



FAIRVIEW
United Methodist Church

COLUMNS NEWSLETTER

February, 2018
Volume 5, Issue 1

Lenten Observances

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent, falls on February 14 this year, a day celebrated by many as Valentine's Day. Whenever church and cultural calendars coincide, the church observes the holy day. However, we do have a special "treat" available for those who want to share time with a loved one. We will be sharing Lenten events with our brothers and sisters at Grace UMC through combining some of our services and studies.

Wednesday, February 14, at 12:00 noon, we will have a service in the Narthex at Fairview, which will include the imposition of ashes and the sacrament of holy communion. At 7:00 p.m. we will gather at Grace for a service that will also include the imposition of ashes and the sacrament of holy communion. Rev. Sherry Gale will bring the message at noon, and Rev. Barbara Wiechel will speak at the 7:00 p.m. service.



At 5:30 p.m. on February 14, prior to the Ash Wednesday service, we are invited to enjoy dinner at Grace which will be prepared by the Dayton Cooks! staff. We look forward to sharing food and fellowship as we begin our Lenten journey. More information will be available in the worship bulletins.

Throughout Lent, both Grace and Fairview will focus our Wednesday study time (Renewal Hour) on Henri Nouwen's book, *Life of the Beloved*. As opportunities arise, we may schedule some of our studies as joint conversations, or with shared leadership. Stay tuned each week to see what is planned.

During Holy Week, we will once again have opportunities to worship together. Grace will join Fairview for our Maundy Thursday service in the Parish Hall, which includes hand and foot washing, and the sacrament of holy communion. We will have a service in the narthex at noon on Good Friday, and at 7:00 p.m. at Grace. More information will be available in the March *Columns*.

Fairview Valentine's Project

Once again, we plan to help the Fairview Elementary students celebrate Valentine's Day by sending greetings to them through the mail. This offers an opportunity for each child to receive a piece of mail, and also allows parents to have an item that provides proof of residency, needed for many social services. Our tutors who assist at Fairview hear many positive comments from the children about the Valentines they receive from us. Thank you for supporting our young people. Thanks to our generosity in previous years, we have enough Valentine cards and postcards to send, but we are in need of postage stamps (letter and postcard). More importantly, we will need volunteers to sign the cards. A date to sign and attach address labels will be announced. Please see Pam Hounshell to volunteer or make donations.



Mardi Gras! Carnivale!

Come and join us for a Pre-Lenten celebration on Sunday, February 11, following worship, as the pastor's rescheduled Christmas reception becomes an opportunity to "Laissez les bon temps rouler" (Let the good times roll). Mardi Gras, also known as Shrove Tuesday, is an opportunity to indulge in treats that will be off limits during the season of Lent. Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" in French, and is the opportunity to use up all the fat and leavening in the house, often by making pancakes. We can't guarantee pancakes, crawfish, pralines, or beignets will appear on our table, but we will have good food and fellowship to share. We look forward to enjoying our time together.

Interim Music Director

We are pleased to have Carol Cope Chatfield as our interim music director for the remainder of the choir season. Carol has extensive experience in churches, as well as teaching in schools and her home studio. She also is a member of the Dayton Opera Chorus. Carol has already begun her work with the chancel choir, and we are exploring possibilities for our bell choir. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is working on updating a job description for the position of Director of Music, and will be searching for a permanent director to begin in the fall of 2018.

United Methodist Women

Deborah Circle of United Methodist Women will meet on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 7 p.m. at Fairview. Hostesses for the meeting are Shirley McBride and Barbara Rowlands. All circle members are encouraged to bring feminine hygiene products for Fairview Pantry guests. Come prepared to sign up to host meetings for the remainder of 2018. All women of Fairview are invited to come see what United Methodist Women does to benefit women and children throughout the world. Contact Cecelia Long, 937- 972-7045 with any questions.

On February 14, 2018, the **Rebecca-Naomi Circle** and guests will hear a presentation by Jane Benner, a representative to the national board of United Methodist Women. Her topic is racial justice, and she will be addressing some very timely social issues. Please invite friends. This is a must-see/must-hear opportunity to hear from UMW policy-makers. The meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. in the library. For those attending the Ash Wednesday service at noon, please bring a sack lunch to enjoy between the service and meeting. Cecelia Long is the hostess for this meeting.

The Miami Valley District United Methodist Women's Leadership Team will meet at Fairview Church on Thursday, February 15 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. This team plans events, special training, and resources the United Methodist Women Units in the Miami Valley District. The District Leadership Team members are available to speak at local units or help the local units in planning programs or special activities. Marcia Florkey is the new Miami Valley District President. Cecelia Long, President of the Fairview UMW, is Nominations Chairperson of the Miami Valley District. She will serve as host for the meeting. Fairview is pleased to host the Miami Valley District UMW Leadership Team. We hope your meeting is very productive.

