



A letter from the Pastor



Greetings to everyone at Fairview United Methodist Church, and to our community beyond in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Grace and peace to you, and Happy New Year! As we step into a new year together, January always brings with it a particular mixture of emotions. There is hope for fresh beginnings, gratitude for what has sustained us, and often a quiet awareness that the world around us feels uncertain and complex. Scripture reminds us that “God’s mercies are new every morning,” and it is in that promise that we begin this year — trusting not in our own strength, but in God’s faithfulness.

The turning of the calendar invites reflection. We look back on where we have been, and we look forward with prayerful anticipation toward where God might be leading us next. For the people of faith, the New Year is not about predictions or resolutions alone, but about discernment — listening carefully for God’s voice amid the noise of our daily lives.

With that spirit in mind, our January worship will be centered around a new sermon series titled ***Faith in the Headlines***. This series is designed to explore how Christian faith speaks into the real issues shaping our lives right now. These messages will engage current events thoughtfully, biblically, and pastorally — not to divide, but to deepen our understanding of what it means to follow Christ in challenging times.

Here’s a preview of where we’ll be going together:

- **Week One: Immigration & the Stranger**

We’ll begin by looking at immigration and enforcement through the lens of Scripture, asking how Christians are called to respond when fear and policy collide with human dignity.

- **Week Two: Faith, Zionism, and the Crisis in Gaza**

This sermon will examine how Scripture is sometimes used to justify violence, and how the Christian call to peacemaking challenges us to think carefully and compassionately about war, justice, and the value of every human life.

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- **Week Three: The Gospel & the Cost of Survival**

With economic anxiety touching so many lives, we'll explore what the Bible says about provision, fairness, and God's concern for those struggling under the weight of rising costs and uncertainty.

- **Week Four: Faith in the Age of Artificial Intelligence**

As AI rapidly reshapes work, creativity, and daily life, we'll ask what wisdom, ethics, and Christian hope have to say about this emerging frontier.

- **Week Five: Alone Together**

In an age of constant connection, many feel more isolated than ever. We'll reflect on loneliness, technology, and what Christian community looks like in a digital world.

Each of these messages stands on its own, but together they form a larger invitation: to live faithfully, thoughtfully, and courageously in the world as it actually is — trusting that God is present even in the headlines that unsettle us.

As we begin this New Year, my prayer is that Fairview will continue to be a place of honest questions, deep faith, and genuine welcome. May this season draw us closer to God and to one another, and may we walk forward together with hope, humility, and love.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful New Year. I look forward to worshiping with you in the weeks ahead.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Neil

"I am sharing with you the recently and unanimously adopted statement on gun violence from the Ohio Council of Churches. I serve as a co-chair of the Council's Faith and Order Commission, which has been prayerfully and carefully working on this statement for the past year, and I was one of the principal writers of the document.

I wanted to make this officially adopted statement available to our congregation so that you may be aware of the broader ecumenical work I am engaged in on behalf of the United Methodist Church and the West Ohio Conference, and to share the fruits of that labor. This statement reflects a faithful, theologically grounded Christian witness shaped through deep collaboration across multiple Christian communions in Ohio."

Toward a More Peaceful Future:
An Ohio Council of Churches Policy Statement on Gun Violence Prevention

As the Ohio Council of Churches — a 105-year-old statewide body uniting 17 denominations as a movement of Jesus Christ for unity, justice, and peace — we come together in lament. Since 2022, at the request of the former Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence, we have committed ourselves to the work of gun violence prevention in our communities. Today we grieve the countless lives lost — in 2023 alone, **46,728 people in the United States died by firearms, an average of one death every 11 minutes**, and here in Ohio nearly **690 lives were taken by homicide, over 1,000 by suicide, and dozens of children and youth whose futures were cut short**. This grief is not abstract for us: members of our own Council have been directly affected by gun violence, and so we hold all who mourn in prayer before the God who is near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18).

