulnerabilities and support each other in pain and share in joys. I see a community of service where women and men eagerly strive to serve each other and our broader community. And on Sunday mornings I see a community of nurture where our youngest and our oldest are cherished, welcomed, and embraced just as they are.

Jesus never asked us to get bigger, although we are doing that. Jesus never asked us to be more financially sound, although we are doing that too. Jesus did ask us to welcome the little children, which is happening so beautifully. Jesus did ask us to care for one another, which we share so intimately. And most of all Jesus told us to be faithful and from where I sit on the chancel, we are going exactly where Jesus wanted us to follow.

## NOTES FROM KELLEY

Dear Fairmont Family,

Grace & peace to you! Such joy I receive being part of our community of faith at Fairmont! It is indeed a good thing to belong to each other as the people of God.

As many of you already know - as I shared with the session, the deacons, and the congregation this past week - I was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and will be having a unilateral mastectomy and reconstruction surgery on February 5th. I am very grateful to have caught the cancer early on through my yearly mammogram and I am comforted in knowing that this is a slow-moving, stage I breast cancer. I feel confident that the cancer is treatable and I expect a full recovery following some time of healing. I anticipate being away from church for a full month.

I am not disheartened and I do not want you to be disheartened. So many of you have walked this same path and have found healing and hope in the amazing medical treatments and, especially, in God's healing hand.

Pastor Brian will be keeping you updated on how I am doing and Rachel has graciously agreed to coordinate meals if necessary. I am most grateful to be in this place of ministry where there is genuine community and faith in action. Thank you for all the ways you have already expressed your love and support. I am also grateful to have such a wonderful family who will be with me during the surgery and afterwards during my time at home.

Beloved Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich, when speaking of God's nearness to us in the midst of our human condition, wrote "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

I am filled with such peace and genuine joy knowing that I am loved by you and by our God.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Kelley

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

February 3

Lesson: Luke 4: 21-30

Sermon: "Kill the Preacher"

February 10 (Single Service; Annual Meeting)

First Lesson: Isaiah 6: 1-8

Second Lesson: Luke 5: 1-11

Sermon: "Caught"

February 17

First Lesson: Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Second Lesson: Luke 6: 17-26

Sermon: "Operating System Upgrades"

February 24

First Lesson: Genesis 45: 3-11; 15

Second Lesson: Luke 6: 27-38

Sermon: "Surely He Didn't Mean It"

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**Fairmont Bell Choir:** The Bell Choir is once again making a joyful noise at Fairmont Church! We were thrilled to have 10 ringers at our first rehearsal on January 17<sup>th</sup>! It is not too late to join the Bell Choir. Previous experience playing hand bells is helpful, but not necessary. A basic understanding of reading music notation is also helpful. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evening from 6:00 - 6:45.

Contact Vicki Ramga at [vramga@fairmontchurch.org](mailto:vramga@fairmontchurch.org) with questions.



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**Children's Choir:** Our Children's Choir is meeting on Sunday mornings from 11:45 - 12:15 in the Chapel. We would love to have your child join us! All children ages 4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome. In addition to preparing music to sing in worship, the children learn to sing through vocal exploration and build beat and rhythm skills as they play

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**Calling all Singers!** Please consider joining the Chancel Choir as we prepare music for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. We meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00. We will begin preparing this music on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### Kidz Korner

Program Schedule for 2019

10am: Mini Missionaries (PreK), Room A

10am: Junior Apostles (grades K-5), Room B

After Children's Talk: Mini Missionaries (PreK), Room A

After Children's Talk: Junior Apostles (grade K-2), Room B

11:45am: Cherub Choir, Chapel or Children's Music Room

Nursery Care: 8am-12pm for children birth-2 years

**Bible Storytime:** February 1, 8pm on the Zoom mobile app. Ask Rachel how to participate!

### PYC

PYC meets on Sunday evenings during the program year from 5-7pm at the church. Feel free to drop in any time, and please see Rachel to find out how you can help with PYC in 2019!

