

# THE CALL

(Quarantine Edition)

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

June/July 2020  
Volume 75, Issue 5

## THOUGHTS FROM BRIAN

Sometime this spring, while everyone was scrounging around for toilet paper, the world changed. We did not ask it to change. Most did not want it to change. But change it did. Now we find ourselves in a new place and new era for our community and our congregation. After some initial surprise, I now see this new landscape not as something to fear, but rather a gift and an opportunity that will define Fairmont for the next generation.

We have been sent to do something that no one has ever done before. We have been placed here and now by God to cultivate new ways of connecting to God and other people. The old assumptions of Christendom, that our culture and the institutions of the state will somehow do our work of spreading and supporting the Gospel for us, have now all been swept away. And now the assumptions of place, that a congregation is of a particular geographic location and its reach is defined by physical proximity, have also been swept away.

The current pandemic is accelerating long-term changes in American Christianity. For some congregations that cannot or will not change, Coronavirus will hasten their end. But for Fairmont, the current pandemic is instead hastening our transformation. Some suggest that we are undergoing about ten years of transformation in about ten weeks. So, what are these changes?

Our identity and sense of community is no longer founded on geographic location. Instead, they are grounded in networks of relationships that spread not only through south Dayton, but all over the nation. Technology allows us to ignore distance in worship, caring, study, and outreach. We are unshackled from the tyranny of geography to share hope and love through the relationships to which we belong. Which means,

The most important thing we possess is not our building, but the webs of relationship to which we belong.

Fairmont is not a place, it is a relational nexus of love and transformative potential where you can grow into closer relationship with God, and every one of us is an evangelist (literally a good news bringer) every time we share the invitation to participate in it. We are becoming evangelical, in the very best and Jesus-intended sense of the word, bringing good news to those who need it. Our essential task is to tend our networks of relationships nurturing a greater sense of intimacy and trust. As a necessary corollary, traditional measures of institutional membership become less important. What matters is participation and trust. Which means,

We are becoming a distributed community in which old patterns based on assumptions of place and polity no longer constrain us. In the future, there will be many centers (nodes) to our webs of relationship, not one. While we cherish the Reformed theological tradition as our foundation, we recognize that in order to thrive in this new era, we will need to dream anew and act anew, borrowing resources from any source through which Spirit is working, and partnering with any who are willing. Central to our work will be helping people navigate these new communities and all the complexity that will come along with them.

We are entering into a period of great uncertainty and volatility. I anticipate that many congregations will close in the next year. But I am hopeful and excited about the future for Fairmont. If we embrace the invitation that God has given to us, our most fruitful days are ahead of us. If we steward the gifts we have been given, we have everything we need to build a thriving ministry for the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. If we are faithful in seeking the Spirit, we will be blessed as a means of God's blessing in the world.

We may not have noticed it at the time, but ten weeks ago the future started and Fairmont has leapt in to be a part of it. Thanks be to God. Now let's get to work.

Pastor Brian

.....

## NOTES FROM KELLEY

“But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” Ephesians 4:16

In the Reformed understanding of ministry we, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., ordain Elders, Deacons, and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament. When we ordain officers to ministry, we always ordain in the context of worship. Ordination is an act of the whole church! Whether we are the ones being ordained, or the ones affirming those ordained, or the ones doing the ordaining, we are the church.

We find ourselves in a very different season in the church as we are unable to meet in person for worship. As we draw near the time to elect new officers and as we anticipate the need to ordain and install new elders and deacons, we have to reclaim the truth that the church is **not** the building but rather the church is the people. Remember that simple song we sang as children by Avery and Marsh?

“The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we’re the church together!”

In ordination we recognize the gifts and ministry of ALL the saints. And when we ordain, the same constitutional questions which are asked of Ministers are asked of Elders and Deacons. My favorite of the nine constitutional questions being:

“Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?”

We follow a great God together as the Body of Christ. Our Book of Order of the PC(USA) states:

The purpose and pattern of leadership in the church in all its forms of ministry shall be understood **not in terms of power but of service**, after the manner of the servant ministry of Jesus Christ.

“not in terms of power but of service...”

We are called to follow in the example of Jesus Christ who humbled himself and lived a servant life for all. Ordination is not about power. Quite the opposite! It is about loving one another and serving one another as Christ has served us.

