

THE CALL

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

February 2021
Volume 76, Issue 1

THOUGHTS FROM BRIAN

Lent is often understood to be a season of penitential reflection, self-denial, and fasting.

I do not want to do Lent this year.

It feels like we have been doing a year of Lent already and do not need a season to emphasize it. We have been versed only too well in self-denial, isolation, and loss. Instead I would rather prefer Carnival or Mardi Gras, the season for exuberantly celebrating life in all its intensity immediately preceding Lent. I would settle for Shrove Tuesday, the rather more modest Protestant version of Mardi Gras, where at least I could go out and get some good pancakes. But Lent? No thank you. I am not giving up my chocolate! Sometimes it gets me through the day.

Lent is of course more than abstaining from chocolate. Its importance is far deeper than self-denial. Lent is our invitation and intentional season to move beyond believing in Jesus to being in Jesus, an intentional time to focus less on what we do or do not do and much more on who we are not in ourselves but in Christ. Lent is an invitation to enter into a space, a life, and a time that is untouched by Covid-19, isolation, anxiety, or our endless to do lists. There is a still place inside us that is never moved by chance or circumstance. It is pure, simple, and always available. Experientially we call it silence, but that is just our perception of it. It is the core of our being where God is always welling up within us in infinite love to meet us in the particularity of the moment. And the irony is that in letting go of our desires, wants, fears, our need to be right, our need to control, and the ceaseless chatter of our thoughts, we discover that we do not have less. In that moment, we have everything.

Never let a good crisis go to waste. As we wait and watch for hope, whether in the form of a vaccine or herd immunity, accept the invitation to go into the quiet place deep inside yourself. I know who you will find there. More precisely, I know who will find you there.

God is not so far away. We just normally do not go there. The invitation to meet God where and when God may be found is what we call Lent.

WORDS FROM KELLEY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our journey of Lent, our journey through death to resurrection. Lent, which lasts forty days (Sundays are not counted), begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. Each year we signify the beginning of Lent with ashes marked across our foreheads and heaviness weighed upon our hearts. Lent is a time of silence, of sorrow, and of salvation. Lent is a season to remember who we are and to whom we belong. *In life and in death we belong to God.* Lent is a season which runs counter to our culture. Every bone in our body and every ounce of our soul must roar against the voices of society that deceptively tell us:

- we don't have time to slow down
- we have too much to do
- we must be productive
- we cannot be silent or still
- we cannot speak of death or sorrow
- we must save ourselves

If we are truly to journey to the cross this Lenten season, we must hear that still, small voice inside of us that tells us God's truth instead:

- “Be still and know that I am God...”
- our “being” is more important than our “doing”
- we are called to die to ourselves and live to Christ
- We must face death before we can see our resurrection morning
- we are saved by grace alone in Jesus Christ

Where are we going this Lenten season? What voice will we hear in the midst of our daily lives? How will we “be still and know?” This season of pandemic has already prepared us for Lent. We have been stripped of so much that keeps us away from God. We are more fragile and vulnerable which brings us one step closer to walking with Jesus to the cross. Let us journey together this Lent to death and beyond to resurrection.

WORSHIP

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

February 7 (Communion Sunday / Annual Meeting)

Lesson: Mark 1:29-39

Sermon: The Vision Thing

February 14 (Transfiguration)

First Lesson: Mark 1:40-45

Sermon: Messianic Secrets

February 17 (Ash Wednesday /7pm service)

Lesson: Matthew 6

February 21 (1st Sunday in Lent)

First Lesson: Mark 12:1-11

Sermon: The Rejected One

February 28 (2nd Sunday in Lent)

First Lesson: Mark 12:13-27

Sermon: Unto Assimilation

ONLINE MINISTRIES

Coffee Fellowship: Sundays, 11:30am

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84211231244>

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 1123 1244

Kidz Korner Online: Sundays, 11:45 am

Zoom Meeting Link: Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86575832345>

