



2026

COLUMNS  
NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Issue 4,  
Year 2026

## APRIL

### Letter from the Pastor



Greetings to everyone here at Fairview United Methodist Church, and to our community beyond in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we enter the month of April, our Lenten journey together—*From Dust to Breath: What God Does with Broken People*—has reached its sacred culmination. Throughout these weeks of Lent, we have walked the ancient path of repentance, reflection, and renewal. We began with the solemn reminder of Ash Wednesday: “Remember that you are dust.” Yet the gospel never leaves us in the dust. The story of God always

What begins in dust ends in breath.

That is the promise of Easter.

The same God who formed humanity from the dust of the ground and breathed into us the breath of life is the God who raises Jesus Christ from the tomb. In the resurrection, God once again breathes life where death seemed to have the final word. Brokenness does not have the last word. Sin does not have the last word. Even the grave does not have the last word.

Easter declares that God is still breathing new life into His people.

Because of that promise, April becomes a month filled not only with reflection, but with celebration.

One of the great joys of the Easter season in the life of the Church is the celebration of **Holy Baptism**, the sacrament that proclaims our participation in Christ’s death and resurrection. In keeping with the ancient Christian tradition of baptisms during the Easter season, we will celebrate the baptism of one of our own. On **Sunday, April 12**, we will rejoice as **Carlos Reese**, a member of our Faith Class, receives the sacrament of Holy

Baptism. Baptism is always a powerful reminder that the resurrection is not merely an event in history—it is a living promise that continues to claim new lives today.

Later in the month, we will celebrate another remarkable milestone in the life of our congregation. On **Sunday, April 19**, we will recognize the **60th Anniversary of the Open Door Sunday School Class**. For six decades, this class has been a place of spiritual formation, faithful study, deep fellowship, and servant leadership within our church.

I am deeply grateful for the ministry of the Open Door Class and for the many individuals who have poured their faith, wisdom, and love into it over the years. Generations of disciples have been shaped through its teaching and fellowship. It is a true gift from God that this ministry remains as vibrant as ever and continues to grow with new leadership and renewed energy through leaders such as **Judith Mathes, Pam Hounshell, Ed Rapp and Judy Gebhart**.

We give thanks for sixty years of faithful discipleship, and we pray that the Open Door Class will continue to thrive and grow for many, many years to come.

Moments like these remind us that the Easter story is not confined to a single Sunday. The resurrection continues to unfold in the life of the Church—in baptisms, in discipleship, in the quiet and faithful work of forming people in the way of Christ.

From dust to breath.

From death to life.

From brokenness to redemption.

This is what God does with broken people. And this is the promise we celebrate together in this joyful season of Easter.

Christ is risen!

Grace and peace,

*Rev. Neil Gaiser*

Join us for 

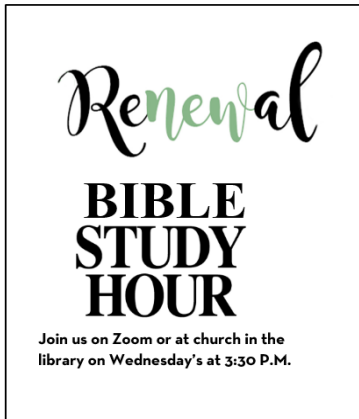
# Easter

## Morning Fellowship

On Easter, April 5, Sunday School classes will be canceled so that we may gather as the Fairview Family and enjoy a continental breakfast and fellowship together.

Come and join us at 10:00 am for some light breakfast treats, coffee, and conversation; followed by our traditional worship service at 11:00 am.

Let us celebrate  
our Risen Lord together!



## JOIN ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION FOR RENEWAL HOUR BIBLE STUDY

<https://zoom.us/j/97779125069?pwd=QUJXaGFHeFM5b2F0VXA3cklwNXdxQT09>

Meeting ID: 977 7912 5069

Passcode: 953758

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One tap mobile

+1.305.224.1968,,97779125069#,,,,\*953758# US

+1.309.205.3325,,97779125069#,,,,\*953758# US

To sign in on your phone, you go to the email invite on your phone, highlight that first phone number, 1.305.224.1968, and the phone icon will appear prompting you to call it. You then call that number, and it will ask you to enter the meeting ID, which is listed above. Then it will ask a second question, which you can skip by just hitting # or pound. Finally, it will ask you to enter the meeting passcode followed by #, which is also listed above. Then you will be connected to the meeting via your cell phone!