As with ordination, we also baptize children, youth, and adults as an act of the whole church. Each time we baptize a new disciple of Christ, we the Body of Christ become the “Godparents” for that new disciple. Together we take a vow to tell this new disciple the good news of Jesus Christ.

This summer we will be sharing in both ordinations and baptisms but this time we will be the Body of Christ in new ways as we continue to worship virtually instead of person to person. Remember, friends, that the church is not the building! The church is the people!

Peace and love to you,  
Pastor Kelley

## ONLINE MINISTRIES

**Kidz Korner Online: Tuesdays, 10:30am**

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/991553742>

Zoom Meeting ID: 991-553-742

**Connections Class: Wednesdays, 7:00pm**

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/792715072>

Zoom Meeting ID: 792-715-072

**Bible Study: Thursdays, 7:30pm**

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/564218448>

Zoom Meeting ID: 564-218-448

**Theology on Tap: Fridays, 5:00pm**

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/604020493>

Zoom Meeting ID: 604-020-493

**Coffee Fellowship: Sundays, 11:30am**

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/97373657839>

Zoom Meeting ID: 973-7365-7839

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**VBS 2020:** With safety in mind this summer, we will host Fairmont's first ever VIRTUAL Vacation Bible School experience, **June 8-12** on Zoom. Please keep our leaders and our children in your prayers as we navigate this new way of sharing God’s love with the children in our community.

**Baccalaureate Service:** Help us celebrate our graduating seniors! Cassie S., Max B., and Abby T. are graduating from high school this year, and will miss out on full commencement services as a result of the pandemic. Fairmont will be holding a Baccalaureate service to celebrate their accomplishments on **Sunday, June 21 at 2:00pm** in the sanctuary. Only students and one parent will be invited to attend to meet social distancing requirements, but we invite you to join us via livestream that afternoon as we recognize our students with a short service of prayer and blessing.

## WORSHIP

**NO public worship until further notice. All worship offerings will be live-streamed online.** Visit [www.fairmontchurch.org/worship-videos](http://www.fairmontchurch.org/worship-videos) for links to all past and upcoming live streams.

.....

**June 7: Trinity Sunday/Holy Communion, 10:30am**

**Lesson:** John 15: 1-11

**Sermon:** "Where You Belong"

**June 14: Second Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30am**

**First Lesson:** 2 Kings 4: 42-44

**Second Lesson:** John 6: 1-21

**Sermon:** "Bread Part One: Fed"

**June 21: Third Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30am**

**First Lesson:** Psalm 78: 23-29

**Second Lesson:** John 6: 24-35

**Sermon:** "Bread Part Two: Manna"

**June 28: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30am**

**First Lesson:** 1 Kings 19: 4-8

**Second Lesson:** John 6: 35, 41-51

**Sermon:** "Bread Part Three: Too Much Bread"

.....

**July 5: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost/Holy Communion, 10:30am**

**Lesson:** John 6: 51-58

**Sermon:** "Bread Part Four: Bread of Life"

**July 12: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30am**

**First Lesson:** Joshua 24: 1-2, 14-18

**Second Lesson:** John 6: 56-69

**Sermon:** "Bread Part Five: Gluten Intolerance"

**July 19: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30am**

**First Lesson:** Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24

**Second Lesson:** Romans 8: 12-25

**Sermon:** "Waiting for Adoption"

**July 26: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30am**

**First Lesson:** Genesis 29: 15-28

**Second Lesson:** Romans 8: 26-39

**Sermon:** "Help is on the Way"

## MUSIC

### A Note from the Choir Director:

*"My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?"*

I have always loved this old hymn, but the text has taken on a new significance during this time of pandemic and isolation. Singers are, according to many medical professionals, "Super Spreaders." I've always thought of singing as a way to spread joy, praise, and thanksgiving to God, but never considered that we might spread harmful viruses, too (at least more than anyone else coming in close contact with others).

Singing has always been our birthright, a special gift from God, not just for the extraordinarily talented voices, but for all of us regardless of the measure of our vocal abilities. How many of us have found solace from an anthem or hymn when our hearts could not find the words for prayer? How many times have we found ourselves humming or singing a song while performing a mundane task? One of my earliest memories is of swinging in the backyard and singing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" with gusto.

