

2026
FEBRUARY

COLUMNS
NEWSLETTER
Volume 15, Issue 2,
Year 2026

February letter from the Pastor



Greetings to everyone here at Fairview United Methodist Church, and to our community beyond in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope this note finds you staying warm, safe, and well as we make our way through this stretch of severe winter weather and record-low temperatures. These past weeks have reminded us just how relentless winter can be, and I pray that you are finding moments of rest, comfort, and care in the midst of it all.

As we move toward the end of the season of Epiphany, we stand at a meaningful threshold in the life of the Church. Epiphany has been a season of light—of Christ revealed, of God's glory breaking into ordinary places and everyday lives. Soon, we will turn our hearts toward Lent, a season that invites us inward: toward reflection, repentance, and renewal. It is a gentle but honest shift—from seeing the light to asking how that light is shaping us.

With that movement in mind, I am excited to share that we are planning a joint Ash Wednesday worship service on **Wednesday, February 18th at 6:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church**. This service will mark the beginning of Lent as we gather not just as one congregation, but as a wider community of faith. Participating churches currently include Fairview United Methodist Church, Grace United Methodist Church, and Fort McKinley, with the possibility of additional churches joining as plans continue to develop.

Music for the service will be provided by **Michelle Forshaw, Nancy Collins**, and our **Chancel Choir**, with singers from other participating churches also planning to join. While some details are still being worked out, we are already anticipating a powerful and meaningful night of worship—one that reflects the beauty of coming together with our neighbors to begin this holy season, so we hope you will plan on attending! Please stay tuned for further announcements and information about the service as details are finalized.

Ash Wednesday reminds us of who we are and whose we are. It invites us to slow down, to tell the truth about our lives, and to open ourselves once again to God's transforming grace.

Beginning Lent in shared worship is a powerful witness to the unity we have in Christ, even as we walk our individual journeys of faith.

As winter presses on, and as the Church year turns toward Lent, my prayer is that you will sense God's steady presence with you—offering warmth when the days feel cold, light when the nights feel long, and hope that carries us forward. May these coming weeks be a time of quiet preparation and deepening trust in the God who meets us exactly where we are.

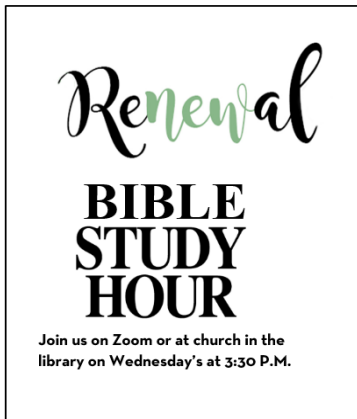
Grace and peace to you, and blessings to you for the remainder of this rather rough winter.

Warmly in Christ,

Rev. Neil Gaiser

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

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



Meeting ID: 977 7912 5069

Passcode: 953758

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!

FEBRUARY

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am Trustee Mtg. 9:45 am Sun. Sch 11 am Worship 11 am Kids' Bible Class 1 pm – 5 pm PFAN Church	2 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry 	3 6:30 am KI	4 6:30 am KI 11 am Truck Delivery 3:30 pm Renewal Hour 6 pm Pantry	5 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bells 7:15 pm Choir	6 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	7 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church
8 9:45 am Sun. Sch 11 am Worship 11 am Kids' Bible Class 1 pm – 5 pm PFAN Church	9 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry 6 pm SPRC Mtg.	10 6:30 am KI 10 am UWIF Leadership Mtg.	11 6:30 am KI 11 am Pantry 3:30 pm Renewal Hour 6 pm Pantry	12 6:30 am KI 11 am Ladies Inter Faith Discussion at Beth Abraham Synagogue 6:30 pm Bells 7:15 pm Choir	13 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	14 8:30 am Fairview Men's Meeting at Bob Evans 10 am Pantry & Legal Clinic Canceled 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church
15 9:45 am Sun. Sch 11 am Worship 11 am Kids' Bible Class 1 pm – 5 pm PFAN Church	16 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry 6 pm Combined choir rehearsal at Grace	17 6:30 am KI	18 6:30 am KI Time: TBA - Truck Delivery 6 pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT GRACE 6 pm Pantry	19 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bells 7:15 pm Choir	20 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	21 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church
22 9:45 am Sun. Sch 11 am Worship 11 am Kids' Bible Class 1 pm – 5 pm PFAN Church	23 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry 1:30 pm UWIF Circle Mtg.	24 6:30 am KI	25 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm Renewal Hour 6 pm Pantry	26 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bells 7:15 pm Choir	27 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	28 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church