Zoom Meeting ID: 865 7583 2345

PYC Online: Sundays, 1:30pm

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978434870>

Zoom Meeting ID: 859 7843 4870

Choir Rehearsal: Every Wednesday, 7:00pm

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93128963106>

Zoom Meeting ID: 931-2896-3106

Connections: Wednesdays, 7:00pm

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84170790852>

841 7079 0852

Bible Study: Thursdays, 7:30pm

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86422990477>

864 2299 0477

Theology on Tap: 1st & 3rd Fridays, 5:00pm

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89247878247>

892 4787 8247

Annual Congregational Meeting

Join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on Zoom immediately following our service of worship on Sunday February 7, 2021.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m. on YouTube

“You are of the dust and to the dust you shall return . . .”
On Ash Wednesday we begin our journey and practice of Lent. We embrace our mortal truth as creatures of God and from that point of truth set forth to explore what we have become and what we may yet become through God’s grace. 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 15.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

VIRTUAL CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Ages 3 through grade 5 are invited to join in “Virtual Sunday school” Sundays at 11:45am following worship.

Our new curriculum has been a success! Children are loving the lessons which include great theological content and engaging videos which reinforce the stories and values we find in scripture. Links and resources will be available in the weekly Kidz Korner email.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR

This month, we will begin rehearsing for another virtual choir piece to share with the congregation on Palm Sunday! More information to come in the weekly Kidz Korner emails.

PYC “PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION”

Fairmont Youth Ministry (grades 6th-12th) are meeting each Sunday *via Zoom* at 1:30 p.m. PYC shares in a time of online bible study, fellowship, and fun. Pastor Kelley can be reached by email at kshin@fairmontchurch.org or by text or phone at (937) 751-0752.

PYC schedule for February 2021:

February 7 No PYC

February 14 (Zoom): Syrophenician Woman

February 21 (Zoom): Lent 1

February 28 (Zoom): Lent 2

CONNECTIONS

Come join us on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom as we learn about luminaries from our tradition who have guided our path.

Wednesday February 3: Thomas Merton
A Thoroughly Modern Mystic

Wednesday February 10: Abraham Heschel
Torah for Today

Wednesday February 17: No Connections, Ash
Wednesday Worship

LENTEN SCHOOL

Lenten School: The 24 Hours That Changed the World

Come and join us every Wednesday night in Lent, February 24, March 3, 10, 17 & 24 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom as we explore the final day of Jesus's 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, comparative Bible study and discussion led by Pastor Kelley and Pastor Brian. This course is intended for adults as well as teenagers and older elementary age children. Come and join us, bring your friends.

There are two ways you can participate in this course and you can do both. First, please simply come. For those who do not wish to do any preparation the Wednesday 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 for around \$9.00. 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.

MUSIC NOTES

I have a confession to make. At the time I am writing this article, my Christmas tree is still up. My reluctance to take it down has something to do with the fact that Christmas was so abnormal this year. In quarantine, I experienced gift exchanges on FaceTime, solo dinner, watched too much TV, etc. Fourteen days without seeing my family or church friends, except through Live Streaming or FaceTime was so different, but better than the alternative. Technology kept me sane and I am grateful for it.

The Chancel Choir had its first virtual rehearsal on Wednesday, January 20th. Lorelei helped me prepare. We tested, we purchased a new microphone for the laptop, we did a final sound check, and, naturally, there were major technology glitches during the rehearsal. Everyone was pleased to be together, to sing and share remotely, even with technology issues. We will continue to practice each week on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 via Zoom. We would love to have you join us!

Ash Wednesday is right around the corner. It is time to prepare music for Lent and Easter. Bell Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, March 4 at 6:30 pm.

Please contact me at vramga@fairmontchurch.org for more information about Chancel or Bell Choir.

That is all from me this time. I have a tree to take down.

Vicki

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee would like to thank Brian, Kelley, Lorelei, Vicki, Judy, Jerry, and Jennifer for the three wonderful Christmas Eve services.

The 9:00 P.M. service in the parking lot was a huge success. Over 60 people attended the outdoor service on a cold winter's night. Christmas carols were sung, scripture was read, and the birth of Christ was celebrated. People might have left with cold hands, but their hearts were warm and filled with hope, love, joy, peace and happiness. Lorelei did a wonderful job editing and stringing together 137 movie clips for the Children's Service at 4:30. Brian and Kelley led the beautiful 7:30 Candlelight Service. The people watching from their homes felt connected to the service by lighting candles in their home.

continued →

BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP

Building Projects

While folks have been away, the Building and Grounds Team and Trustees have been hard at work renewing our facilities. Last year we completed a massive piping project replacing all our domestic water lines that had nearly corroded shut with lime and scale build up over 70 years. We now have constant water pressure and clear (as opposed to the previous brown) water throughout the building. This project cost \$166,000 dollars but was necessary if we wanted water throughout the building.