When we *do* come together again for worship, carefully, slowly, we may need to refrain from singing for a time. There will still be music, but we must change some of our worship practices. In the meantime, consider some of the alternatives to congregational singing proposed by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM):

- Read or pray the words of hymns while the organist or other instrumentalist plays
- Enjoy performances by non-wind instrumental groups (handbell, string, or percussion ensembles)
- Use the texts of hymns for personal spiritual discipline
- Use recorded offerings of music from vocalists, instrumentalists, and family groups

[Church Music and Covid-19: A Response from the Presbyterian Association of Musicians ([presbymusic.org](http://presbymusic.org))]

*"Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?"*

# June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30pm: WoF Coordinating Team (online)	2 10:30am: Kidz Korner Online 7pm: Team Meetings (online)	3 7:00pm: Connections Class (online)	4 7:00pm: Bible Study (online)	5 5pm: Theology on Tap (online) 8pm: Women, Word, and Wine (online)	6
7 10:30am: Worship (online, stream starts at 10:15)	8 10-11am: VBS (Online)	9 10-11am: VBS (Online) 7pm: Trustees, B&G, Finance (online)	10 10-11am: VBS (Online) 7:00pm: Connections Class (online)	11 10-11am: VBS (Online) 7:00pm: Bible Study (online)	12 10-11am: VBS (Online) 5pm: Theology on Tap (online)	13
14 10:30am: Worship (online, stream starts at 10:15)	15	16 10:30am: Kidz Korner Online 7pm: Session (online)	17 7:00pm: Connections Class (online)	18 7:00pm: Bible Study (online)	19 5pm: Theology on Tap (online)	20
21 10:30am: Worship (online, stream starts at 10:15) 2pm: Baccalaureate Service	22 22	23 10:30am: Kidz Korner Online 7pm: Deacons (online)	24 7:00pm: Connections Class (online)	25 7:00pm: Bible Study (online)	26 5pm: Theology on Tap (online) 6:00pm: Fourth Friday Family Pizza Dinner (online)	27
28 10:30am: Worship (online, stream starts at 10:15)	29	30 10:30am: Kidz Korner Online				

# July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			7:00pm: Connections Class (online)	7:00pm: Bible Study (online)	5pm: Theology on Tap (online)	
			7:00pm: Connections Class (online)	7:00pm: Bible Study (online)	5pm: Theology on Tap (online)	
10:30am: Worship (stream starts at 10:15)	6:30pm: WoF Coordinating Team (online)	10:30am: Kidz Korner Online 7pm: Team Meetings (online)	7:00pm: Connections Class (online)	7:00pm: Bible Study (online)	5pm: Theology on Tap (online) 8pm: Women, Word, and Wine (online)	
10:30am: Worship (stream starts at 10:15)		10:30am: Kidz Korner Online 7pm: Trustees, B&G, Finance (online)	7:00pm: Connections Class (online)	7:00pm: Bible Study (online)	5pm: Theology on Tap (online)	
10:30am: Worship (stream starts at 10:15)		10:30am: Kidz Korner Online 7pm: Session (online)	7:00pm: Connections Class (online)	7:00pm: Bible Study (online)	5pm: Theology on Tap (online) 6:00pm: Fourth Friday Family Pizza Dinner (online)	
10:30am: Worship (stream starts at 10:15)		10:30am: Kidz Korner Online	7:00pm: Connections Class (online)	7:00pm: Bible Study (online)		

## WHEN WILL WE RESUME IN-PERSON WORSHIP?

The Session is evaluating the wisdom of resuming in-person worship in careful consultation with our medical advisory team and our Board of Trustees. We have commenced all the long lead time items that will be necessary for reopening. We are also carefully following the recommendations of state and local health officials as well as the experiences of local businesses that reopened at the end of May. The Session strives to be both faithful to our mission and responsible to our members. We recognize that many members may wish to worship at home for the foreseeable future and we will continue live casting our Sunday morning worship services. Everyone needs to assess the level of risk they are comfortable with. It is impossible to remove all risks of Coronavirus contagion, but please know we will take all reasonable safeguards.

