

THE CALL

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

March 2020

Volume 75, Issue 2

THOUGHTS FROM BRIAN

The world does not want you to do Lent. The world does not want you to look too deeply into your life and ask the hard questions: who am I, where am I headed, and who do I want to become? So, we learn the fine arts of avoidance, denial, and self-medication. The problem is that no matter how well we learn to run or hide, we cannot seem to escape ourselves.

Lent is a season for courageous and unsentimental truth telling, examining and owning exactly who we are. The name we give to this self-examination and truth telling is confession. Confession is not reciting a list of naughty things we have done. Confession is embracing the honest truth of who we are, especially those bits like shame, guilt, fear, and pain, that we would much prefer to hide away from ourselves. That means that confession is not about beating ourselves up. Confession is about doing the hard inner-work of compassionately understanding who we are and how we got here.

This hard work of confession is necessary for the sake of relationship. You cannot live or love in a genuine, honest relationship with a fiction, only a real person. Neither can God. Repeatedly, Jesus meets people who are defined by their roles, their disabilities, their past misdeeds, and society's projections, looks beyond them, sees them for who they truly are, and embraces them as his sisters and brothers. And Jesus can and will do the same for you. All you need to do is let the mask slip a bit and let go of some of our fondest lies. All Jesus wants is you—the real you. Won't you introduce yourself?

NOTES FROM KELLEY

The season of Lent gives us the gift of intentional spiritual reflection and discipline in the context of a faith community, locally and across the world. I have always been drawn to the season of Lent and am very much at home in a faith community and denomination which values the rituals of spiritual practice and discipline. In Lent, we are invited into the sacred space of the presence of God. For many of us, this practice of “being in the presence of God” will look very differently.

Some of us are immediately drawn to the traditional practices of meditative prayer, fasting, and study of scripture. Some of us more easily find the presence of God through writing and journaling and reading. While others of us need a more physical, tactile way to pray and meditate, such as praying-while-walking or meditative prayer using all the senses of sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell.

What kind of meditative practice speaks to you? Do you pray with icons, candles, and visual objects? Do you pray in complete darkness and quiet? Do you pray while moving your body through nature and creation or by walking a labyrinth? There are endless ways to practice being in the presence of God. Listen to your heart, mind, and spirit as to what kind of spiritual discipline speaks to you.

Walking is my spiritual place of prayer and centering in the midst of these busy days of ministry and caring for family. “Solvitur Ambulando” which is Latin for “it is solved by walking” has become my spiritual mantra and practice. What is your spiritual practice?

Our Lenten School study for this year is centered on spiritual practices and disciplines. We will be reading and studying Richard Foster's classic book “Celebration of Discipline” as we seek to deepen our spiritual lives, individually and as a community of faith. Join us this Lenten season in body, mind, heart, and spirit as we grow closer to God.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

March 1

Lesson: John 2: 13-22

Sermon: "Lenten Cleaning"

March 8

First Lesson: Romans 4: 1-5

Second Lesson: John 3: 1-17

Sermon: "From Above"

March 15

Second Lesson: John 4: 5-42

Sermon: "The Well is Deep"

March 22

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

Second Lesson: John 9: 1-14

Sermon: "Seeing Past the Past"

March 29

First Lesson: John 11: 1-45

Sermon: "Unbinding"

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Meet the Choir

This month we are featuring Chancel Choir member Elaina Vimmerstedt. Elaina is a mezzo-soprano and has recently marked her first full year of singing in the choir.



Elaina grew up in Grandview Heights, Ohio and graduated from Wittenberg University. In her spare time, she enjoys creating fermentation projects at home such as sourdough bread and Kombucha! Elaina teaches at the Antioch School in Yellow Springs and enjoys the artists Bjork and Shobha Gurtu.

Join the Choir! The Chancel Choir welcomes new singers anytime, but especially during the upcoming season of Lent. Please consider joining us for this Holy Season as a way to enhance your Lenten practice. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm, and the first Sunday in Lent is March 1st. We will sing each Sunday, on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning. Call Vicki Ramga for more information and to let her know if you need child care on Thursday evenings. See you there!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Kidz Korner

Sunday Morning Program Schedule

9:30am: Children's Choir, Children's Music Room

10am: Mini Missionaries (PreK), Room A

10am: Junior Apostles (grades 1-5), Room B

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

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

Bible Storytime: March 13, 8pm on the Zoom mobile app. Ask Rachel how to participate!