Last year our elevator stopped working and we needed to order new parts. Unfortunately, our elevator is so old they no longer make parts for it. For several years our maintenance company has been cannibalizing parts for us from out of service elevators in the area. We have now run out of those. After seven weeks without elevator service we were able to fabricate improvised circuit boards to keep it running, but that is only a band aid. It is time to update the elevator if we want to keep using it. The Trustees have authorized a complete refurbishment of our elevator, replacing all motors, hydraulic systems, and electronics. The car and the shaft will stay the same, but basically everything else will be new. The newly refurbished elevator should reliably serve us for decades to come. But elevators are notoriously expensive. The refurbishment will cost \$135,071 and is necessary if we want an elevator.

These two massive projects cost more than our budget and endowment income funds can provide, but they are necessary for the ongoing use of our building. We are drawing on other non-endowment reserves to help pay for it at present. Any additional help with these projects would be much appreciated. If you feel called to help Fairmont pay for these necessary projects, we would be so grateful. Any checks or on-line donations with "Building" on the memo line will be credited to these projects. Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

Easter Season Events:

Please mark your calendar for several meaningful worship events for the Easter season. For participation in our online **Ash Wednesday** worship service, on February 17th at 7:00pm, you may pick up a small bag of ashes from outside the church office door beginning on Monday, February 15th through Wednesday, February 17th. During the Ash Wednesday service we will share together in the imposition of ashes. For participation in our online **Palm Sunday** worship service on March 28th, you may pick up a live palm branch outside the church office door beginning on Friday, March 26th through Sunday morning, March 28th. We will also email to everyone a palm branch pattern that may be used to make your own palm branches. On **Easter Sunday, April 4th**, you may worship with us during the regular 10:30am live-streaming worship service. We will also be offering, for the first time, an early morning outdoor **Easter Sunrise Service** in the church parking lot. You will receive more details soon about our Lent and Easter Season worship events.

New Streaming Equipment:

Worship services will continue to be streamed for a few more months. To make our worship services as perfect as possible, new technology has been purchased. The mother board on our PC was replaced. We also switched our video encoding software to OBS Studio that cooperates better with YouTube. A hardware video encoder, a switch, and a new camera have been installed. All these changes should improve viewing our worship services. The next step will be to move off of YouTube and livestream directly through our website.

Our Ministry is Growing:

We are excited to announce that we will be doing worship services and communion services for the residents living at One Lincoln Park. We will be at One Lincoln Park once a month. Our services are open to Fairmont members AND anyone else who would like to attend. Last week, Kelley had 25 people attend the worship service and take communion.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 7:00pm: Team Meetings (online)	3 7:00pm: Connections (online)	4 7:30pm: Bible Study (online)	5 11:00am: Fit 4 You 5:00pm: Theology on Tap (online)	6 12:00pm: WOF Winter Gathering (online)
7 Communion Sunday 10:30am Worship (stream starts at 10:15am) Annual Meeting after worship (online)	8 7:00pm: Circle 1 (online)	9 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 7:00pm: Trustees, B&G, Finance (online)	10 7:00pm: Connections (online)	11 7:30pm: Bible Study (online)	12 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 8:00pm: Women, Word, Wine (online)	13
14 10:30am Worship (stream starts at 10:15am) 11:45am Kidz Korner (online) 1:30pm PYC (online)	15 8:00pm: Circle 8 (online)	16 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 7:00pm: Session (online)	17 Ash Wednesday 7:00pm: Ash Wednesday Service (online)	18 7:30pm: Bible Study (online)	19 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 5:00pm: Theology on Tap (online)	20 9:30am: Circle 7 (online)
21 10:30am Worship (stream starts at 10:15am) 11:45am Kidz Korner (online) 1:30pm PYC (online)	22 8:00pm: Circle 8 (online)	23 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012)	24 5:30pm: Circle 6 (online) 7:00pm: Connections (online)	25 7:30pm: Bible Study (online)	26 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 6:00pm: Fourth Family Pizza Dinner (online) 7:00pm: CF Film Screening (online)	27
28 10:30am Worship (stream starts at 10:15am) 11:45am Kidz Korner (online) 1:30pm PYC (online)						