When in-person worship resumes there will be many important changes. Some pews will be roped off and chairs moved to maintain social distancing. We anticipate a maximum safe capacity of about 82 in the sanctuary and 34 in the fellowship hall. So, depending on the number of people wishing to attend, we may need to consider additional services or moving service times. We will ask people to perform health self-checks before coming to church, use hand sanitizer, and wear face masks upon entry and throughout the service. We are currently examining the advisability of singing (by both musicians and the congregation). Most experts and organizations are advising against this. Broadcast equipment will be in the front of the sanctuary that may block some views. You may notice the sanctuary is much brighter as we needed to install new light bulbs to permit filming. We will be collecting the offering and distributing communion in new ways and the passing of the peace will be at a distance. Sunday school and the nursery will be suspended. Doors, railings, and bathrooms will be cleaned several times throughout each Sunday morning. And finally, mingling at coffee hour will not be possible.

These changes are difficult and complicated. The Session believes that it is more important that we do this right rather than quickly. So many of our members belong to the vulnerable population that we believe it is necessary to take all reasonable precautions to safeguard our community.

## BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP

**A Good Question About Online Giving:** Several members recently asked whether the church paid any service charges associated with online giving. Here is the complete answer. Fairmont pays a flat \$25 each month to our payment processor for our on line payment website. For each individual online giving transaction, Fairmont is charged a quarter (\$0.25). In addition, if someone pays by credit card (as opposed to debit card or bank transfer that have no additional charges) there is an additional 0.9% service charge to the transaction.

.....  
**Charitable Contribution Considerations for 2020:** With the passage of the recent CARES Act, several tax law changes regarding charitable contributions have been enacted.

**Above-the-Line Deduction:** Under prior rules, individuals who do not itemize their deductions on their income tax returns could not take a charitable deduction for their cash contributions. As part of the new law, a new above-the-line deduction for up to \$300 of cash contributions to qualified charities can be taken. This is in addition to the normal standard deduction.

**Required Minimum Distributions from IRA's:** For 2020, the CARES Act waives the requirement to take minimum annual distributions for this year only. Many taxpayers have used these distributions in the past to make qualified charitable donations (QCD'S) to approved organizations due to the tax benefits gained by doing so. It is important to note, that even though taking distributions are not required, such donations can still be made through an IRA distribution, including the tax benefit. The distribution, as in prior years, must be paid directly to the charitable group.

As with any such tax law changes, it is recommended that you consult with your financial and/or tax advisors before any final decisions are made.

.....  
**THANK YOU:** In times like this, especially in times like this, *we need your faithful financial support more than ever.* All our work supporting community feeding programs like the Kettering Backpack Program and the Dayton Food Bank, our caring for vulnerable members, and our programs reaching out to people to connect us as a community depend entirely on your giving.

## MISSION BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

Helping Hands, Helping Hearts 

**Feeding Our Community:** We will focus our attention on two organizations striving to meet the needs for food for area families: Kettering Backpack Program and Dayton Foodbank. At this time, the need is financial. Due to concern over spreading virus, no food donations are being accepted until further notice. It is safer and easier for them to accept financial donations, either through Fairmont's website, sending a check to the church office, or online at the [foodbankdayton.org](http://foodbankdayton.org) and [ketteringbackpack.org](http://ketteringbackpack.org). So far, we have sent \$4,175 to the Food Bank and \$1,635 to the Backpack Program!

**Special Request from Artemis Center** -The Artemis Center provides advocate support for Domestic Violence victims during court hearings. Unfortunately, with schools and child-care closed and no other options, children are brought along to these challenging situations. We received a special request to support these children by providing snacks and some activity. In May, members of the Mission Team gathered to create cards to color, pack snacks and water, and include a personal note of love.

**THANK YOU from the House of Bread!** Due to COVID-19, the House of Bread has temporarily suspended its use of community volunteers serving in the kitchen, but that hasn't stopped our hearts from wanting to help! A group of Fairmont volunteers was scheduled to help make and distribute lunches on May 26<sup>th</sup> as part of Fairmont's quarterly mission to House of Bread. Since physically being there isn't an option just yet, the Mission Team has decided to instead provide a monetary donation. That way Fairmont's presence will still be felt in this time of great need! The House of Bread hasn't missed a beat, either, and its staff is still providing hot carry-out lunches every day for clients. In a past thank-you note, the Executive Director Melodie Bennett said it best, "Your donation ensures that our doors are always open to welcome our neighbors in need of a nutritious lunchtime meal." We're all in this together!