Choir & Bells Rehearsal
Every Thursday: Bells: 6:30 Choir: 7:15

COMBINED CHOIR REHEARSAL FOR ASH WEDNESDAY:
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 6 PM at GRACE UMC

**Lee
Kreider**

SING ALONG "Joyful, Joyful"

[CLICK HERE for JOYFUL, JOYFUL](#)



FOOD
FELLOWSHIP
PRAYER
SCRIPTURE

“ATTENTION MEN OF FAIRVIEW”

PLAN TO ATTEND OUR UNITED METHODIST MEN’S MEETING

WHERE: BOB EVANS (MILLER LANE)
WHEN: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 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

.....

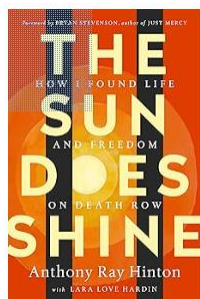


United
Women
in Faith

UWF BOOK REVIEW

Title: The Sun Does Shine
Author: by Anthony Ray Hinton
Category: Social Action
Reviewer: by Pam Hounshell

[CLICK HERE TO PREVIEW - The Sun Does Shine](#)



Anthony Ray Hinton was charged with two counts of murder in Alabama. He was completely innocent, but could not afford legal counsel. He had an alibi. Ignored. He passed a polygraph test. Ignored. The weapon taken from his home had not been fired for over 25 years. That fact was also ignored. He was sentenced to death and spent almost 30 years of his life trying to find someone who would listen. During those years on death row, Mr. Hinton relied on the love and faith of his mother and the loyalty of his best friend to get him through. Although this book will make you seethe with anger, it will also inspire you and make you ponder what you would do in such a situation. An amazing read!



United
Women
in Faith

**FAIRVIEW STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026 6:00 P.M.**

The Fairview Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) will have its regular meeting on Monday, FEBRUARY 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the church library and via Zoom. All members of the Committee are urged to be present so that we can take care of matters that cover the Pastor, Staff, and the Congregation.

If members of SPRC are not able to attend the meeting, please notify Cecelia Long, 937/972-7045 or cealong48@gmail.com. If anyone needs the meeting to be zoomed, please advise Cecelia by Sunday, February 8, 2026.

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.

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH LEADERSHIP TEAM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026 10:00 A.M.**

The Fairview United Women in Faith Leadership Team will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 in the church library and via zoom. The team will begin to make plans for 2026 for Mission outreach to women, children and teens. We will discuss the ways we can be involved in the community in which the church is located and ideas to bear witness of God's love to all. The Leadership Team members are: Cecelia Long-President, Kathy Schaefer-Secretary, Judy Gebhart-Treasurer, Vicky Wentling-Spiritual Growth and Development, Pam Hounshell-Program Resources, Barbara Rowlands-Nominating Committee, Judith Mathes-United Women in Faith Circle Leader, Debbie Arnold and Lisa Engle-Nom. Comm. Members. Information for the meeting will be sent in advance.



United
Women
in Faith

FAIRVIEW UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CIRCLE MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026 AT 1:30 P.M.

The Fairview United Women in Faith Circle Meeting will be Monday February 23, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. in the church library and via zoom. All women of Fairview UMC and the community are invited to get this year off to a good start. 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 community and beyond.

Leaders for the meeting are: Devotions – Judith Mathes, Response Magazine- Judy Gebhart, Prayer Guide and Program- Cecelia Long. 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. Please tell Cecelia Long that you wish to connect via zoom before Sunday, February 8, 2026. Thank you.

RECYCLE USED TENNIS SHOES



Thanks to all who have already contributed your used tennis shoes to The

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.

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!!