# APRIL

# 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 am KI 11 am Truck Delivery 6 pm Pantry	2 6:30 am KI 6 pm & 8 pm Choir <b>7 pm Holy Thursday Service at Fairview UMC</b>	3 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry <b>7 pm Good Friday Service Grace UMC</b>	4 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church
5 <b>10 am EASTER BREAKFAST</b> 11 am Worship 11 am Kids’ Bible Class 1 pm – 5 pm PFAN Church	6 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	7 6:30 am KI 10 am UWIF Leadership Mtg.	8 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm Renewal Hour 6 pm Pantry	9 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bells 7:15 pm Choir	10 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	11 8:30 am Fairview Men’s Meeting at Bob Evans 10 am Pantry & Legal Clinic 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church
12 8:30 am Trustee Mtg. 9:45 am Sun. Sch 11 am Worship 11 am Kids’ Bible Class 1 pm – 5 pm PFAN Church <b>Carlos Reese</b> , a Faith Class member, receives the sacrament of Holy	13 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry 6 PM SPRC Meeting	14 6:30 am KI <b>NO UWIF LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING</b>	15 6:30 am KI 11 am Truck Delivery 3:30 pm Renewal Hour 6 pm Pantry	16 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bells 7:15 pm Choir	17 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	18 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church
19 9:45 am Sun. Sch 11 am Worship 11 am Kids’ Bible Class 1 pm – 5 pm PFAN Church <b>Open Door Day! 60th Anniversary of the Open-Door Sunday School Class</b>	20 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	21 6:30 am KI	22 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm Renewal Hour 6 pm Pantry	23 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bells 7:15 pm Choir	24 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	25 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church
26 9:45 am Sun. Sch 11 am Worship 11 am Kids’ Bible Class 1 pm – 5 pm PFAN Church	27 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry 1:30 pm UWIF Circle Mtg.	28 6:30 am KI	29 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm Renewal Hour 6 pm Pantry	30 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bells 7:15 pm Choir		

# Worship

## A Gentle Invitation in Worship

Worship is a sacred time when we gather as a community to encounter God—through music, prayer, scripture, and proclamation. Each element of the service is offered not as a performance, but as an act of devotion, intended to draw all of us more deeply into the presence of God.

At times, it is natural to feel moved by a beautiful anthem, a meaningful message, or a powerful moment in the service. While applause is a common way in everyday life to show appreciation, in worship it can unintentionally shift the focus from glorifying God to recognizing individuals.

As a congregation, we invite you to respond in a way that keeps our hearts centered on worship. Rather than applauding, you are encouraged to offer a quiet “Amen”—a simple yet powerful expression that means “so be it” or “yes, Lord.” In this way, we affirm that what we have heard or experienced is received as an offering to God and a blessing to the community.

This shared practice helps preserve a spirit of reverence and unity, reminding us that all we do in worship is ultimately for the glory of God.

Thank you for helping us nurture a worship environment that is prayerful, meaningful, and centered on God’s presence.



FOOD  
FELLOWSHIP  
PRAYER  
SCRIPTURE

## “ATTENTION MEN OF FAIRVIEW”

PLAN TO ATTEND OUR UNITED METHODIST MEN’S MEETING

**WHERE:** BOB EVANS (MILLER LANE)  
**WHEN:** SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026  
**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.  
**PURPOSE:** TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF FAIRVIEW MEN THROUGH THE STUDY OF GOD’S WORD AND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
**CONTACTS:** PASTOR NEIL GAISER 937.274.2189  
 ED RAPP 937.901.6660



United  
Women  
in Faith

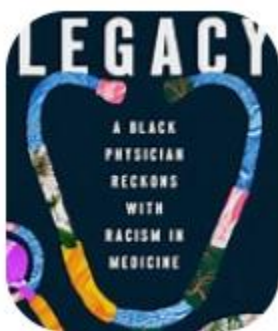
## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH BOOK REVIEW

**BOOK REVIEWED:** **LEGACY A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine**

Copyright 2024 [CLICK HERE TO PREVIEW](#)

**Author:** Uche’ Blackstock, MD, **Reviewer:** Cecelia Long

**United Women in Faith Reading Program Category:** Education for Mission



Dr. Uche’ Blackstock is a physician and a leader in talking about bias and racism in health care. She shares the story of how she and her sister followed in the steps of their mother, a physician in Brooklyn, New York. She and her sister and their mother became the first Black Mother-daughter(s) who completed Harvard Medical School.