**Upcoming PYC events:**

February 16th: Lock-in

March 3rd: Volunteer at Choices

### Adult Education

**Pastor's Bible Study:** Pastor Brian and Pastor Kelley will be leading a new Pastor's Bible Study beginning Thursday, February 7, at 1:00 p.m. in the Upper Room. We will be examining the Scripture passage to be preached the following Sunday. Everyone is welcome!

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**Connections:** The Book of Revelation, it's not as scary as you might think...

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for our mid-week adult education class currently studying the Book of Revelation, what many including John Calvin and Martin Luther thought was the weirdest book in the New Testament. Come and find out what this book means for us today (hope!) and its secret message (God wins!). Along the way we will consider how this ancient book has influenced everyone from Karl Marx to the creators of The Walking Dead. And I promise there is really nothing to be afraid of.

**Lenten Study: Making Sense of the Cross by David Lose**

In Lent, starting on Sunday March 10, we will be considering the meaning and purpose of the central symbol of our faith: the cross. We will be using David Lose’s, Making Sense of the Cross, to explore the central ideas of what the cross is and what it does and how those things bind Christianity together. If you wish to order the book, please contact the church office. Individual copies are available for \$13.00. Alternatively, you can order it on line.

These Lenten studies will be offered at three different times each week to meet your schedule: Sunday morning at 11:30, Wednesday night Connections at 6:30, and Friday noon.

We hope that this will be a Holy Lent for you as together we reflect more deeply on the cross of Christ.

**BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP**

Progress in the 2019 financial stewardship campaign is encouraging, and we are closing in on our goal of fully funding our pledging goal of \$609,367. The ultimate success of our 2019 Stewardship campaign depends on you. If you have already pledged for 2019 we sincerely thank you. If you have not yet done so, please pledge some amount to the mission of Fairmont. God has a plan for Fairmont and we hope that you will pledge to help achieve it with your financial support!

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**What is Per Capita and why is it \$48.20?** The Presbyterian Church is a connectional church. That means that we share in mutual ministry and accountability with and for each other. One of the ways we do that is by sharing in the cost of the denomination. This is done through individual assessments based on the number of members in each church. These assessments, called “per capita,” are mandatory and are used to support the work of the General Assembly and the Synod. Those funds are obtained either from our general Fairmont revenues or from special offerings of individuals who wish to pay their share individually. The total per member assessment for 2019 is \$48.20. That is the cost of being a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) denomination as opposed to the local congregation. If you would like to directly pay your share of our commitment to the greater church, the amount per member is \$48.20.

**New Ways to Give that Save Money:** Taxpayers over 70 ½ years of age with an IRA or a 401K/403B accounts may transfer withdrawals (up to \$100,000 per year) directly to Fairmont Presbyterian Church or other “qualified charitable organizations” and not pay tax on the distribution. Retirement savings accounts of various sorts require individuals over 70 ½ to annually make required minimum distributions or face significant tax penalties. Those distributions are then added to your taxable income, often boosting your tax bracket. But, if you direct those distributions in whole or in part to Fairmont or other charities, those funds do not count as taxable income. This transfer method can save you significant tax dollars. As always, consult with qualified advisors to help with tax planning, but using qualified charitable distributions may be an efficient way for you to support Fairmont!



**Coins 4 Kids**—Fairmont family, we need your help! Over the past several years, all coins collected during the offering have gone into our Coins4Kids fund, a special fund to help offset the cost of Kirkmont camp for our children and youth who attend. From this fund, Fairmont is able to pay half of the camp cost for each attendee, helping our parents and encouraging them to send their kids to Kirkmont.

From Kirkmont’s website: “Kirkmont Center, an independent non-profit organization, was founded by the Presbyterian Church USA in 1963. Today we are a camp and retreat center serving public and private school groups, non-profit organizations, youth groups, sports teams, music and art associations, churches and faith based groups of all denominations, families, businesses, and individuals. Our goal is to provide you with a renewing camp, outdoor education, or retreat experience.”