Day of Caring Pancake Brunch

In partnership with Fairview Elementary School, the Fairview Neighborhood Association, and the Phoenix Project, we will be one of the sites for Day of Caring pancakes on Sunday, February 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Because all the supplies are donated, 100% of the money collected goes to provide for homeless and hungry people in our community. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and children under twelve. Tickets will be available for those who are unable to pay. Plan to enjoy some good food and good fellowship following worship on February 25. Sign-ups for greeters and volunteers will be available February 11 and February 18.

Financial Update 2018



Once again, the faithfulness of the Fairview congregation has allowed us to end 2017 in a strong financial position. After paying all expenses, including conference and district apportionments, we had an excess of \$8767. Any income accumulated beyond our needs is placed in the contingency fund. Our income of \$246,276 is approximately \$15,000 greater than 2016. Expenses of \$237,509 are about \$5000 higher than 2017. We are truly grateful for the ongoing support of our congregation that provides a place for ministry, a staff to support our ministries, and the resources that fund all that we do. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Trustees Update

The trustees recently replaced the dishwasher in the main kitchen with a used but very functional one. Instructions on using the dishwasher will be mounted on the wall, and all groups are encouraged to use the dishwasher whenever necessary. Using it regularly keeps it functioning well. We anticipate replacing the gas stove in the main kitchen in the near future with a newer used model.

We have received notification that the corner lot (Fairview and Rugby) is now the property of Fairview United Methodist Church. The process of transfer has taken longer than anticipated, but we expect to have the deed within a matter of weeks. Any changes to landscaping, etc. will be considered as we move into spring and summer.

The trustees are still awaiting proposals and figures for the organ project. We did purchase a used console in good condition at a very favorable price, which should reduce the cost of repairing/replacing the organ. As more details become available, we will inform the congregation.

Legal Clinic

Legal Clinic will be available to those in need of services on February 10th at Fairview UMC from 10:00 a.m.—Noon.

Volunteer Opportunity

We are in need of additional volunteers to serve as ushers for our worship services. In general, ushers serve one month at a time, and serve four months during the year. Schedules may be adjusted to accommodate vacation times and other absences. If you are interested in serving the congregation through this ministry, please contact Sam Kurtz. All are welcome to participate in this important position.

You Are Needed at Wednesday Night Fun Club

Each Wednesday night from 5:20 – 7 p.m. children, ages 5-17 in the Fairview church neighborhood come to FUN CLUB here at the church. The children come for dinner and then for the fun and educational activities that are prepared by Fairview members. The children are placed in small groups that match their school grades and the leaders of those groups prepare the activities that are geared for the children in that grade and age group.

FUN CLUB is becoming more and more “a thing to do on Wednesday nights” and additional help is needed to give attention to the children and their particular needs. Even if you have not worked with young children before, there are ways that you can assist at FUN CLUB. Please give prayerful consideration to this request for HELP on Wednesday nights. Persons who like to cook are very much needed to prepare the meals for the children. Anyone who likes to teach games, music, art, crafts, life skills, or be present with a child who may need some extra attention or one-on-one instruction are the people for FUN CLUB. Please contact Cecelia Long, 937-972-7045 to volunteer or ask questions. Jesus said “let the children come” and they do. Now we need more adults to be leaders and mentors for the children who come to this place.

Church Office Reminders

With the resignation of Cheryl DeVaughn, we are searching for a replacement through an employment service, which is well equipped to recruit and evaluate candidates for the position. In the meantime, we are operating with volunteer assistance. We ask for your patience in covering the administrative work that keeps our systems going. **Please Note:** Because of our dependence upon volunteers, we are unable to ensure the church will always be attended during our stated hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **Please call first** to verify that someone will be available before coming to take care of business. For pastoral emergencies, please call Pastor Barbara's cell phone (937-765-0200). Trustees and other persons with access to the building may also be called to arrange for entrance into the building. Thank you for your patience during this time of transition.

Sympathy

We extend our prayers of support and sympathy to the families and friends of those who have entered the church victorious.

Barbara A. (Puderbaugh) Gribler passed unexpectedly on December 7, 2017. She had served as Fairview's Director of Music for many years, and as a devoted servant of Christ and the church in many ways. We celebrated her life with a service at Fairview on December 14.

Sara Dinneen departed life on December 9, 2017 after an extended illness and hospice care. We celebrated her life with a service at Fairview on December 16.

Sadye Sue Barrett, mother of Dan (Marcella) Barrett passed on January 6, 2018 at the age of 97. A service to celebrate her life is scheduled for Saturday, March 3, 10:00 a.m. at St. Henry Catholic Church, Springboro, Ohio.

Community Meeting about Good Samaritan Hospital Closing

Fairview members and all who are concerned and interested in hearing more about the closing of Good Samaritan Hospital are invited to a community meeting on Saturday, February 10th at 10 a.m. at Zion Baptist Church, 1684 Earlham Drive, Dayton 45406 (located at the corner of Philadelphia and Earlham Dr.) The agenda will include the C.E.O. of Good Samaritan and the Chair of the Board who will be present to share about their decision to close Good Sam.

