



A 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. Advent and Christmas are upon us. During this important season, we remember that the story of the birth of Jesus is without a doubt the most incredible gift the world has ever known. It is a gift which reminds us that we matter to God, and God loves us!

It is also a time to remember that God calls us to share and spread that love. In the opening of John's Gospel, he places the birth of our Lord and Savior in its cosmic scope, saying what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it (John 1:4,5). Today, we are bearers of that light and we are called to bring it into our world.

Thus, it is a time to be the loving and welcoming people Christ calls us to be. As we've talked about recently, hospitality is such an important part of being a good steward, and this is a perfect time to practice it. I encourage us to be thinking about those we could invite to church to worship with us for the first time, especially during our special services like the Cantata on December 17th, or our Christmas Eve Service on the 24th at 7pm. Is there a family member, a friend, or a co-worker who might be blessed by services like these....and in turn see that light just a little more clearly? If so, I challenge you to take that step and invite them!

I also want ALL of our readers to know....you are welcome here!! Maybe you haven't been to church in a while and are thinking about coming back. Maybe you've been

watching the livestreams of our service regularly but have never taken that big step of actually joining us in person.

Maybe you're new to the area and are looking for a new church home. If any of these things describe YOU, I'd personally like to invite you to come and join us in person! The people of Fairview are often called "the Fairview Family" and that name exists for a reason! Here you will find a loving community from many different backgrounds and walks of life who will welcome you with open arms!

All of this thinking reminds me of my own journey. I think back several years, and my wife and I were "church shopping." We visited a United Methodist Church for the first time around the holidays. It always feels a little strange and even nerve-wracking going into a church where you don't know anybody. But then during what we call the "Sharing of the Peace," a moment in the worship service where we share the peace of Christ and greet one another, I was utterly amazed at how so many people went out of their way to greet us and introduce themselves to us. All it took was a brief moment like this to no longer feel like strangers!

Then we came back on Christmas Eve, and as the lights in the sanctuary were dimmed, and we lit candles to share the light of Christ while singing Silent Night, I felt such a deep sense of connection to all those people THROUGH Christ, that I knew God was calling me to join the United Methodist Church. Friends, that same spirit of love and connection is here and thriving at Fairview United Methodist Church, and we pray that you will consider being a part of it!

And to all my Fairview family, I pray that you will all have a happy and blessed Christmas.



WHEN: DECEMBER 16

Time: 10:00 A.M. – Until Finished

Where: Fairview United Methodist Church
through the Pantry to the 3rd Floor
We will have 6 families.

**Anyone willing to help,
please contact Bertha Messer at 937-232-2414.**

COUNTY BOARD NEWSLETTER ADVERTISES FAITH CLASS

The Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (MCBDDS) has published information about our Faith Class. The Board agreed to share information about this opportunity in all of their newsletters emailed to approximately 6,500 people. The most recent announcement was as follows:

Fairview United Methodist Church Faith Class

Fairview United Methodist Church offers a Faith Class every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Learn about their Christian faith through stories, songs, crafts, and prayer. Following Sunday School, members join the entire congregation for worship. Members of the Faith Class represent several Christian denominations, and others have no prior religious affiliation. All are welcome. For more information, review their [pamphlet](#).