Our numbers at Fairmont are growing, and we have more children and youth attending summer camp at Kirkmont. As a result, our Coins4Kids fund is shrinking faster than it is being replenished. It is a good problem to have, but we need your help to keep the fund growing for our children and youth. **Please remember to bring your coins to put in the Sunday morning offering plate. You can also write a check with “Coins4Kids” in the memo line.** Thank you for

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wedn	
8:30am: Casual Service 9:45am: Prayer in the Chapel 10:30am: Traditional Service 5pm: PYC	<b>3</b>	Office closes at noon 6:30pm: WOF Coordinating Team 6:30pm: Dayton Opera Chorus	<b>4</b>	11am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12pm: AA (C) 12pm: OA (rc) 7pm: Musica 7pm: Team Meetings	<b>5</b>	6:30pm: Praise B 6:30pm: Connect 6:30pm: Dayton 7pm: Quartet 7pm: AA (012)	
10:30am: Single Service 11:30am: Annual Meeting 5pm: PYC	<b>10</b>	Office closes at noon	<b>11</b>	11am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12pm: AA (C) 12pm: OA (rc) 7pm: Musica 7pm: Trustees, B&G, Finance	<b>12</b>	5:30pm: GIFT 6:30pm: Praise Ba 6:30pm: Connecti 7pm: Quartet 7pm: AA (012)	
8:30am: Casual Service 9:45am: Prayer in the Chapel 10:30am: Traditional Service	<b>17</b>	Office closes at noon	<b>18</b>	11am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12pm: AA (C) 12pm: OA (rc) 7pm: Musica 7pm: Session (Upper Room)	<b>19</b>	8am: Men's Break 6:30pm: Praise Ba 6:30pm: Connecti 7pm: Quartet 7pm: AA (012)	
8:30am: Casual Service 9:45am: Prayer in the Chapel 10:30am: Traditional Service 5pm: PYC	<b>24</b>	Office closes at noon	<b>25</b>	11am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12pm: AA (C) 12pm: OA (rc) 7pm: Musica	<b>26</b>	6:30pm: Praise Ba 6:30pm: Connecti 7pm: Quartet 7pm: AA (012)	

January

Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
				11am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12pm: OA (rc) 5pm: Theology on Tap (off site)	<b>1</b>	Dayton Opera Chorus	<b>2</b>
and ions Opera Chorus	<b>6</b>	1pm: Creative Crafters (fh) 1pm: Pastors' Bible Study (upper room) 7pm: NA (012) 7pm: Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b>	11am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12pm: OA (rc)	<b>8</b>	Women of Fairmont Winter Gathering	<b>9</b>
and ons (chapel)	<b>13</b>	1pm: Pastors' Bible Study (upper room) 6:30pm: Scout Meeting 7pm: NA (012) 7pm: Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b>	11am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12pm: OA (rc) 5pm: Theology on Tap (off site)	<b>15</b>	5pm: PYC lock-in	<b>16</b>
fast (offsite) and ons (chapel)	<b>20</b>	1pm: Creative Crafters (fh) 1pm: Pastors' Bible Study (upper room) 7pm: NA (012) 7pm: Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b>	11am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12pm: OA (rc) 5:30pm: Family Pizza Dinner (offsite)	<b>22</b>		<b>23</b>
and ons (chapel)	<b>27</b>	1pm: Rug Hooking Group (fh) 1pm: Pastors' Bible Study (upper room) 7pm: NA (012) 7pm: Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b>				

## WOMEN OF FAIRMONT

The **Coordinating Team** will meet on Monday, February 4th at 6:30pm in the Upper Room.

- Circle 1:** February 11, 7pm in the Chapel
- Circle 2:** February 20, 10am in the Parlor
- Circle 3:** February 20, 10am in the Parlor
- Circle 6:** February 20, 6:30pm at Panera in Centerville
- Circle 7:** February 16, 9:30am, Jan Runkle's home
- Circle 8:** February 25, 7pm in the Parlor

### Box Lunch

February will feature an encore menu of Baked Ziti, Tuscan Greens, Focaccia Bread, and an Italian Cream Cupcake! Fill out your order form on February 10; pick up your order February 17 (a week later than usual).