Biblical Foundations

The OCC stands united against gun violence because of our belief that human life is sacred. This core belief forms the bedrock of our anti-gun violence stance. It is based on the following biblical principles:

- The sanctity of human life (Genesis 1:26)
 - Love of neighbor (Matthew 22:39)
 - Peace and nonviolence (Matthew 5:9)
 - Social Justice bringing God's shalom into being (Micah 6:8)

Weaknesses in Current Ohio Law

As followers of Christ, we cannot separate our call to do justice from the urgent need to examine the policies shaping daily life in our state. Ohio's current firearm laws contain serious weaknesses that place children, families, and whole communities at risk. Naming these gaps is a first step in our witness for peace.

- No universal background checks: Private sales and transfers are not required to go through background checks, creating loopholes.
- No permit required to purchase firearms: Handguns, rifles, and shotguns can be purchased without a state permit or license.
- Permitless/constitutional carry (since 2022): Adults 21+ may carry concealed handguns without a permit, training, or background check beyond federal minimums.
- Age restrictions limited: No comprehensive minimum age for possession in all circumstances; only certain restrictions on sales (under 18 for long guns, under 21 for handguns).
- Weak safe storage/child access laws: Ohio lacks strong requirements to secure firearms from children or unauthorized users, despite firearms being the leading cause of death for Ohio youth.
- Preemption of local authority: Cities and counties are barred from passing stricter gun laws tailored to local violence conditions.
- Limited crime-gun tracing/enforcement: Gaps in resources for law enforcement to trace guns and enforce prohibitions.
- Public health & equity concerns: Weaker regulations interact with systemic inequities (poverty, racism, disinvestment) to magnify risks in certain communities.

Legislative Recommendations

We call upon Ohio's lawmakers and leaders to enact evidence-based policies proven to save lives:

- Require universal background checks on all firearm sales, and to close loopholes that allow firearms to be obtained without oversight.
- Ban assault rifles and kits that change guns into automatic weapons, including high capacity magazines.

- Require safe storage and locking devices for guns to protect children, households, and those with mental illnesses.
- Require firearms safety training for all concealed- and open-carry permits in Ohio.
- Enact red-flag laws and extreme risk protection orders that empower families and courts to temporarily remove firearms from those at imminent risk of harming themselves or others.
- Strengthen local control over gun laws (state legislators can now override local laws).
- Support community-based violence prevention programs, trauma-informed care for survivors, and expanded access to mental health services.

Congregational Recommendations

We call upon Ohio's congregational members and leaders to:

- Publicly declare our churches as gun-free sacred spaces, posting signage where appropriate.
- Make sure our own guns are safely stored and locked so that no others (in or out of the household) can access them.
- Participate in and lead nonviolence and peacemaking training.
- Engage our youth and families in conversations about conflict resolution, mental health, and gun safety.
- Observe national awareness days (e.g., Wear Orange weekend, Gun Violence Awareness Month) to raise visibility in our communities.
- Educate our congregations by hosting forums, Bible studies, and film screenings on the moral and public health impacts of gun violence.
- Advocate with legislators by writing letters, calling representatives, and hosting town halls in our church spaces.
- Host prayer vigils, memorial services, and liturgies of lament to honor victims of gun violence in our communities.
- Build partnerships with local organizations (schools, neighborhood associations, and public health groups) working on violence prevention.
- Organize safe-storage awareness events (partner with law enforcement, hospitals, and nonprofits to distribute gun locks and safes).
- Promote "Guns to Gardens" initiatives, where unwanted firearms are safely dismantled and repurposed into garden tools or art.
- Offer pastoral care and support groups for families and survivors of gun violence, integrating trauma-informed ministry.