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Acolytes Needed: Does your child want to help us out on Sunday mornings? We need acolytes to light the candles for the 10:30 service each week. If you have a child who might be interested, we will train any children in **third grade and up** to light the candles on Sunday mornings. Contact Rachel for more information!



PYC

PYC meets on WEDNESDAY evenings during the program year from 6-8pm, and is for students in grades 6-12.

Upcoming Events

March 4: PYC, 6-8pm (Anchoring Our Relationships)

March 11: PYC, 6-8pm (Guest Speaker—Dave Diller)

March 18: PYC, 6-8pm (Anchoring Our Choices)

March 25: Youth Gathering with area youth groups, trip to SkyZone

There are also unsupervised study tables available in the church library from 5:30-6pm.

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Adult Education

Lenten School (March 1-April 8): A Celebration of Discipline: How do you get closer to God? How do you change your life so that you can live more like the person you were meant to be? How do you pray? These are some of the fundamental “how” questions on the method and means of living life as a Christian. We will be examining these questions together in Lent using Richard Foster’s classic book, *A Celebration of Discipline* as our guide as we learn from centuries of Christians’ experiences of how to live closer to God and each other. We will be meeting throughout Lent on Sunday mornings at 11:45 and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the chapel.

MISSION BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

Helping Hands, Helping Hearts



March 15, 3rd Sunday Mission Project: Easter Baskets for Jeremiah’s Letter families! Remember our Jeremiah’s Letter families? In celebration of Easter, we are delivering Easter baskets of Books and Fresh Fruit to each family. Mission Team is purchasing books and fruit. Join us to decorate Easter Baskets *and* Make Bookmarks for our Jeremiah’s Letter Kids!

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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!

BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP

From the Stewardship Team:

God is truly good, and blessings abound! Thanks to an extraordinary collection of pledges and other Spirit-led giving in December 2019, our church was able to very nearly balance the 2019 budget. Pledge receipts for the month of December were approximately \$105,000. This is the largest one-month pledge receipt in anyone’s recent memory. It came after three to four months of lower than expected receipts. Certainly, tax law changes are contributing to the timing of pledge receipts, which is definitely understood, but it cannot be denied that God is gracious and once again has provided for Fairmont Presbyterian Church.

We now must turn our attention to the 2020 stewardship campaign. As of the end of January 2020, we have received pledge commitments in the amount of \$547,436. However, our total budget needs for 2020 are \$644,690.

Your Stewardship Team feels the Spirit has never been stronger and more apparent than it has been in recent years at Fairmont. The number of young families that have joined Fairmont and are worshipping with us is reason for joy and most promising. The crying of babies during worship is music to most peoples’ ears. Educational opportunities for all ages abound. Our ministerial staff has never been stronger. Brian and Kelley deliver inspirational and thought-provoking sermons to us every Sunday. They are helping to build a faith and Spirit led environment at Fairmont.

We need everyone’s help to keep this momentum moving forward. If you have made your pledge for 2020, thank you very much! If you have not yet pledged, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge. We have a wonderful opportunity to spread the Holy Spirit and share the Word of God outside the walls of Fairmont Presbyterian Church into our local communities. Please consider pledging today so that we can commit to making this happen.