SHALOM ALEICHEM, PEACE BE WITH YOU,

We look forward to seeing you at **The Women's Interfaith Meeting at Beth Abraham Synagogue** [305 Sugar Camp Circle](#) (off Schantz Road) on Thursday, February 12th at 11:00 -1:00. Please enter at the lower level. Greeters will direct you to the sanctuary.

Our group brings together women from diverse faith traditions for a morning of connection, reflection, and shared wisdom. This month's gathering will center on the theme of "Fire and Water"—exploring how these powerful elements appear in our spiritual stories and rituals.

As the synagogue keeps kosher, **please do NOT bring any food for lunch.** The sisterhood is providing lunch, including some delicious Ethiopian food from an Ethiopian-Israeli cookbook, as well as the usual dairy meal. In order for them to plan, please RSVP as soon as possible.

Warm greetings from us,

Bushra Shahid *Ahmadiyya Muslim Community*
Judith Woll *Jewish Community*
Kay Berg *Christian Community*



Discussion

Thursday February 12, 2026

11:00 am-1:00 pm

Beth Abraham Synagogue

305 Sugar Camp Circle

Dayton OH 45409

Topic: Fire and Water in our Faiths

Women of different religious groups come together in an informal, interactive session to break down barriers, learn about and understand each other, foster good relations, and strengthen community ties. Bring a friend and join this lively discussion.

RSVP: ladiesinterfaith@gmail.com

Bushra Shahid, Judy Woll, Kay Berg, Kelly Johnson (Organizers)

**FEBRUARY IS TIME TO GIVE
SPECIAL TREATS TO
FAIRVIEW FOOD PANTRY**

February is the month when many show their love for family members and friends on Valentine's Day by giving a card and/or a special treat to brighten the day. This year, let us show our love beyond our family and friends by giving Special Treats to the Fairview Pantry for the guests who come to get food during the month of February. Our Pantry Guests LOVE to select Special items from the pantry shelves

Plan to bring a **Special Treat** of: Bags of Candy

Packaged cookies (chocolate chip, oatmeal, sugar, vanilla wafers, etc.)

1 pound box of sugar

Salt

Pepper

Pancake Mix

Pancake syrup

Cereal Bars –all flavors

Cake/muffin/cookie mixes

Assorted containers of frosting

Boxes of Cereals & instant Oatmeal (all flavors)

Rice Krispie treats

Bottles of Hot Sauce

Bottles of Salsa

Salad Dressings

Potato Chips, Corn Chips, (Regular and Hot)

YOU get the idea! Let's bring SPECIAL TREATS to share the ever-present love of Christ to everyone because they are Special!!! Bring the items on Sundays or any time you come to Fairview. Pantry is open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and 2nd Saturday and serves more than 80 families per week. Your generous gifts of SPECIAL TREATS will be greatly appreciated. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!

YEAR END FINANCIAL UPDATE & STATISTICS

	Final December 2025	Final December 2024
Offerings & Income	285,286	276,069
Expenses	299,615	294,726
Shortfall	(14,329)	(18,657)
One-time gifts	10,135	18,657
	(4,194)*	0

***The shortfall will be covered by a transfer from our Contingency Fund.**

####



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.

FEBRUARY 2026 PANTRY NEWS



Sharing Warmth and Hope This February

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it is often one of the hardest for families who rely on the Food Pantry. After the holidays, food budgets are stretched, utility bills are high, and many households are facing tough choices between heat, rent, and groceries.

Thanks to your continued generosity, Fairview's Food Pantry remains a place of welcome, dignity, and hope. Every bag of groceries, every friendly smile, and every volunteer hour makes a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. Because of you, families are able to put healthy food on their tables during a challenging time of year. As we move through the winter months, our shelves continue to turn over quickly. Financial gifts are a great help, allowing us to purchase exactly what is most needed to supplement what we receive from the Food Bank.