In this autobiography, Dr. Blackstock tells about many of the things that she did not learn in medical school. She learned that many of the well known and respected medical schools employed ‘grave diggers’ to dig up graves of recently deceased persons from black cemeteries to use the remains for education and research. This practice is well documented but discussion about this practice was totally absent from the curriculum at Harvard Medical School in the early 2000s.

One myth that Dr. Blackstock says is taught in medical school, is that Black people have thicker skin than white people and therefore can endure more pain. Thus, Black people are often given a lower amount of pain medication because of this myth and others being taught even today.

Dr. Blackstock describes how Black people’s mistrust of the health care system is understandable. For too long, Black people have been used as guinea pigs in medical experiments where no other race of people are part of the test group. She tells it like it is. This book is one which will leave you with questions and answers, too.



United  
Women  
in Faith

**FAIRVIEW STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
MEETING ON MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026 6:00 P.M.**

The Fairview Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) will have its regular meeting on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the church library and via Zoom. All members of the Committee are urged to be presented so that we can take care of matters that cover the Pastor, Staff, and the Congregation. We will begin the annual pastoral assessment process.

If members of SPRC are not able to attend the meeting, please notify Cecelia Long, via text or phone call 937/972-7045 or via email to cealong48@gmail.com.

Members of SPRC are: Wayne Hounshell, Susie Kurtz, Cecelia Long, Art Mehaffey, Ed Rapp, Sherri Sutter, Greg Zuber, Lilia Shoemaker, Lay Member of West Ohio Annual Conference, Florence Carwell, Fairview Lay Leader, and Pastor E. Neil Gaiser.

Blessings to everyone as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday!!!

**UWIF LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**Meeting Date  
Change**

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH LEADERSHIP TEAM  
WILL NOT MEET ON TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026 AT 10 A.M.  
BUT WILL MEET ON TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2026 AT 10 A.M.**



## FAIRVIEW UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CIRCLE MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026 AT 1:30 P.M.

The Fairview United Women in Faith Circle Meeting will be Monday April 27, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. in the church library and via zoom. All women of Fairview UMC and the community are invited to come and bring someone. We will be talking about the ways we can be more involved in extending our missions to the women, children and young people in the local community and beyond.

Leaders for the meeting are: Devotions – Barbara Rowlands, Response Magazine- Pam Hounshell , Prayer Guide – Marla Reynolds and Program- Judith Mathes. Everyone who attends the meeting will be asked to volunteer to share in leadership at one of the meetings of United Women in Faith. Please check your calendars and be ready to sign up for a future date!!

Light refreshments will be served. Please share your questions or concerns with Judith Mathes at 937/286-2233. We look forward to women of Fairview and the community to get together as we share LOVE IN ACTION and find more ways to spread love far and wide!!

### RECYCLE USED TENNIS SHOES



Thanks to all who have already contributed your used tennis shoes to Fairview United Women in Faith's project to **RECYCLE USED TENNIS SHOES!!** The proceeds from each pair of tennis shoes will support the mission of Wesley Education Center for Children and Families in Cincinnati. We filled THREE bags full of tennis shoes in 2025!! The shoes will be melted and made into useful items such as playground equipment, park benches, school desks, etc. The organization is 'gotsneakers—A Sneaker Recycling Organization'.

We will continue this worthwhile project in 2026. **Please bring your USED TENNIS SHOES OR GYM SHOES**, no matter what condition, size, shape or color to Fairview. There will be a designated place to put your donation as you enter the Welcome Center at Fairview. **WE ARE CLOSE TO FILLING A BAG.** Do not throw away your used and worn tennis shoes but bring them for recycling instead.

Thank you again for your support and faithfulness in helping others as we show our love as Christ wants us to do. Questions: Cecelia Long 937/972-7045 or Pam Hounshell 937/219-5377.