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30 am KI 9:00 am Food Pantry	2 10:00 am-2:00 pm Comty. Pen. Ch. 4:00 pm Open Door Class Mtg.
3 8:30 am Trustee 9:45 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Wrshp. Prayer Min. 1:00 pm Comty. Pen. Church	4 6:30 am KI 9:00 am Food Pantry 12:30 pm UWIF Christmas Lunch	5 6:30 am KI	6 6:30 am KI 2:15 pm Prayer Min. Tm. Mtg. 3:30 pm REN. Hr. 6:00 pm Food Pantry	7 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Chancel Bells Practice 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Practice	8 6:30 am KI 9:00 am Food Pantry	9 10:00 am-2:00 pm Comty. Pen. Church 10:00 am Legal Clinic & Food Pantry
10 9:45 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Prayer Min. 1:00 pm Comty. Pen. Church	11 6:30 am KI 9:00 am Food Pantry 6:00 pm SPRC Mtg.	12 6:30 am KI 10:00 am UWIF Leadership Mtg.	13 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm REN. Hr. 6:00 pm Food Pantry	14 6:30 am KI TBD Food Truck Delivery 6:30 pm Chancel Bells Practice 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Practice	15 6:30 am KI 9:00 am Food Pantry	16 10:00 am-2:00 pm Comty. Pen. Church 10:00 am Christmas Store 10:00 am Cantata Rehearsal
17 11 am Cantata "Tidings of Great Joy- A Celtic Christmas Celebration"	18 6:30 am KI 9:00 am Food Pantry	19 6:30 am KI	20 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm REN. Hr. 6:00 pm Food Pantry	21 6:30 am KI 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Practice	22 6:30 am KI 9:00 am Food Pantry	23 10:00 am-2:00 pm Comty. Pen. Church
24 9:45 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Prayer Min. 7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26 6:30 am KI 9:00 am Food Pantry	27 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm REN. Hr. 6:00 pm Food Pantry	28 6:30 am KI TBD Food Truck Delivery	29 6:30 am KI 9:00 am Food Pantry	30
31 9:45 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Prayer Min. 1:00 pm Comty. Pen.	<div>  </div> <div> 5 on the 5th will be observed on Sunday, December 31st. </div>					

YEAR END FINANCIAL UPDATE & STATISTICS

	Oct 2023 YTD	Oct 2022 YTD
Offerings & Income	231,508	216,734
Expenses	242,446	222,498
Shortfall	(10,937)	(5,764)



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.



**Saturday morning 10 A.M. – 12. P.M.
December 16th for our dress
rehearsal.**



SAVE THE DATE: December 17

The Christmas cantata we are performing this year is called “Tidings of Great Joy- A Celtic Christmas Celebration”, by Joseph M. Martin. This cantata was given to the Fairview music library by Bertha Messer, in memory of Dr. William Messer. The cantata will be presented in church on Sunday, December 17th at 11 am. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us in this musical celebration of Christmas.

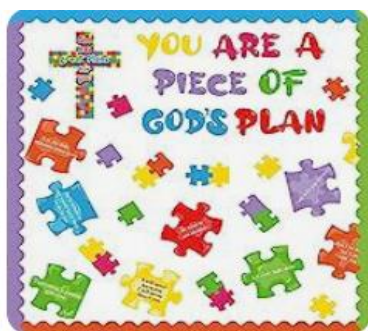


“WE HAVE A SEAT FOR YOU!”

Dec. 3 Bertha Messer Dec. 10 Debbie Arnold Dec. 17 Wayne Hounshell
Dec. 24 Kathy & Ed Farmer Dec. 31 John & Lilia Shoemaker



Dec. 3 Duke Lunsford Dec. 10 Kathy Farmer Dec. 17 Sonia Jackson
Dec. 24 Dave Wyss Dec. 31 Kathy Schaefer



TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE

Dec. 3 Debbie Arnold
Dec. 10 Gerardine Shukuru
Dec. 17 Susie Kurtz
Dec. 24 Kathy Schaefer
Dec. 31 Jackie Mergler



VAN MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Need A Ride To Church?

Dec. 3 John 937 - 277-6387 Dec. 10 Jerry 937 – 689-3176 Dec. 17
Art 937 – 279 0650 Dec. 24 Greg 937 - 620-1472 Dec. 31 Art 937 – 279 0650

You **must call** the driver for the Sunday you want to come to church the **day before** or you will **not** be picked up!



Dec. 3 Jan Mains
Dec. 10 Dave Puderbaugh
Dec. 17 Fred Poland
Dec. 24 Mike Zuber
Dec. 31 Ed Farmer



**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION
MONDAY DECEMBER 4, 2023, 12:30 P.M.**

Come at 12:30 and share in a joyful time of delicious food brought by each person. Then participate in the auction of beautifully wrapped white elephant gifts. The funds will support mission projects locally, nationally, and globally.