Yours in Christ,
Ken Ginader and Jeff Adam
Your Stewardship Team



Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wedn	
8:30am: Casual Service 9:30am: Confirmation Class 10:30am: Traditional Service 11:45am: Lenten School	1	Office closes at noon 6:30pm: WOF Coordinating Team	2	11am: Fit 4 You 12pm: AA 12pm: OA 7pm: Musica 7pm: Team Meetings	3	2pm: Pastors' Bible 6pm: PYC 6:30pm: Praise B 6:30pm: Lenten S 6:30pm: Dayton 7pm: Quartet 7pm: AA	
8:30am: Casual Service 9:30am: Confirmation Class 10:30am: Traditional Service WoF Box Lunch 11:45am: Lenten School	8	Office closes at noon	9	11am: Fit 4 You 12pm: AA 12pm: OA 7pm: Musica 7pm: Trustees, B&G, Finance	10	2pm: Pastors' Bible 5:30pm: GIFT 6pm: PYC 6:30pm: Praise Ba 6:30pm: Lenten Sc 7pm: Quartet 7pm: AA	
8:30am: Casual Service 9:30am: Confirmation Class 10:30am: Traditional Service 9:30 and 11:30am: Third Sunday Mission 11:45am: Lenten School	15	Office closes at noon Spring Break	16	11am: Fit 4 You 12pm: AA 12pm: OA 7pm: Musica 7pm: Session (Upper Room) Spring Break	17	2pm: Pastors' Bible 6pm: PYC 6:30pm: Praise Ba 6:30pm: Lenten Sc 7pm: Quartet 7pm: AA Spring Break	
8:30am: Casual Service 9:30am: Confirmation Class 10:30am: Traditional Service 11:45am: Lenten School	22	Office closes at noon	23	11am: Fit 4 You 12pm: AA 12pm: OA 7pm: Musica 7pm: Deacons	24	2pm: Pastors' Bible 6pm: PYC (offsite) 6:30pm: Praise Ba 6:30pm: Lenten Sc 7pm: Quartet 7pm: AA	
8:30am: Casual Service 9:30am: Confirmation Class 10:30am: Traditional Service 11:45am: Lenten School	29	Office closes at noon	30	11am: Fit 4 You 12pm: AA 12pm: OA 7pm: Musica	31		

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Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
e Study and School Opera Chorus	4	1pm: Craft Group 6pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm: NA 7pm: Choir Rehearsal	5	11am: Fit 4 You 12pm: OA 5pm: Theology on Tap (off site)	6		7
e Study nd chool	11	6pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm: NA 7pm: Choir Rehearsal	12	11am: Fit 4 You 12pm: OA	13		14
e Study nd chool	18	1pm: Craft Group 6pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm: NA 7pm: Choir Rehearsal Spring Break	19	11am: Fit 4 You 12pm: OA 5pm: Theology on Tap Spring Break	20		21
e Study) nd chool	25	1pm: Rug Hookers' Guild 6pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm: NA 7pm: Choir Rehearsal	26	11am: Fit 4 You 12pm: OA 5:30pm: Family Pizza Dinner (Fellowship Hall)	27		28

WOMEN OF FAIRMONT

The **Coordinating Team** will meet on Monday, March 2 at 6:30pm in the Upper Room.

Box Lunch

The March Box Lunch will feature Tuscan Roast Pork Loin, Sweet Potato and Apple Casserole, Broccoli Raisin Salad, and a Pistachio Dessert. Order on March 1 and pickup on March 8!

Circle 1: Monica Mantia and Wynn Adam - 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm in the church chapel

Circle 2/3: Doris Olt and Betty Brown - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am in the church library

Circle 6: Jackie Vickroy and Deb Wright - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm at Panera Bread in Centerville

Circle 7: Barb Shinn and Kathy Akers - 4th Sat of the month at 9:30am at members' homes

Circle 8: Kate Barnett and Becky Sennet - 5th Monday of the month at 7pm in the church parlor

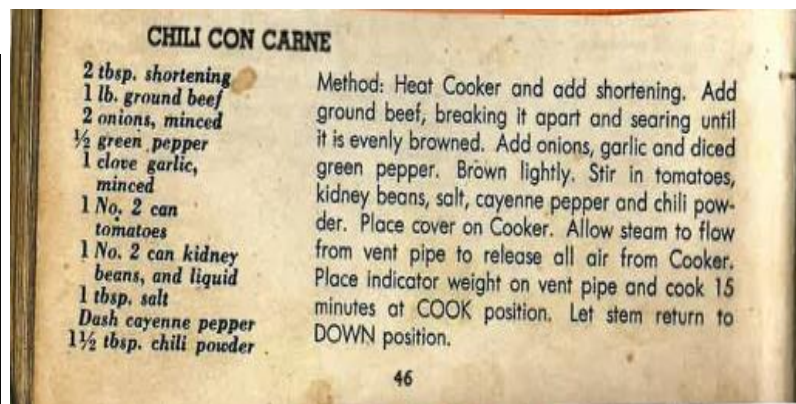
WOMEN'S RETREAT

“Listening to Sacred Voices”