Conclusion: Our Commitment and Our Prayer

Our advocacy on this subject stem from our personal pain as faith leaders who have had to attempt to comfort families affected and eulogize the victim. We pray the day comes soon when we no longer have to bury our parents, children, siblings, and friends whose lives have been cut short by gun violence. Therefore, we invite every judicatory of the Ohio Council of Churches to endorse this statement, to join a dedicated task group on gun violence prevention, and to encourage their congregations to take action in their local communities. Together, we can transform our grief into witness. It is our prayer that God's abundance, safety, and shalom will be realized in our lifetimes. Amen.

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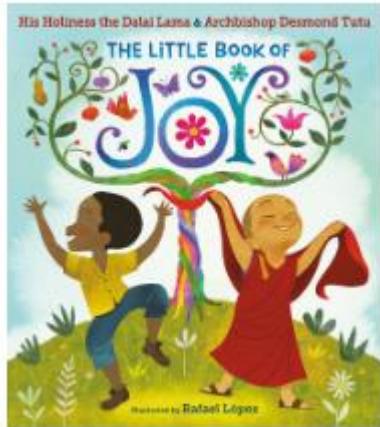
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UWF BOOK REVIEW



Book Review UWF\The Little Book of Joy

Authors: His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Illustrator: Rafael Lopez

Mission Emphasis: Spiritual Growth

Reviewer: Kathy Schaefer

[CLICK HERE to Preview The Little Book of Joy](#)

This children's book takes on the topic of "Joy" that these two religious leaders discussed in their adult book, The Book of Joy. The wonderful illustrations enliven their simple words to children. The basic idea of the book is expressed on the back cover in this quote: "If you just focus on the thing that is making you sad, then the sadness is all you see. But if you look around, you will see that joy is everywhere!" I read the adult book some time ago, but I found that this simple children's book, with a few sentences and powerful illustrations, did an excellent job of sharing the spiritual premise that we can indeed have joy in our lives.



FOOD
FELLOWSHIP
PRAYER
SCRIPTURE

"ATTENTION MEN OF FAIRVIEW"

PLAN TO ATTEND OUR UNITED METHODIST MEN'S MEETING

WHERE: BOB EVANS (MILLER LANE)

WHEN: SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 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 LEADERSHIP TEAM

WILL NOT MEET IN JANUARY. OUR NEXT MEETING IS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026 AT 10 A.M.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CIRCLE MEETING

WILL BE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026 AT 1:30 P.M.



Fairview United Women in Faith "White Elephant Auction" In December 2025 A BIG SUCCESS



Thanks to everyone who attended or contributed to the United Women in Faith "White Elephant Christmas Auction" on December 1, 2025. Those who gathered were jubilant, joyful and generous as they bid on "White Elephant Gifts" that were beautifully wrapped or bagged.

The White Elephant gifts were gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, toiletries and other items for the guests of the Fairview Pantry. More than \$300 was collected from the enthusiastic bidders. The monetary gifts will be given to United Women in Faith projects or organizations that help women, children and youth throughout the world. **Photo below of the items that were in the "White Elephant Auction" gift bags and boxes. Photo on the left are the women who attended the auction.**



Barbara Rowlands, the
Auctioneer, at the "White
Elephant Auction"



**FAIRVIEW STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

The Fairview Staff Parish Relation Committee (SPRC) will have its regular meeting on Monday, JANUARY 12, 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.

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, January 11, 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.