The leaders for the meeting are Program Barbara Rowlands; Devotions: Joyce B., Prayer Guide Kathy Schaefer, and Response Moment: Judith Mathes

All women are invited to enjoy this joyous time. Bring a dish to serve 10 and wrapped gifts for the auction. Call Judith Mathes if you have questions 937-286-2233

ADVENT PRAYERS

(An AWESOME gift idea from the Prayer Ministry Team at Fairview United Methodist Church)

Each week in Advent, we focus on a different characteristic that the Christ child brings to us. A wonderful way to pray is to tell God what you know and believe about each of these. Then ask Him to expand your life in these areas. Here is an example of my prayers...

HOPE

Great God, we walk in the land of darkness, sin, evil, and all things that go against Your heart. Thank You for shining Your light in the chaos of our existence. Because of You, we know that there is hope even in our messes. Bring hope to our hearts with the reminder that there is a better day coming. We long for Your return to bring us to completion and perfection.

PEACE

Gentle Lord God, we live in a world of great turmoil. Wars, divisions, and strife are all around us. Thank You for giving us Your peace that passes understanding even with all that would separate us from You and from each other. Knit us together in unity as Your Church universal. We look forward to the day when all creation bows to You as the Prince of Peace.

JOY

Generous God, we live in the midst of gloom and doom that can rob us of our gladness. Thank You for Your presence that comes to enliven us and brings us strength through the joy of our salvation. Help us to rejoice always in every situation. Shower us with the abundant blessings that we have in Christ so we can lift our voices in praise at all times. How glorious it will be to worship You for all eternity!

LOVE

Gracious God, we are surrounded by selfishness and hatred throughout this life. We fail to love You with all our heart or to love our neighbor as ourselves. Thank you for Your unconditional and sacrificial love that gives us the example of how we are to be and act towards You and others. Fill our hearts to overflowing with Your love so that we may be Your servants.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN: Why not share your prayers about these characteristics with others around you? One way we bless each other is to share our prayers. What an awesome Christmas GIFT that would be!!!



DECEMBER

NEWS



Do you have some spare time to put to good use? Are you wondering how the pantry is going? Well, our answer is – come and see for yourself. There is no better way to see than to pitch right in. As you know, the clientele receiving pantry food has enlarged considerably, ever since we began serving on Wednesdays from 6 pm to 8 pm. The count is often in the neighborhood of 30 families per visit on those days. It takes a lot of energy to serve, keep the shelves stocked, tear down boxes for recycling, and secure more food to replace that which is served.

That is why we are asking you to consider helping keep the pantry going. As we go into the winter months, we will need more soups and canned goods to fill the shelves.

If you are able, please continue bringing canned goods and other necessary items to fill our shelves. These items are greatly appreciated.

Thanks, and God Bless
Vicky and Barbara

NEW ADDITION TO FOOD PANTRY

We were recently notified that the Miami River Valley District of the West Ohio Conference has awarded us a grant of \$6,000 to purchase a display freezer for our Food Pantry. The new unit was delivered and installed this week. This will make a huge difference in our ability to better serve our pantry clients making our selection of frozen food more visible. Thank you to grant writer Fred Poland and installers Dave Puderbaugh and Ed Farmer for making this happen so quickly!



2023 FOOD PANTRY STATISTICS


Month	Total Households Served	Total People Served
Jan.	51	141
Feb.	64	161
Mar.	48	121
Apr.	100	224
May	124	334
June	129	360
July	157	444
Aug.	177	525
Sept.	162	551
Oct,	174	571
Nov.	193	683
Total	1379	4115
2022 Totals	595	1407

In addition to the food, we receive from The Foodbank and other donations, your contributions to the pantry have allowed us to purchase \$15,281 in additional food this year. Donations to the pantry are welcomed any time. You can also make automatic monthly donations through our website



Remember to thoroughly wash your used milk containers that are donated to Memorial United Methodist Church. We thank you for your donations and really appreciate this addition to our food pantry ministry.