**RECYCLE USED TENNIS SHOES IN 2026!!**



**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**CHURCH WOMEN  
UNITED IN GREATER DAYTON**

**MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY**

**SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026**

**11:00 A.M. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)**

**CECELIA LONG, FAIRVIEW MEMBER,  
WILL BE HONORED AS VALIANT WOMAN**

**(MORE DETAILS  
IN MAY FAIRVIEW COLUMNS...)**

**YEAR END FINANCIAL UPDATE & STATISTICS**

	February 2026	February 2025
<b>Offerings &amp; Income</b>	<b>38,796</b>	<b>40,4557</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>57,484</b>	<b>53,011</b>
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>(18,688)</b>	<b>(12,454)</b>

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Easy Access:

Contributions to Fairview can be made at:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z2ZK/home> You can use this link to make donations, support the pantry, order altar flowers, and make other gifts. Please contact the treasurer if you have any questions.

## FAIRVIEW FOOD PANTRY: 2026 APRIL UPDATE



As we move into April, a season that brings signs of new life and renewal, we are reminded daily of the hope that grows through acts of compassion and service. The Fairview Food Pantry continues to be a vital ministry in our community, offering not only food, but dignity, care, and connection to our neighbors in need.

Each month, we are seeing a steady increase in the number of households we serve. Families continue to face rising food costs and difficult financial decisions, and the Pantry remains a place where they can find support and encouragement. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to keep our shelves stocked with essential items and provide a welcoming environment for all who come through our doors.

April is also a time when we reflect on the spirit of renewal in our mission. Just as the season changes, so too does our call to respond to the needs around us. Your donations—whether food, financial contributions, or time spent volunteering—make a direct and meaningful impact. Because of you, we are able to share not just meals, but hope.

We are especially grateful to our dedicated volunteers who faithfully serve week after week. Their kindness and commitment embody the heart of our ministry and make the Pantry a place of genuine hospitality.

If you are looking for a way to get involved, we welcome new volunteers and donations of non-perishable food and personal care items. Together, we can continue to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

Thank you for your continued support of the Fairview Food Pantry. Your generosity is a blessing to so many.

### THANK YOU, DAYTON FOODBANK!



We extend our sincere gratitude to the Dayton Foodbank for their continued support of our Pantry ministry. Through their generosity, we have received three new food carts that are already helping us serve our clients more efficiently. In addition, the Dayton Foodbank has awarded us a \$2,500 grant to assist with the installation of our new handicapped door opener system. This important improvement is making our Pantry more accessible and welcoming to all. These gifts are already making a meaningful difference in how we serve our community, and we are deeply thankful for this partnership in ministry.

**APRIL 2026 IS TIME TO GIVE  
A VARIETY OF TOLIETTRIES TO  
FAIRVIEW FOOD PANTRY GUESTS**

This year, let us celebrate APRIL as the month when April Showers may be upon us by bringing in items for the Fairview Pantry that relate to showers and fresh scents that make people feel good.

- Suggested items to bring are:
- Shower Gel in all fragrances
  - Shampoo and Conditioner
  - Body Lotion
  - Shaving Cream
  - Irish Spring Bars of soap
  - Liquid soap of all fragrances
  - Dental Products
  - Deodorant



Let's bring items that will make our pantry guests feel fresh and ready for each day of Spring to share GOD'S ever present love to everyone because they are precious children of God!! Bring the items on Sundays or any time you come to Fairview. Pantry is open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday and serves more than 80 families per week. Your generous gifts of will be greatly appreciated. THANK YOU!

**2026 PANTRY STATS**

Month	Total Households Served	Total People Served
Jan.	229	739
Feb.	207	673
Mar.	280	888
<b>2026 Totals</b>	716	2,300
<b>2025 Totals</b>	3,288	11,198