January 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church
4 8:30 am Trustee Mtg. 9:45 am Sun. Sch 11 am Worship 11 am Kid's Bible Class 1 pm – 5 pm PFAN Church	5 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	6 6:30 am KI	7 6:30 am KI 11 am Pantry Truck Delivery 3:30 pm Renewal Hour 6 pm Pantry	8 6:30 am KI 6:30 Bells 7:15 Choir	9 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	10 8:30 am Fairview Men's Meeting at Bob Evans 10 am Pantry & Legal Clinic 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church
11 9:45 am Sun. Sch 11 am Worship 11 am Kid's Bible Class 1 pm – 5 pm PFAN Church	12 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry 6 pm SPRC Mtg	13 6:30 am KI	14 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm Renewal Hour 6 pm Pantry	15 6:30 am KI 6:30 Bells 7:15 Choir	16 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	17 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church
18 9:45 am Sun. Sch 11 am Worship 11 am Kid's Bible Class 1 pm – 5 pm PFAN Church	19 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	20 6:30 am KI	21 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm Renewal Hour 6 pm Pantry	22 6:30 am KI 6:30 Bells 7:15 Choir	23 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	24 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church
25 9:45 am Sun. Sch 11 am Worship 11 am Kid's Bible Class 1 pm – 5 pm PFAN Church	26 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	27 6:30 am KI	28 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm Renewal Hour 6 pm Pantry	29 6:30 am KI 6:30 Bells 7:15 Choir	30 6:30 am KI 9 am Pantry	31 10 am – 2 pm PFAN Church

YEAR END FINANCIAL UPDATE & STATISTICS

November YTD 2025

November YTD 2024

Offerings & Income	256,590	246,022
Expenses	273,458	267,126
Shortfall	(16,868)	(21,104)



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 Carolers took Christmas Cheer to Vicky Wentling and Friends at Brookhaven

Fairview members went to Brookhaven, home of Vicky Wentling, to sing carols with Vicky and other residents. Fairview members wore Christmas sweaters and hats and sang with great joy. The residents joined in singing and all were uplifted by the joyful noise that was heard through the room. Vicky expressed thanks to everyone who came to bring Christmas cheer! (Photo Below shows the Fairview members who went caroling)



RECYCLE USED TENNIS SHOES



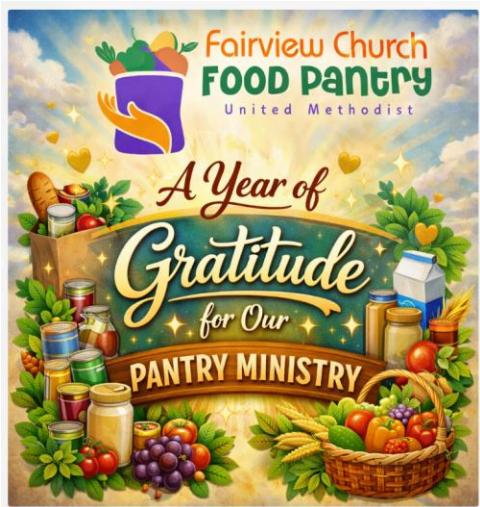
Thanks to all who have already contributed your used tennis shoes to The Fairview United Women in Faith's project to RECYCLE USED TENNIS SHOES!! The proceeds from each pair of tennis shoes will support the mission of Wesley Education Center for Children and Families in Cincinnati. We filled THREE bags full of tennis shoes!! 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!!!





JANUARY 2026 PANTRY NEWS

As we come to the close of this year, we pause with deep gratitude for the many hands and hearts that made our church food pantry possible. Week after week, faithful volunteers gave their time to unload trucks, stock shelves, pack bags, welcome guests, and offer kindness and dignity to all who came through our doors. Your quiet service has been a powerful witness to God's love in our community.

We are also thankful for our strong partnership with the Dayton Food Bank. Over the course of this year, our pantry received **105,755 pounds of food** from the Food Bank—

an extraordinary amount that helped us respond to increasing need and ensure that our neighbors did not go hungry. This food, combined with generous donations and grants, allowed us to serve hundreds of households with nutritious groceries and personal care items.

To every volunteer, donor, prayer partner, and supporter: thank you. Your generosity and commitment truly make a difference. As we look ahead to the new year, we do so with hope, trusting that God will continue to multiply these efforts and use our pantry ministry to bring nourishment, compassion, and hope to those we serve.