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Presbyterianism & Modern Challenges: Mass Incarceration

Film Screening of the Netflix documentary *13th* *:
Friday, February 26th (7pm)

Film Discussion: Friday, March 5th (8pm)

Please join us on **Friday, March 5th at 8:00pm** for an evening of discussion via Zoom on the Netflix documentary *13th*, a 2016 film by director Ava DuVernay that chronicles the history of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the U.S. It is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. constitution, which abolished slavery and ended involuntary servitude except as a punishment for conviction of a crime. We will utilize breakout rooms to have small group reflections on the film and discussions of how the Presbyterian faith can help inform our response as Christians. Breakout room discussions will be facilitated by Pastor Brian, Pastor Kelley, and Reverend Lisa Hess.

In Preparation: We ask that to prepare for this discussion, you attend the documentary screening via Zoom on **Friday, February 26th from 7:00-9:00pm** OR watch the documentary on your own if you have a Netflix account. Please watch for the Zoom link for both of these events, which will be included in the Tuesday “Beside Still Waters” and “Fridays at Fairmont” emails.

**This documentary is rated as mature and contains violence and adult content.*

MISSION BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

Helping Hands, Helping Hearts



Feeding Our Community - 2021

A Time of Great Need Continues: Feeding Families, Children, and Youth in our Community

In 2020, Fairmont members donated close to \$16,000 dollars for local food relief. Thank you for your generous giving! There still is great need for our community.

Can you continue to help during this challenging time? We are still seeking financial donations for **The Dayton Foodbank** and **The Kettering Backpack**.

Dayton Foodbank (South Dayton Foodbank/FISH) -

The Foodbank has served as the primary source of food for the hunger relief network in the Miami Valley. The Foodbank - the only one of its kind in the area - relieves hunger in the community through a network of partner agencies by acquiring and distributing food. The Foodbank provides the infrastructure for more than 100 member food pantries, community kitchens, and shelters that serve as the charitable hunger relief network in Montgomery, Greene, and Preble Counties, including the South Dayton Food Pantry/FISH which serves Fairmont's immediate area.

3rd Sunday Mission Project for February...Community Safety Helpers!

For this month's project of sharing our Love and Appreciation, we are recognizing our local Fire and Police Community Helpers. We would like folks to send a note or card to your local safety helpers. What a great Valentine's Day project for children to be involved! Certainly, you can send to whatever local station you desire but here are addresses for those closest to church:

Kettering Fire Station #32
3484 Far Hills Ave.
Kettering OH 454529

Kettering Police Dept.
3600 Shroyer Rd.
Kettering, OH 45429

Thank you from the Kettering Backpack Program!

One of Fairmont's new Mission Team projects which began in 2020 is Feeding Our Community, which is a special ongoing collection to benefit the Kettering Backpack Program as well as the Dayton Food Pantry. So far, Fairmont members have raised over \$15,000 combined for those two organizations!

The Executive Directors of the Kettering Backpack Program sent us a thank you letter recently, saying, "Your support means so much to us as we work diligently to feed hungry children in Kettering." Due to COVID-19 their number of students has risen greatly, causing the program's food costs to increase by 50%. For the first time, the program fed children during the summer because the need was so great. They've been distributing backpacks in many places to ensure that qualified at-risk students receive them: Kettering City Schools meal stop locations, vans and buses that distribute school lunches, and even pickup once per week as students come in for their school lunches.

The Directors said it best, "You will never know how much your donation means to the Kettering Backpack as we are working to assure hungry children are being fed. Please note, 100% of your gift will be used to purchase food to feed Kettering children in need." What a blessing to be able to help children in need!