**Fairview UMC  
April, 2026 Pantry Schedule**

	<p><b>Wednesday, 04/01</b> Cecelia Long, intake Fred Poland Art Mehaffey Dianne Trittschuh Chris Jones Dave Wiechel Neil Gaiser</p>	<p><b>Friday, 04/03</b> Barbara Wiechel, intake Barbara Rowlands Jackie Mergler Shirley Mell Rose Campbell-Blake</p>		
<p><b>Monday, 04/06</b> Barbara Wiechel, intake Barbara Rowlands Jackie Mergler Tina Walker Jacque Durant</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, 04/08</b> Cecelia Long, Intake Art Mehaffey Chris Jones Pam &amp; Wayne Hounshell Neil Gaiser Dave Wiechel Fred Poland</p>	<p><b>Friday, 04/10</b> Barbara Wiechel, Intake Tina Walker Shirley Mell Rose Campbell-Blake</p>		<p><b>Saturday, 04/11</b> Cecelia Long, Intake Pam Hounshell Traci Polk Amelia Boomershine</p>
<p><b>Monday 04/13</b> Barbara Wiechel, intake Tina Walker Janet Michael Shirley McBride Susie Kurtz</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, 04/15</b> Cecelia Long, Intake Fred Poland Art Mehaffey Dianne Trittschuh Chris Jones Dave Wiechel Neil Gaiser</p>	<p><b>Friday, 04/17</b> Barbara Wiechel, Intake Pam Hounshell Linda Payne Shirley Mell Rose Campbell-Blake</p>		
<p><b>Mondy, 04/20</b> Barbara Wiechel, Intake Tina Walker Susie Kurtz</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 04/22</b> Cecelia Long, Intake Fred Poland Art Mehaffey Chris Jones Dianne Trittschuh Dave Wiechel Neil Gaiser</p>	<p><b>Friday, 04/24</b> Barbara Wiechel, Intake Shirley Mell Tina Walker Rose Campbell-Blake</p>		r
<p><b>Monday, 04/27</b> Barbara Wiechel, Intake Susie Kurtz Jacque Durant Tina Walker</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, 04/29</b> Cecelia Long, Intake Fred Poland Art Mehaffey Chris Jones Dave Wiechel Dianne Trittschuh Neil Gaiser Dave Wiechel</p>			



### Sunday Greeters

- 5 Wayne Hounshell
- 12 John & Lilia Shoemaker
- 19 Shirley McBride
- 26 Mike Zuber

### Worship Leaders

- 5 Fred Poland
- 12 Pam Hounshell
- 19 John Larsen
- 26 MaryBeth Wyss

### Kid's Bible Class

- 5 Cecelia Long
- 12 Cecelia Long
- 19 Susie Kurtz
- 26 Jackie Mergler



- 5 John 937 277-6387
- 12 Wayne 937-369-7040
- 19 Cornelio 937-623-7951
- 26 Greg 937-620-1472



- 5 Jan Mains
- 12 Dave Puderbaugh
- 19 Fred Poland
- 26 Mike Zuber



- John & Lilia Shoemaker
- Cecelia Long/Barbara Rowlands



helping people

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR

**Bread**

EVERY 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY

On the first Sunday of every month, we at Fairview Church celebrate communion, sharing in the body and blood of Christ through symbolic amounts of bread and the fruit of the vine. We would like to expand this sharing into the world around us by asking you to bring a loaf (or two!) of bread to church on Communion Sundays, to be distributed through our very busy food pantry. When you are shopping for your own groceries, please buy an extra loaf of bread and bring it with you on **April 5, 2026**. We would like to make the first Sunday of every month a John 21:15-17 occasion!





- April 4**                 **Barbara Rowlands**
- April 5**                 **Joyce Barrier**
- April 14**                **James Washington**
- April 15**                **Judith Mathes**
- April 21**                **David Puderbaugh**
- April 24**                **Brooklynn Messer**
- April 25**                **Tina Walker**
- April 28**                **Marie Messer**



The Free Legal Clinic will be open on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Fairview United Methodist Church  
 828 W. Fairview Avenue  
 Dayton, Ohio 45406  
**10:00 AM until Noon.**

Please bring paperwork related to the reason that you will be using the Clinic. We will be observing the latest CDC and Ohio Health Dept. regarding COVID-19 protocols.



**Daily Devotion and Prayer Link at the top of Fairview UMC website**  
[www.fairviewunitedmethodist.org](http://www.fairviewunitedmethodist.org).

You can access it from your phone through Safari (or your browser) and save it as a favorite in your bookmarks.



## COLUMNS

828 W. FAIRVIEW AVE  
DAYTON, OHIO 45406

Phone: 937-274-2189

E-mail: fairviewumcdayton@gmail.com

Website: www.fairviewumcdayton.org

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

*Pastor*

Rev. E. Neil Gaiser, OSL

*Administrative Assistant*

Carol McDougle

*Director of Music*

Michelle Forshaw

*Kids' Bible Class Attendant*

Oscar Ndayisaba

*Church Musician*

Nancy Collins

*Treasurer*

Fred Poland

*Audio Visual Technician*

Roger Christian

*Church Custodian*

Vance Garner