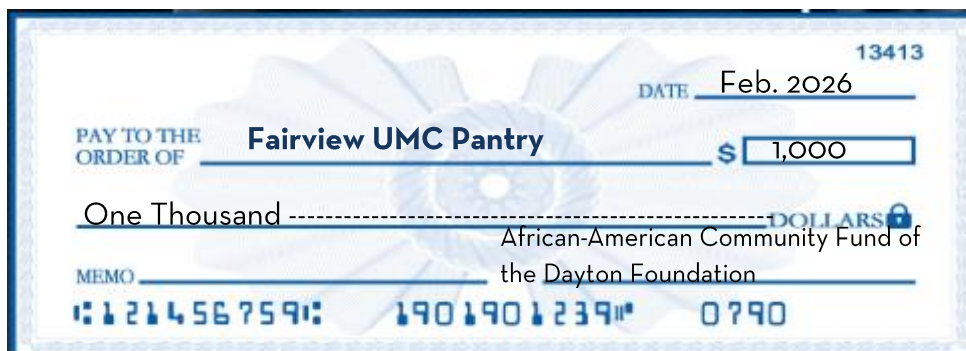
If you are looking for a meaningful way to share Christ's love this February, consider volunteering for a pantry shift, making a special food donation, or inviting a friend to help. Together, we are not just providing food—we are offering hope, compassion, and a reminder that no one in our community walks alone.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ through this ministry.

###

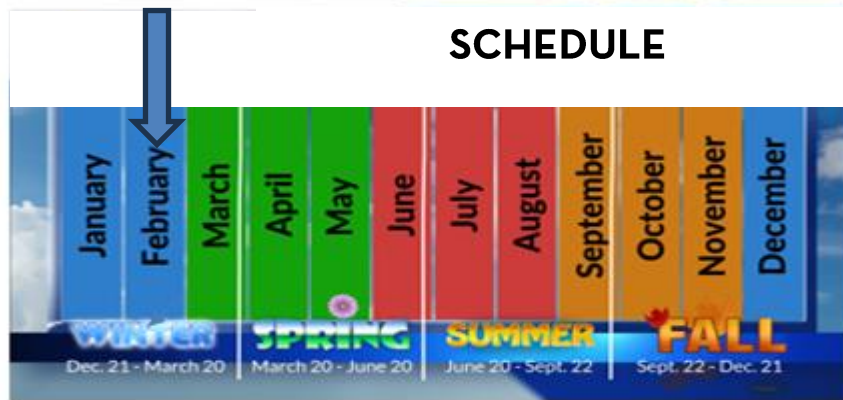
NEW PANTRY GRANT

The Pantry has been awarded a grant of \$1,000 from the African- American Community Fund of the Dayton Foundation. These funds will be used to buy food items not provided by the Dayton Foodbank.



FAIRVIEW UMC FEBRUARY 2026 PANTRY SCHEDULE

Monday, 02/02 Cecelia Long, intake Shirley McBride Jacque Durant Sheena Gray Travis Gray	Wednesday, 2/04 Barbara Wiechel, intake Fred Poland Art Mehaffey Dianne Trittschuh Chris Jones Dave Wiechel Neil Gaiser 11 am  Pantry Truck Delivery	Friday, 02/06 Barbara Wiechel, intake Barbara Rowlands Jackie Mergler Shirley Mell Cecelia Long	
Monday, 02/09 Barbara Wiechel, intake Barbara Rowlands Jackie Mergler Tina Walker Jacque Durant	Wednesday, 02/11 Cecelia Long, Intake Art Mehaffey Chris Jones Pam & Wayne Hounshell Neil Gaiser	Friday, 02/13 Cecelia Long, Intake Tina Walker	Saturday, 02/14 Pantry and Legal Clinic Closed
Monday 02/16 Cecelia Long, intake Tina Walker Sheena Gray Travis Gray	Wednesday, 02/18 Cecelia Long, Intake Fred Poland Art Mehaffey Dianne Trittschuh Chris Jones Dave Wiechel (?) Neil Gaiser Time: tba  Pantry Truck Delivery	Friday, 02/20 Barbara Wiechel, Intake Pam Hounshell Linda Payne Shirley Mell	
Mondy, 02/23 Cecelia Long, Intake Tina Walker Jacque Durant Sheena Gray Travis Gray	Wednesday 02/25 Barbara Wiechel, Intake Fred Poland Art Mehaffey Chris Jones Dianne Trittschuh Dave Wiechel Neil Geiser	Friday, 02/27 Barbara Wiechel, Intake Shirley Mell Cecelia Long Tina Walker	