Led by Rev. Kelley Shin

Women! Mark your calendars for **April 24-25, 2020** for the Fairmont Women's Retreat at Hueston Woods Conference Center. Come join us in a beautiful setting for a time of faith, fun, food, and fellowship. More details to come. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Black and White Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The Women of Fairmont want to show you our deepest appreciation for supporting our Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser! We had 19 different and amazing pots of chili to sample as well as a plethora of corn bread and desserts. The friendly competition was a lot of fun and our congratulations go out to our winning chili chefs, Kimberly Gunlock (3rd), Patrick Gill (2nd), and Sharon Kohnle (1st!) However, our big winner is the Tornado Relief Fund. WOF has taken the \$633 we received in donations at the chili cook-off and rounded up so we were able to give \$1000 to help those still trying to recover from last year's devastating tornadoes. We couldn't have done it without you! So once again, thank you for your support!



Enjoy our winning chili recipe, courtesy of Sharon Kohnle!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a wonderful Winter Gathering! The food was delicious, the fellowship was fabulous, and the women who shared their "Reflections from Israel" gave us an exciting look at their life-changing trip. Thank you to our incredible kitchen and decorating teams and to everyone who came together to make this Gathering another success!

WITHIN THE FELLOWSHIP

Thank you for all of your prayers and good thoughts while so many of us traveled to the Holy Land in February! We had a wonderful time exploring the land of Jesus: navigating the crowded marketplace streets of Jerusalem, hiking the rocky hills of the Galilee, enjoying falafel and shawarma, and joining together in worship, communion, and spiritual faith formation at some of the world's most beautiful and holy sites. Enjoy some photo highlights of our trip—shalom!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, March 27** in our own Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

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The Fairmont Men's Group will meet for lunch at MCL Cafeteria on Wednesday, March 18th at 11:30am. Please RSVP by noon on Tuesday by filling out the friendship pad or calling the church office.

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Join Fit 4 You! Fit 4 You is a wellness program that was started at Fairmont in June 2016. Presently, there are approximately fifteen men and women who attend regularly. This wellness program is a progressive strength, balance, and flexibility exercise program for adults.

Fit 4 You is appropriate for both active and sedentary adults and includes both standing and sitting activities, using ankle and hand weights for resistance-type muscle training, along with balance and flexibility exercises. All equipment is provided. Classes meet on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11am-12pm and are instructed in a group setting with participants exercising together in a large circle, fostering social interaction, fellowship, and support. For further information, contact Cindy Cavey.

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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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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 March 8. Song/chord sheets are provided. All skill levels welcome!

PRESCHOOL CORNER

The preschool is looking for substitute teachers for the current school year. If interested, please contact the church office. Registration for the 2020-2021 school year is currently open. Registration forms are on the church website, www.fairmontchurch.org. Preschool will be closed **March 13-20** for Spring Break.



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
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

March Birthdays

Jeanette Kruer	03/01	David G. Allison	03/22
Drew Borneman	03/01	Richard Ludwig	03/23
Adam Kabacinski	03/02	Don Davis	03/26
Joyce Mackintosh	03/02	Sherry Klingel	03/27
Jacquelyn Vickroy	03/02	Becky Sennet	03/28
Casey Gill	03/04	David Youngerman	03/28
Peter Guise	03/11	Nancy Leonhard	03/29
Glenn Spicer III	03/14	Kathryn Ellis	03/29
Carol Kemp	03/15	Sue Knierim	03/29
Rick Schwartz	03/15	Donald Buck	03/30
Martha Taylor	03/16	Kathy Shafer	03/30
Bill Mann	03/18		
Stewart Adam	03/19		
James Harper	03/20		
Jeffery Adam	03/21		
Tanner Bussey	03/22		
Robert Davis	03/22		
Ken Guise	03/22		



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT CALL

The deadline for the next Call is Friday, March 20, 2020.

Please submit articles to: rboden@fairmontchurch.org.