



February

A Letter from the Pastor



Greetings to everyone in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This year Lent begins on the 4th Sunday in February. To many of us, it may seem as if Lent will come very early this year. The joys of the holiday season are still fresh in our minds. It may require a very special effort on our part to take up the spiritual, penitential, and charitable activities associated with this holy season. Indeed, this is a time for introspection and reflection on our walk with God. At a time when we find ourselves looking ahead to springtime and the rebirth of nature as new life begins to bloom, it is my prayer that each of us will be able to use this time to grow spiritually and experience a reawakening of our relationship with God during the 40

days of Lent.

At its heart, Lent should remind us of God's justifying grace. Similar to the coming of spring, we recall our death to sin and our rising to the new life that took place when we were baptized and God claimed us as His own. Thus, as we enter into this time of the Paschal Mystery: celebrating the Passion, death, and resurrection of Christ...we begin to feel the unfathomable depths of God's great love for us. In these quiet moments, we are humbled by the thought that "The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

For me, Lent has always been a time to be more intentional about engaging in contemplative practice and the spiritual disciplines and I would encourage all of you to do the same. It is important to set time apart for God in prayer, fasting, and works of mercy amidst all the noise and distractions of our daily lives. These things are also an important witness and they can become ways to share your faith with friends and family as we demonstrate our penitent love of God through our actions.

As this is such a vital time of the Christian year, I hope to see all of you in worship every Sunday as you are able. To begin the season of Lent, I hope you will join us in the chapel on February 22, time TBD for our special Ash Wednesday service. There will be NO Renewal Hour that day in observance of Ash Wednesday.

Our times of extra reflection this month will also be a blessing to us as we enter into a very special time in the life of our church. As indicated in my last letter, we had a great year in 2022. We began 2023 with even more momentum as our West Ohio Conference grant application for the expansion of our food pantry was ACCEPTED! This means we now have all the funding for our food pantry to grow it and hopefully, with God's blessing, turn it into a fully staffed 5 day a week service to our community. But now, as that work continues, we also turn to the future of our church.

Because we have been building so much momentum in the past several months, now is the perfect time to begin our vision-casting process. As many of you already know, Fred Poland and I have brought on a team of experts with a proven track record of church growth in the Dayton area to assist us in this endeavor. At the time of this writing, our first meeting was held on January 21, 2023, with more to come in the future. We would like as many of you as possible to participate in these meetings and in this overall process. We also humbly ask for your prayers for the Holy Spirit to guide these conversations and to empower our church leadership as we begin to discern what God might have for us next!

Another way you can help our leadership is to again think on those questions I asked when I first came to Dayton and to Fairview: "What do you love about Fairview Church?" and "what are your hopes and dreams for Fairview Church?" Feel free to get in touch with me if you'd like to share your thoughts along those lines, I'd love to hear from you!

Finally, as we enter into this time of reflection and change, we are especially mindful of the Word of God which says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Let us all claim that both individually, and as a church family, as our promise!



In January, we held the first of several meetings to develop our Strategic Direction plan. Many ideas were shared by the group and we will continue to meet in February and March to further develop this plan. Please see Fred Poland if you have any questions or would like to participate in future meetings.



**United Women in Faith Leadership Team
2023 Meetings Begin**

Fairview United Women in Faith Leadership Team will meet on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 10 a.m. in person or via Zoom if meeting in person is not possible. The team will focus on making plans for outreach and spiritual growth in 2023. Members of the Team are asked to contact Cecelia Long, 937-972-7045, or cealong48@gmail.com by February 7, to say whether you will be able to attend the meeting or if you will need Zoom access. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the February 14th meeting.

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Fairview United Women in Faith Begins Meetings in 2023


The Fairview United Women in Faith will meet on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. The leaders for the meeting are Devotions - Pam Hounshell, Response Moment - Cecelia Long, Prayer Guide - Judith Mathes, and Program - Judy Gebhart. Very light refreshments will be served. All women are encouraged to attend the meeting of United Women in Faith. The monthly meeting provides an opportunity for spiritual growth and sharing information about the mission outreach of United Women in Faith. Please call Judith Mathes, Coordinator of United Women in Faith, at 937-286-2233, to confirm your attendance at the meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone and beginning a new year of United Women in Faith.

West Ohio United Women in Faith 2023 Lenten Study

The West Ohio United Women in Faith will host a Lenten Study beginning on Sunday, February 26 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. The Study sessions will be 4 Sundays. The Book for the Lenten Study is Meeting Jesus at the Table by Christine Coy Fohr and Cynthia Campbell. It can be ordered at Cokesbury.com. or contact Cecelia Long, 937-972-7045 to order the book for you.