**How Else Can You Serve as a Disciple?** We continue to collect assorted items: BoxTops for Education (J.F. Kennedy Elementary), Soda Can Pull-tabs (Ronald McDonald House), and men's belts (House of Bread). Keep your collection at home until further notice.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WOMEN, WORD, AND WINE:** All women of Fairmont church are invited to "Women, Word, and Wine" on **Fridays, June 5 and July 10, at 8:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Pastor Kelley will lead a short time of spiritual direction, we will share faith conversations together, and share a glass of wine.

BYOW (bring your own wine) and join us as we share faith, hope, and love together in this time of social distancing. Watch for the Zoom link in our weekly *Beside Still Waters* email and at [www.fairmontchurch.org](http://www.fairmontchurch.org).

**FOURTH FRIDAY FAMILY PIZZA DINNER:** Mark your calendar for **June 26 and July 24 at 6:00 p.m.** Order pizza to be delivered to your home, make your own pizza, or pop a frozen pizza in the oven! We will post the Zoom link in Fairmont's weekly *Beside Still Waters* and there will be an email reminder to our Fairmont families. Contact Pastor Kelley for questions at [kshin@fairmontchurch.org](mailto:kshin@fairmontchurch.org).

**The Fairmont Men's Group** will be anxious to meet again after the Quarantine is over. Tentative plans would be to meet in July on the third Wednesday, the 15th, at 11:30am. If MCL is open we will meet there. If the restaurants are still questionable we will arrange to meet in a shelter at Delco Park and have lunches catered in. Watch the emails and church bulletins as we make final plans.

**PASTORAL CARE:** Thank you to our Deacons and our Spiritual Caregivers who are keeping regularly in touch with our most vulnerable church members during this time of "stay at home." And thank you to our Email Prayer Chain members who are praying faithfully for our church family. If you know of anyone in our congregation who is in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Kelley at [kshin@fairmontchurch.org](mailto:kshin@fairmontchurch.org) or (937) 751-0752. We are keeping in touch with all of our church family in multiple ways - prayer, email, text, phone, Zoom, and livestreamed worship. Together we are the Body of Christ!

## PRESCHOOL CORNER

**Registration for Preschool** for the 2020-2021 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

3705 Far Hills Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45429  
937-299-3539

Website: [www.fairmontchurch.org](http://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

## June/July Birthdays

Marilyn Dickey	6/1	Brian Maguire	6/21	Louis Weyrauch	7/19
Brench Boden II	6/1	Jeff Lewis	6/21	Jane Heywood	7/20
Sally Athmer	6/2	Gary Lamb	6/21	Dinah Miller	7/20
Jim Webster	6/2	Lisa Shearer	6/25	Michael Vickroy	7/20
Rachel Boden	6/3	F. Paul Fiden	6/26	Justin Miles	7/20
Kimberly Ludwig	6/4	Lauren Luther	6/27	Kenneth Ginader	7/22
Wendy Ernst	6/7	Monica Mantia	6/28	Jean Kirby	7/22
Charlie Koons	6/7	Koneta Schneider	6/29	Mike Porter	7/23
Richard Sherwood	6/8	Candace Kurtz	7/1	Gaynard Gross	7/24
George Kemp Jr.	6/10	Richard Scharrer	7/2	Jerry Drault	7/24
Jack Yoder	6/12	Janet Runkle	7/3	Pete Schilling	7/26
Aaron Fromm	6/16	Elizabeth Lewis	7/5	Charles Mann	7/27
Joyce Keenan	6/16	Richard Burnett	7/8	Verne Dodson	7/27
Charles Ellis	6/16	Lois Thomas	7/8	Jayne Hood	7/27
Mike Rothenberger	6/17	Jeff Jordan	7/9	Sue Daley	7/28
Karen Hisel	6/17	David Keenan	7/11	Charlie Chamberlain	7/28
Peggy Van Deursen	6/18	David Hamilton	7/11	Nancy Crichton	7/29
Annette Sakada	6/19	William Whitesell	7/13	Brenda Kolb	7/29
Jim Miles	6/19	Helen Kanis	7/15	William Stager	7/30
James Runkle	6/19	Sally Bruggeman	7/15	Betty Jean Schwinn	7/30
Kelli Fromm	6/20	Doris Olt	7/18	Thomas Rose	7/31



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

**The deadline for the next Call is Friday, July 24, 2020.**

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