Sunday Greeters

1 Florence Carwell
8 Shirley McBride
15 Wayne Hounshell
22 Mike Zuber

Worship Leaders

1 Judy Gebhart
8 Gerardine Shukuru
15 Greg Zuber
22 Barbara Rowlands

Kid's Bible Class

1 TBA
8 TBA
15 TBA
22 TBA



VAN MINISTRY

1 John 937 277-6387
8 Wayne 937-369-7040
15 Cornelio 937-623-7951
22 Greg 937-620-1472



1 Jan Mains
8 Dave Puderbaugh
15 Fred Poland
22 Mike Zuber



Pam Hounshell/ Cecelia Long
Fred Poland / Shirley McBride



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 **February 1, 2026**. We would like to make the first Sunday of every month a John 21:15-17 occasion!



Safety for everyone who comes onto our property and into our building is a priority of the Trustees. The Trustees are tasked with the care and maintenance of the building and its contents, the parking lot, and most importantly, the safety of our members and visitors.

The Trustees have adopted a new policy which is intended to enhance the safety of all. This policy states, "All bags are subject for search by authorized church personnel." Signs have been posted at the East Foyer door.

Thank you.



TYREE SHERMAN	February 04
DAN BARRETT JR	February 06
DEBBIE GRACEY	February 06
JAN MAINS	February 07
ROCHELLE GAISER	February 12
DUKE LUNSFORD	February 12
JANET LYBARGER	February 14
JEFFREY MOTE	February 16
ALEXANDER JOSEPH	February 24
LYNNE ROMEISER	February 24
AL PIERCE SR	February 28



Daily Devotion and Prayer Link
at the top of Fairview UMC website
www.fairviewunitedmethodist.org.

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

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



Hee-Soo Jung, *Resident Bishop*

Ohio Episcopal Area | West Ohio Conference

Dear Beloved People of The Ohio Episcopal Area,

I write to you today with a heavy heart and a praying spirit as we witness the recent tragic deaths of two people in Minnesota. These losses are not isolated incidents. They are part of a wider pattern of fear-driven, indiscriminate immigration enforcement that has crossed moral and spiritual boundaries. Nothing can justify violence against human life.

As an immigrant myself, I know in my own body what it means to live under the weight of uncertainty, vulnerability, and being labeled. I also know that many who are called “undocumented” are not criminals. They are workers, parents, and neighbors who crossed borders because economic systems, political violence, and family survival left them no other choice. Today, families, industries, and entire communities in the United States depend on their labor and their lives. This is why we must continue to call for **comprehensive immigration reform** that reflects reality, justice, and mercy.

Scripture is unambiguous about God’s heart toward the stranger.

“When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the stranger. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself” (Leviticus 19:33-34).

The crisis before us is not only legal or political—it is **moral and spiritual**. The United States is being tested at the level of its soul. Will we be a nation shaped by fear and exclusion, or a society rooted in hospitality and justice? Our faith reminds us that God is always found among the displaced, the vulnerable, and the unwelcome.

Jesus himself was a refugee. Scripture tells us that his family fled violence and crossed borders to survive (Matthew 2:13-15). And our Lord teaches us plainly:

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35).

The church cannot be silent in such a moment. The Ohio churches are called again to be a people who **build true human community**—where dignity is protected, where the stranger is seen as neighbor, and where love is stronger than fear. Laws matter. Policies matter. But before all of that, **the spirit of hospitality** must shape our homes, our congregations, and our public witness.

Let us become communities of sanctuary—places where justice has a face, and mercy has hands:

We lift before you the names and faces
of those who have died,
and the families who now grieve.
Hold them in your healing light.

Make our churches places of welcome,
where the stranger is no longer invisible,
and the wounded find safety.

Let justice walk freely in our streets,
and let compassion become
the language of our nation.

Break the power of fear.
Restore the soul of this land
through the love of Christ,
who makes us all neighbors. Amen

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene A. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gene" being the most prominent.

Bishop, Ohio Episcopal Area



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 McDougale

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