2025 PANTRY STATISTICS

Month	Total Households Served	Total People Served
Jan.	266	852
Feb.	252	836
Mar.	270	926
Apr.	264	953
May	247	854
June	270	932
July	273	920
Aug	284	948
Sept.	286	1,053
Oct.	348	1,167
Nov.	329	1,136
Dec.	199	621
2025 Totals	3,288	11,198
2024 Totals	2,842	9,851

Thank you for your support and donations!

Fairview UMC has been approved to receive one of 50 grants in the amount of \$2,000.00 to support the Fairview Church Food Pantry Assistance project through the [Feeding Our Neighbors](#) grant program. This program is sponsored through the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.



FAIRVIEW UMC

JANUARY 2026 PANTRY SCHEDULE



		Friday, 01/02 Closed for winter break	
Monday, 01/05 Cecelia Long, Intake Shirley McBride	Wednesday, 01/07 Barbara Wiechel, Intake Fred Poland Art Mehaffey Dianne Trittschuh Chris Jones Dave Wiechel Candice Boston Neil Gaiser	Friday, 01/09 Barbara Wiechel, Intake Barbara Rowlands Jackie Mergler Shirley Mell Cecelia Long	Saturday, 01/10 Barbara Wiechel, Intake Traci Polk Pam Hounshell Cecelia Long
Monday, 01/12 Cecelia Long, Intake Barbara Rowlands Jackie Mergler Tina Walker	Wednesday, 01/14 Barbara Wiechel, Intake Art Mehaffey Chris Jones Pam & Wayne Hounshell Dave Wiechel Candice Boston Neil Gaiser	Friday, 01/16 Barbara Wiechel, Intake Shirley Mell Tina Walker Cecelia Long	
Monday 01/19 Cecelia Long, Intake Tina Walker	Wednesday, 01/21 Barbara Wiechel, Intake Fred Poland Art Mehaffey Dianne Trittschuh Chris Jones Dave Wiechel Candice Boston Neil Gaiser	Friday, 01/23 Barbara Wiechel, Intake Pam Hounshell Linda Payne	
Mondy, 01/26 Cecelia Long, Intake Tina Walker	Wednesday 01/28 Barbara Wiechel, Intake Fred Poland Art Mehaffey Chris Jones Dianne Trittschuh Dave Wiechel Candice Boston Neil Geiser	Friday, 01/30 Barbara Wiechel, Intake Cecelia Long Tina Walker	

Sunday Greeters

4 Florence Carwell
11 Shirley McBride
18 Wayne Hounshell
25 Mike Zuber

Worship Leaders

4 John Larsen
11 MaryBeth Wyss
18 Cecelia Long
25 Art Mehaffey

Kid's Bible Class

4 Cecelia Long
11 Susie Kurtz
18 Terri Hoernemann
25 Jakie Mergler

**Van Ministry**

4 John **937 277-6387**
11 Wayne **937 369-7040**
18 Cornelio **937-623-7951**
25 Greg **937-620-1472**

Church Trustees for the Day**Communion Servers**

4 Jan Mains
11 Dave Puderbaugh **Barbara Rowlands / Judy Gebhart**
18 Mike Zuber
25 Fred Poland

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR



helping people

Bread
 EVERY 1ST 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 **January 4, 2026**. We would like to make the first Sunday of every month a John 21:15-17 occasion!



WAYNE HOUNSHELL
 BERNADETA MPEWANAYO
 CORNELIO NDAYISABA
 SUSAN HULL
 MARLYS NELSON
 CARLA HALL
 LISA ENGLE
 MIKE ZUBER
 JOHN SHOEMAKER
 CAROL CHATFIELD
 SHERRI SUTTER
 JACKIE MERGLER
 LYDIA MESSER

January 01
 January 01
 January 01
 January 03
 January 05
 January 09
 January 10
 January 14
 January 18
 January 22
 January 26
 January 30
 January 31



The Free Legal Clinic will be open on Saturday, January 10, 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.

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





COLUMNS NEWSLETTER

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Website: www.fairviewunitedmethodist.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