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## Notes from the Desk of Pastor Don “My Favorite Things”

If I had to compile a list of my favorite people for which I give God thanks, I am afraid I would struggle to pinpoint who is the favorite of all times. If one would ask a more limiting question such as which month is my favorite. I would have an oscillating battle between April and October. My father and I celebrate birthdays in April, but my mother’s and grandmother’s birth month is October.

It’s impossible for me to use the word favorite without qualifying a reason for my choice and bargaining to include others. It is not because I am indecisive, but rather labeling someone as my favorite means judging the other as less favorable. On any given day, as I recall significant lessons and memories, my choice of persons may change. Many times, this choice is a preference that is negotiable.

I believe that is why Jesus does not ask us to determine how to demonstrate love for others based upon our preference. Jesus makes it a requirement of the Christian life.

*Matthew 22:36-38 (CEB) 36 “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 He replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. 40 All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”*

*Matthew 5:43-48 (CEB) “You have heard that it was said, you must **love your** neighbor and hate **your enemy**. But I say to you, **love your** enemies and pray for those who harass you so that you will be acting as children of **your** father who is in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous. ...*

The Good Samaritan story invites us into discovering honorable qualities in the least favorable of the characters, the Samaritan. The story was a challenge to the audience that would not expect such behavior from someone whom they had developed and endorsed demeaning stereotypes.

Some people would argue that God prefers some groups of people over other groupings. God has no preference for people who profess to be following a particular religion. I think God's creation includes all humankind, with no exceptions (John 3:16). **16** God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life.

However, our study of scripture demonstrates that God has the same love for all of humanity. God, yet, expects that believers would live “holy and wholly” lives that indicate that we are participants of the kingdom. Therefore, believers would draw others into living lives that honor God.

Let God’s love rule in your life. Do not let your preference and list of favorites limit how you love the people you encounter. We are to love all the people.

Sincerely,

Pastor Don



## Fairview UMC Reopens For Gathered Worship

**The Fairview UMC Official reopening for gathered worship starts on March 28<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday. All of our Holy Week activities will take place at the church.**

We are so excited to be able to gather as a congregation. We will observe safety protocol each time we gather. We are asking all participants to wear a mask and practice social distancing. The congregation will not be participating in hymn singing or responsive readings. We will continue to register all worshippers and take temperatures upon entry. The main entry into the building is on the church's east side, where our parking lot is located.



**Please join us on  
Thursday, April 01 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Tenebrae Service located  
in the Sanctuary**



**Good Friday Mid-day Worship on  
Friday, April 02, 2021 at 12:00 PM  
We will gather in the Narthex.**



**Easter Sunday Worship will  
take place on  
Sunday, April 04, 2021 at 11:00 AM**

## Financial Update

	YTD February 2021	YTD February 2020
<b>Offerings</b>	36,050	35,660
<b>Expenses</b>	39,720	40,836
<b>Shortfall</b>	(3,670)	(5,176)

Thank you for your continued faithfulness to the mission and ministries of Fairview through mail and online giving.

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### Spring Work Day

The Trustees have planned a Spring Work Day Saturday, May 15 for inside cleaning and outside work, 9 AM - 1 PM. Questions can be directed to Mike Zuber, Dave Puderbaugh, or Jan Mains.



Thank you!

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### Rebecca-Naomi Circle to Meet



Rebecca-Naomi Circle will meet on Wednesday April 14 from 1:30-3:00 in the Youth Lounge. All are welcome! Our program will come from the National UMW's 2021-2024 Issue Priority (Working for Global Justice), with a brief study on "Biblical Women: Claiming Justice for Ourselves and Our Children." Kathy Farmer is hostess and program presenter. Please remember to bring your "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" offering if you have not yet turned yours in.

## Parking Lot Changes



The Trustees have been concerned for some time about the traffic shortcutting across our parking lots all day and night at high rates of speed. This creates a very dangerous situation for our members and anyone else who comes into our building.

We have completed installation of gates and parking blocks which divide our parking lot into a north and south lot. They extend from the southeast corner of the building to the lot that contains the garden. The gates will be closed at all times other than Sunday morning. During the week the north lot can be accessed from the Fairview Avenue entrance. The south lot is only accessible from the Rugby Road entrance. There is space for pedestrian traffic from the south lot into the building.

On Sunday morning the gates will be open and traffic will flow as it always has.

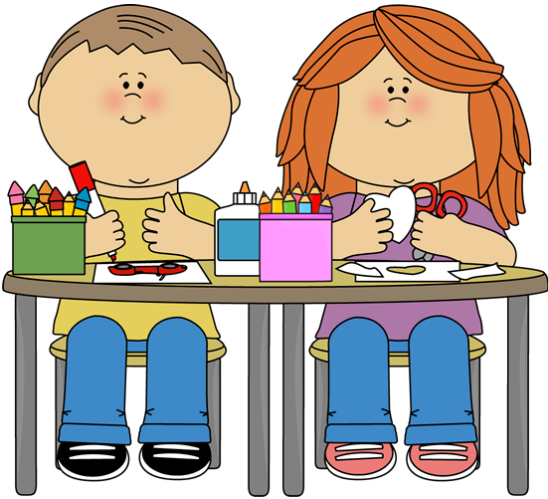
We recognize that this will take some time to get used to but will greatly improve safety for all of us. Any questions can be addressed to Dave Puderbaugh or Fred Poland.