**Winter Gathering:** On Saturday, February 9 at 11:30, the Women of Fairmont will gather in the Fellowship Hall. Leaders of the Women's Interfaith Discussion, Bushra Shahid and Phyllis Pavlofsy Allen, will share the group's goals to break down barriers, learn about and understand one another, and strengthen community ties. All are welcome to join us for a delicious brunch and to learn about this interfaith discussion group! RSVP to your Circle Leader before February 4.

### MISSION BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

Helping Hands, Helping Hearts



**THANK YOU from 4 Paws for Ability!** Last September was the most recent fifth Sunday offering, and our visitor was a volunteer named Melissa from the nonprofit 4 Paws for Ability which trains service dogs and connects them with needy families in the Dayton area. Melissa brought Bridget, a service dog in training that she fosters. They had a great time visiting with members and answering questions! Karen Shirk, the Executive Director of 4 Paws for Ability, wrote Fairmont a thank you note for the offering, saying, "Thank you for your generous donation toward the training and placement of service dogs with people who have disabilities! By donating to 4 Paws you are making a dream come true!"

**2018 Jeremiah's Letter:** This year, Fairmont volunteers delivered Christmas presents and groceries to a total of seven different families. Each family received several presents, plus a Christmas dinner complete with ham, pie, salad, fruits, and other goodies, along with pantry items to keep them well stocked through the holidays. There was so much generosity among our members that the Secret Santa ornaments were flying off the felt trees in the Fellowship Hall, and gift deliveries made it out in record time.

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**Mitten Tree:** This project was a tremendous success given the cold winter we've had. When these were delivered, staff members at JFK Elementary were almost in tears of gratitude due to the extreme need. They share their heartfelt thanks with all who contributed! Our Helping Hands and Helping Hearts are warming the kids' hands and hearts!

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**Third Sunday Mission:** Join us as we make 200 cheese and cold cut sandwiches for the guests at the House of Bread. We need many hands to feed the hungry. We will be in Fellowship Hall after each service.

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**3rd Sunday Mission Project , March 17:** Easter Baskets for Jeremiah's Letter Families! - To further support our Christmas Jeremiah's Letter families, we will be delivering Easter Baskets of books and fresh fruits! Join us after each worship service to write notes of encouragement and love as we pack, arrange and decorate these laundry baskets!

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**House of Bread:** Mark your calendar for 2019! We are working Monday Feb. 25. We are sending a team to slice, dice, mix and serve lunch for more than 200 hungry folks. There are jobs that can be completed while sitting. Join us from 9:00 - 2:00 for this valuable service to the hungry in our community. We can carpool if you would like! Sign up on the Mission Team bulletin board.

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**One Great Hour of Sharing:** We are once again making this denomination-wide collection during Lent. Keep your eyes and ears open for further information.

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**How Else Can You Serve as a Disciple?** We continue to collect assorted items at the top of the stairs: soda can pull-tabs (Ronald McDonald House), Box Tops (J.F. Kennedy Elementary), jars of peanut butter, and men's belts (House of Bread). Remember to bring items for the food pantry!

## WITHIN THE FELLOWSHIP

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Winter Weather Reminder:** Fairmont Presbyterian Church programs, including preschool, are cancelled and the church office will be closed on days when the Kettering City Schools are closed (not merely delayed) for weather reasons. As always, please use common sense and do not drive if you feel the conditions are unsafe.

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**From the Building and Grounds Team:** Now that winter weather is here, please be careful when walking in the parking lots—they do get slick when wet!

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**Fourth Friday Family Pizza Dinners:** Family pizza dinners are on the fourth Friday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Our next gathering will be on **Friday, February 22, 2019** at Marion's Pizza in Oakwood on Patterson Road. All are welcome!

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**Annual Meeting:** Join us for our annual meeting and luncheon on Sunday February 10 in Fellowship Hall. After a single service, we will gather to both share and give thanks for the ways God has blessed Fairmont over the past year, the ways that we have been a means for God's blessing in our community, and our hopes and plans for the future.