REMINDER Please remember to turn in your 2024 Pledge Cards

<p>FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Because of God's generosity, there is more than enough for all; I/we will give PER WEEK: \$ _____ PER MONTH: \$ _____ PER YEAR: \$ _____ to support the ministries of the Fairview congregation and the United Methodist Church.</p> <p>My support of the Fairview UMC Pantry \$ _____ per _____ This represents a tithe of our income.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Please charge my monthly pledge to my MasterCard/Visa: Account # _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____ Code on back of Card ____ My card is already on file.</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  FAIRVIEW <small>United Methodist Church</small> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">2024 Covenant of Financial Giving</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City/State _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p>
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PANTRY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9 am–Food Pantry JACKIE MERGLER, BARBARA ROWLANDS	2
3	4 9 am–Food Pantry SHIRLEY MCBRIDE, JANET MICHAEL	5	6 6 pm–Food Pantry BARBARA WIECHEL, SUSIE KURTZ	7	8 9 am–Food Pantry BARBARA ROWLANDS BONNIE MALONEY	9 10 am–Legal Clinic & Food Pantry TRACY POLK
10	11 9 am–Food Pantry JACKIE MERGLER, B. ROWLANDS	12	13 6 pm–Pantry BARBARA WIECHEL KATHY&ED FARMER, DEB. ARMOLD	14  Food Truck Delivery	15 9 am–Food Pantry SUSIE KURTZ, BARBARA BUTTRAM	16 10:00 am Christmas Store
17	18 9 am–Food Pantry MARLA REYNOLDS, INGRID TARTAGLIA, TINA WALKER	19	20 6 pm–Food Pantry BARBARA WIECHEL, BERTHA MESSER DEBBIE ARMOLD	21	22 PAM, WAYNE HOUNSHELL	23
24	25 	26	27 6 pm–Food Pantry BARBARA WIECHEL, BERTHA MESSER DEBBIE ARMOLD	28  Food Truck Delivery	29 9 am–Food Pantry TINA WALKER JANET MICHAEL	30
31						

2023 Christmas Poinsettias Form

Fairview Church will again be decorated with poinsettias during the 2023 Advent/Christmas season. We will be using large pots of poinsettias again this year. To participate in this ministry, please return the form below with a check for \$12.00 for each plant ordered, no later than Sunday, December 10. In addition to poinsettias, contributions may be made to one of our mission projects listed on the form below. Poinsettias may be removed from the church on Sunday, December 24 following Christmas Eve worship. The names of those being remembered, as well as the donors, will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 17.



THE DEADLINE DATE IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

Given by: _____
(Please print)

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____
(Please print)

_____ (Please print)

POINSETTIAS

No. of Plants ____ X \$12.00 = \$ ____

MISSIONS

1. \$ ____ Fairview/Fairview Partnership
2. \$ ____ Christmas Store
3. \$ ____ Food Pantry

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR POINSETTIAS AND MISSIONS \$ ____

Please make checks payable to:
Fairview United Methodist Church

Memo: for Christmas Poinsettias/Missions Project (See above missions list)





December 3	Melodie Larsen
December 7	Maurice Hollingsworth
December 20	Doug Kneisly
December 23	David Thompson
December 23	Denise Zuber
December 26	Bertha Messer
December 26	Jennifer Messer
December 31	Jane Puderbaugh



COLUMNS

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Website: www.fairviewumcdayton.org

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Pastor

Rev. E. Neil Gaiser, OSL

Administrative Assistant

Carol McDougale

Director of Music

Carol Chatfield

Toddler Room Attendant

Oscar Ndayisaba

Church Musician

Michele Delduca

Treasurer

Fred Poland

Pantry Resource Coordinator

Donna McCoy

Audio Visual Technician

Roger Christian

Building Maintenance

Nelson Clair