## Building Hours Reminder

Our church office is open on Monday thru Friday from 9 AM until 1 PM. During those hours the back door is monitored by the office. If you need to come to the church, please do so during those hours or arrange access with someone who has a key and security code. We have Kid's Institute operating in the building every day but they will not be answering or opening the back door for anyone other than their clients.



## Growing In Our Faith: A virtual Sunday School



Thank you for all of your support and prayers during our virtual Sunday School experience. Easter Sunday will be our last new episode. **We plan to begin meeting IN PERSON again on April 11!**

Please arrive no later than 10:00 am so that we can have time to complete our lesson and craft each week.

You must wear a mask and we will be distanced in our classroom. Speaking of classroom...we are in a NEW ROOM! You will find us up on the third floor, near the bathroom at the top of the stairs.

The 14 episodes of Growing in Our Faith will remain on YouTube. So, go back and be sure to share and watch them with your children and grandchildren again and again.

Remember, the easiest way to find the episodes is...

STEP 1: go to **YouTube.com** on your phone, tablet, or computer

STEP 2: in the search box, type in **GROWING IN OUR FAITH FAIRVIEW**

STEP 3: click on the episode you would like to watch!

We are so thankful we were able to connect with the children during this time of quarantine. And now, thankfully, we hope to see you IN PERSON on April 11 at 10 am!

-Jan, Susie, and Sherri

## **United Methodist Women's April 2021 Mission Project**

### **"Don't Go Home Without It!!"**



The Fairview United Methodist Women (UMW) Leadership Team has adopted a mission outreach project for the month of April 2021. The Project is to collect wallets for men and women who are leaving the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (prisons) to return to the community. The Project is called "Don't Go Home Without It!".

When men and women leave the prison system, they do not have wallets for their important information. The goal is to emphasize the importance of protecting identity documents such as release ID, information from the Office of Reentry, banking information, etc. The items are kept safer in a wallet.

UMW is asking Fairview members for your help with collecting new or gently used wallets for men and women. A container will be placed in the Welcome Center at Fairview Church beginning on Palm Sunday and will remain in the Welcome Center through April 18<sup>th</sup>. A sign will be on the container where the wallets may be dropped off. Wallets will be distributed to inmates leaving Ohio prisons April 26 - 30<sup>th</sup>. The remaining wallets will be given to inmates who are released after those dates.

If you do not have a new or gently used wallet to donate, but would like to participate in this outreach ministry project, you may make a financial donation. Donations may be made payable to: Fairview UMW and sent to the UMW Treasurer, Judy Gebhart 7595 Meeker Road Dayton, OH 45414. The funds collected will be used to purchase wallets.

Thanking you in advance for your participation in the UMW April 2021 Mission Outreach Project. Questions may be directed to Cecelia Long, who is President of Fairview UMW, 937 972-7045 or [cealong48@gmail.com](mailto:cealong48@gmail.com).

## **Ohio United Methodist Camps Are Seeking Campers For Summer 2021**

The United Methodist Women are looking for kids, ages 10-17, who would love to go to Camp Wesley, United Methodist Camp in Bellefontaine, Ohio, for 5 day camping experience June 20-25, 2021. The overnight camp will have water activities including paddle boarding, swimming, riding in a canoe, archery, star watching, and other activities. Bible Study, exciting morning worship and evening services. It will be a packed experience while staying in cabins with other campers.

If you are not able to stay overnight, there are some Wild Day Camps that would be great for kids, too. Bellefontaine is a 1 hour drive from Dayton.

Please contact Cecelia Long, UMW President, 937 972 7045 or [cealong48@gmail.com](mailto:cealong48@gmail.com) to find out about fun filled camp. Scholarships are available but each camper has to pay a small amount toward a great outdoor experience. Try camp, you will want to go again, and again!!

## Remembering the Faith Class at Fairview Submitted By Igor Golovcsenko



The Faith Sunday School Class at Fairview United Methodist Church with teachers Vicky Wentling, Art Mehaffey, Pat White, and Jan Patterson.



Faith Class Members



Maurice Hollingsworth and Juan Peters



Faith Class teachers Fred Clark, Vicky Wentling and Pat White

## Remembering the Faith Class at Fairview



Christmas Party 2019



Faith Class Teachers  
Ingrid Tartaglia and Art Mehaffey

To watch a video of one of the Faith Class Holiday Parties, you can go to [www.vimeo.com/524504125](http://www.vimeo.com/524504125)





<b>April 3</b>	Gerry Nelson	<b>April 18</b>	David Nelson
<b>April 4</b>	Barbara Rowlands	<b>April 19</b>	Samantha Sutter Frische
<b>April 5</b>	Susie Rompf	<b>April 20</b>	Dawn Noe
<b>April 10</b>	Brianna Gracey	<b>April 21</b>	Tom Wentling David Puderbaugh Bob Larsen
<b>April 11</b>	Becki Scwab	<b>April 24</b>	Brooklyn Messer
<b>April 12</b>	Danita Arnold Ciara Crane	<b>April 26</b>	Don Wilson
<b>April 14</b>	James Washington	<b>April 28</b>	Marie Messer
<b>April 15</b>	Judith Mathes	<b>April 30</b>	Ashley Pierce



## COLUMNS

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### **Church Staff**

***Pastor***

Rev. Don Wilson

***Administrative Assistant***

Tammy Owens

***Director of Music***

Carol Chatfield

***Organist***

***Treasurer***

Fred Poland