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**Visit your Church Library!** Have you stopped by the church library recently? Advent and Christmas books will be on display soon! To borrow, write your name and the date on the card at the back of the book and leave the card in the box at the desk, or sign out the item in the notebook at the desk.

What items would you like to see on the shelves? Let me know! Members have given generously to the Memorial Fund over the years, with some of the funds designated for the library.

Sally Athmer ([sally.athmer@gmail.com](mailto:sally.athmer@gmail.com))

**FISH Southeast Food Pantry** is a multi-denominational volunteer food pantry based out of the Southminster Presbyterian Church at the corner of Alex Bell and 48 in Centerville. FISH Southeast partners with Fairmont Church, The Dayton Food Bank and Feeding America to deliver emergency food assistance to those in need. In 2018 we are on pace to serve over 20,000 meals! We are grateful for the financial support from Fairmont.

The FISH Southeast Food Pantry has an urgent need for:

**Callers** - retrieve calls from our voicemail, contact clients to confirm eligibility & contact deliverers with client's information. This can all be done from home. Time commitment 1-1.5 hours per day (AM)

**Deliverers** - fill out the required form, contact the client to schedule delivery time, pick up food at the Food Pantry at Southminster Presbyterian Church, & deliver the food. Time commitment 1.5-2 hours (PM).

For more information, or to become involved in this ministry contact Paul Lamberger.

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**Making Music with Acoustic Grace** - We continue our monthly gathering in Fellowship Hall to play and sing for about 50 minutes starting at 9:30am on February 10. Song/chord sheets are provided. All skill levels welcome!

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**Contemplative Prayer in Chapel**—Are you yearning for more silent, contemplative prayer on Sunday mornings? From 9:45am-10:15am, there is a time for self-guided silent prayer in the Chapel. We provide spiritual readings and tools to guide your time of silence. You may also use this time for quiet prayer, reflection, and preparation for our communal worship together as God's people.

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**Creative Crafters** will be meeting in Fellowship Hall on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 1-3pm. All levels of "craftiness" welcome! If you have any questions, please call Brenda Anderson or Barb Miller.

## PRESCHOOL CORNER

**Registration for Preschool** for the 2019-2020 school year is now open. Registration forms may be found under the Preschool tab on the church website. A non-refundable \$50 registration fee is due at the time of registration. Contact Tracy at 299-3539 or [tlandgren@fairmontchurch.org](mailto:tlandgren@fairmontchurch.org).



# Fairmont Presbyterian Church

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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  
**Associate Pastor:** Kelley Wehmeyer Shin  
**Director of Christian Education:** Rachel Boden  
**Director of Music Ministries:** Vicki Ramga  
**Organist:** Judy Bede  
**Praise & Worship Leader:** Jerry Mahn

**Preschool Director:** Tracy Landgren  
**Preschool Teacher:** Amber Reshad  
**Preschool Aide:** Liz Lewis  
**Administrative Assistant:** Jennifer Mason  
**Bookkeeper:** Martha Keil  
**Custodian:** Louis Weyrauch

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## February Birthdays

Deanne Harvey	02/01	Sara Grillot	02/17
Virginia Caldwell	02/02	Mark Wells	02/18
Nancy Berger	02/02	Earl Walters	02/19
Wynn Adam	02/02	Morgan Mantia	02/19
Vicki Ramga	02/02	Ann Spicer	02/21
Christopher Jones	02/05	Max Borneman	02/22
Maeve Harper	02/05	Roger Athmer	02/24
Maryann Bausman	02/07	Natalie Kanis	02/25
Joan K. Thompson	02/08	Gail Yarnall	02/26
Linda Yoder	02/09	Barbara Stager	02/27
Mary Davis	02/12	Chelsea Yoder	02/27
Amanda Matson	02/15	Jay Thomas, Jr.	02/29
Deborah Prichard	02/16	Thomas Klingel	02/29
Dawn Poindexter	02/16		



### **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT CALL**

**The deadline for the next Call is Friday, February 22, 2019.**

Please submit articles to: [rboden@fairmontchurch.org](mailto:rboden@fairmontchurch.org).