WOMEN OF FAIRMONT

Women of Fairmont Winter Gathering

February 6, 2021 via Zoom at 12pm

featuring

The Steel Toed Chaplain: A Chaplain's Ministry in a Multicultural, Manufacturing Setting

Rev. Carrie Kreps Wegenast (ordained in the United Methodist Church) currently serves as a Chaplain for Tyson Foods, Inc, in New London, Wisconsin. Each day she enters the food processing plant, passes through the turn styles, swipes her badge and changes from street shoes to steel toed boots. Instead of a robe and stole, her uniform for ministry is a hard hat, eye protection, ear plugs, and in the time of COVID19, a facemask and shield. As the Chaplain, Carrie provides spiritual, emotional, and mental care to over 900 team members of rural American white, Hmong (from Laos), or Hispanic descent. She also worked for Tyson Foods at the Green Bay (WI) pizza crust plant when the plant's population shifted to include a majority demographic of Somali Muslim refugees. Carrie lives with her husband, a United Methodist clergyman, and two sons. She is also the niece of our Vice Moderator, Jan Runkle!!

Please RSVP to let us know if you are joining us. Please tell your Circle leaders by February 3rd.

Thank you! Lisa Shearer and Jan Runkle

The Women of Fairmont 2020-2021 Membership Directory went out digitally via email in December. If you'd like a print copy mailed to your home, please contact Jennifer Mason in the church office to request your copy.

Martha's Marvelous Sweet Pickles are available to purchase in the church office. The sale of these delicious pickles go towards our Women of Fairmont mission giving. The pickles sell for \$5/pint or \$9/quart. Thank you!

Save-The-Date for a Modified Cookie "Drive-By" on April 11th! More details to follow!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN, WORD, AND WINE All women of Fairmont church are invited to "Women, Word, and Wine" on **Friday, February 12, 2020 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. You can find the Zoom link in our weekly *Beside Still Waters* and *Fridays from Fairmont* emails or here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81389450071> Meeting ID: 813 8945 0071

FOURTH FRIDAY FAMILY PIZZA

It's time for our February Fourth Friday Pizza Dinner meeting on Zoom! Mark your calendar for Friday, February 26th 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! However you get your pizza just be ready to go by 6:00 p.m. Watch for the Fourth Friday Pizza Dinner Zoom link in *Besides Still Waters* and *Fridays from Fairmont* emails or contact Pastor Kelley at kshin@fairmontchurch.org.

"EXPANDED" PASTORAL CARE FOR OUR FAIRMONT FAMILY

Thank you to our Deacons and our Spiritual Caregivers who have been faithfully keeping in touch with our most vulnerable church members during this time of "stay at home." The Deacons are now **expanding** their ministry to the entire congregation on a regular basis. Each family unit and member of Fairmont (and active non-members) have been assigned to a Fairmont Deacon. Your assigned Deacon will be in touch with you on a regular basis as we continue through these final pandemic months. *Special Fairmont members who have been receiving care from a Spiritual Caregiver will continue, as always, to receive that care.* Thank you also to our Email Prayer Chain members who are praying faithfully for our church family. If you know anyone in our congregation who is in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Kelley at 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, mail, porch visits, drive-bys, Zoom, and live-streamed worship. Together we are the Body of Christ.

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: Vicki Ramga
Organist: Judy Bede
Praise & Worship Leader: Jerry Mahn

Preschool Director: Tracy Landgren
Preschool Teacher: Amber Reshad
Preschool Aide: Danielle Kern
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Mason
Bookkeeper: Martha Keil
Custodian: Louis Weyrauch

February Birthdays

Deanne Harvey	02/01	Amanda Matson	02/15
Wynn Adam	02/02	Dawn Poindexter	02/16
Nancy Berger	02/02	Deborah Prichard	02/16
Virginia Caldwell	02/02	Sara Grillot	02/17
Lorelei Harding	02/02	Cameron Shearer	02/18
Vicki Ramga	02/02	Mark Wells	02/18
Charles Jones	02/03	Morgan Mantia	02/19
Steve Greene	02/05	Earl Walters	02/19
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
Elizabeth Favro	02/11	Chelsea Yoder	02/27
Mary Davis	02/12	Thomas Klingel	02/29



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT CALL

The deadline for the next Call is Friday, February 19, 2021.

Please submit articles to: jmason@fairmontchurch.org.