Mercy Manor Luncheon and Fundraiser

The 26th Annual Mercy Manor Founders Day Luncheon and Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, March 17 at 12:00 p.m. at the Presidential Banquet Center in Kettering. Reverend Marla Brown will be among the honorees. Luncheon donation is \$60 per person. Reservations are requested by March 5. Mercy Manor is a ministry for women with histories of homelessness, abuse, mental health, incarceration, and alcohol and drug addiction. For more information contact Cecelia Long, 937-972-7045.

February Birthdays

- February 2** Olivia Fowler
- February 4** (JR) Tyree Sherman
- February 5** Tieni Joseph, Platini Mehaffey
- February 6** Debbie Gracey, Kristina Zuber, Dan Barrett
- February 7** Jan Mains
- February 12** Duke Lunsford
- February 13** Bill Messer
- February 15** David Clark
- February 16** Alice Kay (AK) Lovelace
- February 24** Lynne Romeiser, Alexander Joseph
- February 26** Al Pierce, Jr.

A Word from the Pastor

Global Praise 1, a music supplement published by the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church in 1976, includes a chorus written by Mechthild Schwarz Verlag, entitled "Ausgang und Eingang." The words of the chorus, translated into English, are, "Going and coming, end and beginning are in your hands, Lord, grant us life abundant." These words are an important reminder of the realities of life. A departure from one place usually means an arrival at another place. When one thing ends, it signals the beginning of a new thing. While some might interpret that as "God is in control," it might be more helpful to remember Emmanuel – God Is With Us. On his deathbed, John Wesley's whispered final words were, "The best of all is, God is with us." What a wonderful summation of faith!



In December, we were saddened to say farewell to two faithful members of Fairview church within a single week. We grieve for our sisters, Barbara Gribler and Sara Dinneen, who enriched our common life in many ways. But even as we grieve their departure from our midst, we rejoice in their arrival in the life beyond life. Cheryl DeVaughn, our long-time administrative assistant, resigned her position with us to move to a full-time position elsewhere. We wish her well as she begins a new opportunity, even as we regret her departure.

Much of the Dayton community was shocked by the announcement that Good Samaritan Hospital, a mainstay of our city and particularly our northwest community, will be closed and demolished at the end of 2018. There is much speculation, anxiety and anger about the ways in which this decision will affect individuals, neighborhoods, and the entire Dayton area. Individuals are saddened that a place that has significance in their lives will no longer exist. Employees are anxious about how their careers and income will be affected. Community members and organizations are concerned about what this will mean for future development, or departures of additional institutions and businesses from an area that already seems underserved. We also await decisions about what, if any, Dayton Public School buildings will be closed or repurposed, and how that will affect staff, students, families and neighborhoods.

Although we can plan some of our goings and comings, our endings and beginnings, many others are beyond our control. We anticipate actions that never materialize, and we are confronted with circumstances we never expected. In such times as these, our first responses may be shock, denial, anger, or fear. We search for ways to process and respond to goings and comings, endings and beginnings. The words of the chorus remind us of God's loving hands holding us, strengthening us, supporting us, in the moments when we are most in need. And when we trust that God Is With Us, we are assured of a life abundant – now and in the days to come. Thanks be to God.

"Ausgang und Eingang, Anfang und Ende liegen bei dir, Herr, füll du uns die Hände."
"Going and coming, end and beginning are in your hands, Lord, grant us life abundant."

Pastor Barbara Wiechel

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Worship Leaders

February 4 Duke Lunsford
February 11 Marla Reynolds
February 18 Barbara Rowlands
February 25 Dave Wyss

worshipleader

Hospitality Schedule

February 4 Cecelia Long
February 11 Barbara Rowlands
February 18 Cecelia Long
February 25 Bertha Messer



Van Ministry

February 4 John Larson
February 11 Jerry Gribler
February 18 Bertha Messer
February 25 Traci McGuire



Welcome Team

February 4 Bertha Messer & Deb Arnold
February 11 Florence Carwell
February 18 Susie Kurtz
February 25 Rev. Kathy & Richard Schaefer

Pantry Schedule

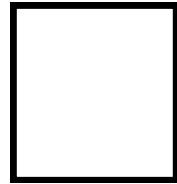
February 2 Linda Payne, Pam Hounshell
February 5 Janet Michael, Shirley McBride
February 9 Susie Kurtz, Barbara Buttram
February 12 Ed & Pam Rapp
February 16 Bonnie Maloney, Barbara Rowlands
February 19 Ingrid Tartaglia, Ginger Agee, Vicky Wentling
February 23 Pat White, Barbara Buttram
February 26 Kathy Farmer, Vicky Wentling



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

Ushers

February: Ginger Agee, (H) Tracey McGuire



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SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Hospitality (Parish Hall) 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Sunday School Classes 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00 a.m.