Lent is a journey, the end of which is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is a season in which we are invited to reflect on God’s love made known in Jesus. We are given an opportunity to think more about being disciples who follow Jesus each and every day. This Lenten Study will focus on stories of Jesus at the table with different people. ALL are welcome to participate and grow in your own spiritual journey. If you wish to register for the Lenten Study, please contact Cecelia Long, at 937-972-7045 or cealong48@gmail.com for a link to the registration site.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm Renewal Hour	2 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bell Grp. 1 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	3 6:30 am KI 2 9 am–Food Pantry	4 10 am-2 pm Comty. Pen.Church 4 pm Open Door
5 9:45 am–Sunday School 11 am–Worship 1 pm Comty. Pen. Church	6 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry	7 6:30 am KI	8 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm Renewal Hour	9 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bell Grp. 1 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	10 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry	11 10 am-2pm Comty. Pen. Church 10 am–Legal Clinic & Food Pantry
12 9:45 am–Sunday School 11 am–Worship 1 pm Comty. Pen. Church	13 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry	14 6:30 am KI 10 am UWF Leadership Mtg.	15 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm Renewal Hour	16 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bell Grp. 2 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	17 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry	18 10 am-2pm Comty. Pen. Church 10 Strategic Planning Mtg.
19 9:45 am – Sunday School 11 am-Worship 1 pm Comty. Pen. Church	20 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry	21 6:30 am KI	22 Ash Wednesday 6:30 am KI Time: TBD Ash Wednesday Service	23 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bell Grp. 2 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	24 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry	25 10 am-2pm Comty. Pen. Church
26 Lent Begins 9:45 am – Sunday School 11am-Worship 1 pm Comty. Pen. Church	27 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry 1 pm UWIF Mtg.	28 6:30 am KI	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR There will be no Children's Sunday School during February. The Children's Sunday School class will meet Sundays, March 5, 2023 – Sunday, April 2, at 10 AM for a Lenten Unit 			

YEAR END FINANCIAL UPDATE & STATISTICS

	2022	2021
Offerings	240,545	235,085
Rental income	26,793	21,248
Total	267,338	256,333
Expenses	274,664	258,877
Shortfall	(7,325)	(2,544)
PPP funds	7,325	2,544
Net	0	0

(PPP is Payroll Protection Program funds from the government to maintain staffing during COVID. The balance after 2022 is zero.)

Average contribution per household in 2022 \$2,900

West Ohio Conference 2023 apportionment per full member \$327

Special offerings received (UMCOR, Special Sundays, 5th Sunday) \$11,500

Pantry offerings received \$12,180

Church Membership

12/31/22 Full membership 77

Clergy 3

Pantry 2022

Total households served 595

Total people served 1,407

Total food purchases \$16,156

Worship

Average in-person attendance 60

HOW to become a SUBSCRIBER to the Fairview United Methodist YouTube Channel and WHY it's important



Fairview United Methodist Church Dayton
@fairviewunitedmethodistDayton
67 subscribers

Subscribed

If you have a smartphone or any other digital device such as an ipad or laptop, simply download the YouTube app. Once you have the app, you can search for Fairview United Methodist Church Dayton, Ohio. Once there, you will see a place where you can SUBSCRIBE to the channel. There is also a little BELL that you can click to be notified whenever something new is posted to our channel.

Doing this lets YouTube know that Fairview Church has 'followers'. The more we have, the more YouTube will help distribute our videos. Every time you click and watch a video, this is tracked by the app. The more clicks, the more our videos will be suggested for OTHERS to watch. THIS is how we get seen by people who have never set foot in Fairview....but MAY. Think of this as an easy way to spread Fairview's message to others - and all you have to do is click and watch!

Any questions or if you need help, see Sherri Sutter.

New Daily Devotion and Prayer Link



We now have a new Daily Devotion and Prayer link at the top of our website at www.fairviewunitedmethodist.org. This is provided by the Upper Room. Check it out as you start your day.

You can access it from your phone thru Safari (or your browser) and save it as a favorite in your bookmarks. The link is at the top of the screen on your phone.

FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



5	Bertha Messer
12	Debbie Arnold
19	Wayne Hounshell
26	Ed and Kathy Farmer



PANTRY EXPANSION UPDATE

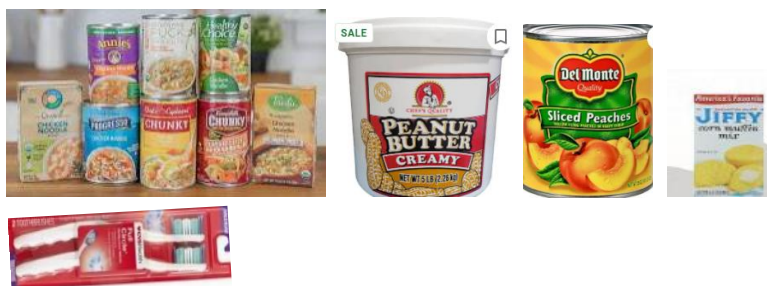
Fairview has been awarded a grant from the Miami Valley District for \$14,000 towards our pantry expansion! With the \$26,000 we received from the Northwest Dayton Partnership; our original \$40,000 project has been fully funded. The renovations to the former Christmas Store storage room are underway and the new commercial refrigerator and freezer will be delivered in early February. We will be hiring a Pantry Manager part-time to coordinate volunteers from other churches and organizations, locate donations of food and funds and help us open the pantry 5 days a week. Watch for further details and opportunities for Fairview members as well.

PANTRY RESOLUTION - JOIN US

Would you join us in a New Year’s Resolution concerning our pantry this year? We need staple food items and oral care products in our pantry, so we suggest that when you are shopping, please pick up an extra can of fruit or another can of Chicken Noodle soup, Saltine crackers, or even a toothbrush, etc., and bring them to church. A donations basket will always be available by the pantry door for your donated items.

The items most needed are:

- Peanut Butter
- Chicken Noodle soup
- Canned fruit
- Jiffy mix
- Single toothbrushes



These are items we cannot get from the foodbank many times. If we will think of our pantry guests as we shop, we will be a blessing to our neighbors in a new way. Thank you for your support.



2022 PANTRY STATISTICS

Month	Total Households Served	Total People Served
Jan	38	84
Feb	42	90
Mar	39	88
Apr	59	136
May	51	123
Jun	53	137
Jul	55	110
Aug	60	137
Sep	53	126
Oct	51	112
Nov	44	131
Dec	50	133
Total	595	1,407

Thank you for your support and donations!

In addition to the food, we receive from The Foodbank and other donations, your contributions to the pantry have allowed us to purchase \$16,156 in additional food.

Donations to the pantry are welcomed at any time.

FEBRUARY PANTRY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

**FRI. 3RD PAM HOUNSHELL
PATRICIA WHITE**

**MON. 20TH JACKIE MERGLER
TINA HOWARD**

**MON. 6TH SUSIE KURTZ
BARB ROWLANDS**

**FRI. 24TH SUSIE KURTZ
BONNIE MALONEY**

**FRI. 10TH BONNIE MALONEY
BARB ROWLANDS**

**MON. 27TH INGRID TARTIGULA
LESA WINBORN**

**MON. 13TH KATHY FARMER
DEBBIE ARMOLD**

SAT. 11TH PAM HOUNSHELL

**FRI. 17TH BARBARA BUTTRAM
TINA HOWARD**

February Birthdays

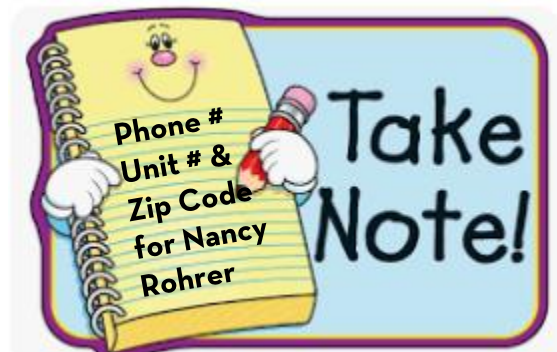


- February 4 Tyree Sherman
- February 6 Dan Barrett, Jr.,
Debbie Gracey
- February 7 Jan Mains
- February 12 Rochelle Gaiser,
Duke Lunsford
- February 14 Janet Lybarger
- February 16 Jeffery Mote
- February 24 Alexander Joseph,
Lynne Romeiser
- February 28 Al Pierce, Sr.

Update your
contact info!



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Carol McDougale

Director of Music

Carol Chatfield

Toddler Room Attendant

Brooklyn Messer

Church Musician

Michele Delduca

Treasurer

Fred Poland

Audio Visual Technician

Roger Christian

Building Maintenance

Nelson Clair