



FAIRVIEW
United Methodist Church



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. As I write this letter to all of you, I am almost surprised to see the sun shining and that the temperature is all the way up to the fifties! Lent has always been one of my favorite seasons in the life of the church, not only because of the symbolism and traditions but particularly because the earth around us mirrors the season. On Ash Wednesday, when we recognize our own mortality with the sign of ashes, the earth is still barren, coming out of the winter season.

Each week as we progress toward Palm Sunday and Holy Week, nature becomes more alive, as spring emerges. We celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday with the symbols of bright flowers, marking the rebirth of creation, noting that nature mimics the renewal and new life we find in Easter.

I of course know how fast-paced and hectic life can be. Indeed, there are times when Lent gives us an opportunity for personal renewal, to renew things within ourselves which have become dormant, diminished, depleted, and stretched thin. Even being stuck in rush hour traffic can be an opportunity for prayer and devotions.

This, then, has become my focus and goal for the season of Lent. While some might give up chocolates at this time, I would offer a slight word of caution against that practice. If we're not careful, our spiritual practice can become just another menial task that we need to check off on our to-do lists.

Thus, I am using Lent as my opportunity to slow down and draw closer to God. Just as we're about to reset our clocks for daylight savings time, let us now reset the spiritual rhythms of our lives. This is precisely why, after dealing with these serious health issues over the past few months, I've finally decided to take some time out for a Renewal Leave. I'm in need of rest, and in that rest, I hope to reconnect with God on a much deeper level.

Of course, as your Pastor, I will be trying to help all of you with this. In our Lenten sermons this year we'll be focusing on practical ways that we can respond to the temptations and challenges of our daily lives, while at the same time seeking God in the midst of all things. And of course, my door is always open if you would like any spiritual direction or counseling. Just give me a call or shoot me an email and we can set up an appointment!

I leave you with the words of my favorite Christian writer, the Trappist monk Thomas Merton once again on the meaning of Lent:

"The purpose of Lent is not only expiation, to satisfy the divine justice, but above all a preparation to rejoice in His love. And this preparation consists in receiving the gift of His mercy—a gift which we receive insofar as we open our hearts to it, casting out what cannot remain in the same room with mercy. Our peace and our joy in Lent are a guarantee of grace."

Blessings to all of you in this season of grace, mercy, and renewal!

Free Legal Clinic

The Free Legal Clinic will be open on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at Fairview United Methodist Church, 828 West Fairview Avenue Dayton. Legal Clinic will be **open 10:00 AM to 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. We request that clients of the Clinic wear a mask.

The Legal Clinic provides "triage services" to our clients who are not sure where to go with issues for which they think are candidates for the justice system. We look forward to welcoming those who wish to take advantage of these services. Be safe and well.



United Women in Faith Leadership Team

Fairview United Women in Faith Leadership Team will meet on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 10 a.m. in person or via Zoom if meeting in person is not possible. The team will focus on planning the 2023 Budget. Members of the Team are asked to contact Cecelia Long, 937/972-7045 or cealong48@gmail.com by March 17th 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 March 21st meeting.

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Fairview United Women in Faith Meeting on March 27, 2023

The Fairview United Women in Faith will meet on Monday, March 27, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. The leaders for the meeting are: Devotions – Kathy Schaefer, Response Magazine Moment – Susie Kurtz, Prayer Guide – Shirley McBride and Program – Judith Mathes. 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, 937/286-2233, to confirm your attendance at the meeting. All women are encouraged to come and bring a friend with you.

West Ohio United Women in Faith 2023 Lenten Study

The West Ohio United Women in Faith will host a Lenten Study beginning on Sunday, March 5 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. The Study sessions will be 4 Sundays in March. 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, 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. 2 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	3 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry	4 10 am-2 pm Comty. Pen.Church 4 pm Open Door
5 8:30 am TTE Mtg 9:45 am–Sunday School 11 am–Worship 1 pm Comty. Pen. Church 4 pm W. Ohio UWIF Lent Bible Study	6 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry	7 6:30 am KI	8 6:30 am KI 6:15 pm FROC	9 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bell Grp. 2 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	10 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry	11 10 am-2 pm 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 6:00 pm Fairview at St. Paul Church	16 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bell Grp. 3 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	17 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry	18 10 am-2 pm Comty. Pen. Church
19 UMCOR SUNDAY 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 10 am UWF Mtg.	22 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm Renewal Hour	23 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bell Grp. 3 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	24 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry	25 10 am-2 pm Comty. Pen. Church 10 am Strategic Planning Mtg.
26 9:45 am – Sunday School 11 am-Worship 1 pm Comty. Pen. Church	27 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry 1:30 pm UWIF Mtg. 6:30 pm Fairview N. A.	28 6:30 am KI	29 6:30 am KI 3:30 pm Renewal Hour	30 6:30 am KI 6:30 pm Bell Grp. 3 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	31 6:30 am KI 9 am–Food Pantry	April 1

YEAR END FINANCIAL UPDATE & STATISTICS

	JAN. 2023	JAN. 2022
Offerings	22,266	19,247
Expenses	26,498	23,223
Shortfall	(4,232)	(3,976)

PANTRY RENOVATION UPDATE

Renovation of the new pantry storage area is substantially complete. We are in the process of interviewing candidates for the Pantry Manager position and hope to identify that person soon. Stay tuned for new opportunities to volunteer as this essential ministry expands.

Help Send Aid to Turkey and Syria After Devastating Earthquake



The people of Turkey and Syria recently experienced two devastating earthquakes. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has issued an initial solidarity grant to longstanding humanitarian partner International Blue Crescent, working in both countries. UMCOR's support will provide tents, heaters, blankets, clothes, ready-to-eat meals, and first aid kits.

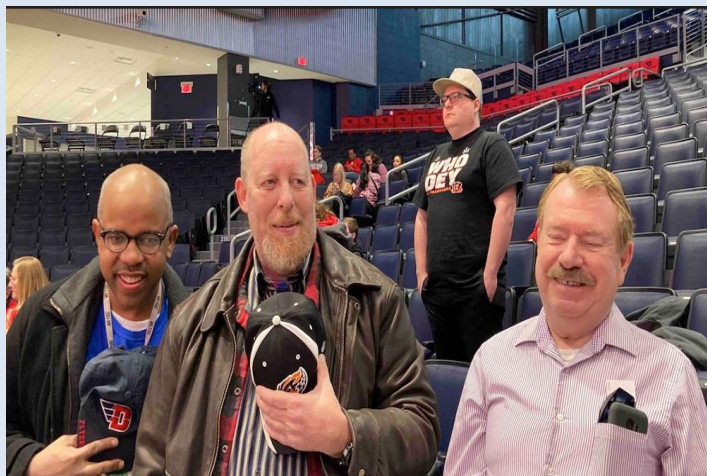
United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected people in these countries may contribute to Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Turkey and Syria.

Gifts can be made in the following ways:

- By toll-free telephone: 888-252-6174
- By check payable to Global Ministries/UMCOR with “Advance #982450-Turkey/Syria” written on the memo line, mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068.

One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause.

FAITH CLASS MEMBERS AT U.D. ARENA



Juan Peters and Andrey Golovcsenko of the Faith Sunday School Class recently attended a fun-filled afternoon at the University of Dayton Arena. There they were joined by Art Mehaffey, one of their class teachers, and Igor Golovcsenko, a parent. The women's basketball game featured band music, cheerleaders, family entertainment and a sing along.



FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GREETERS

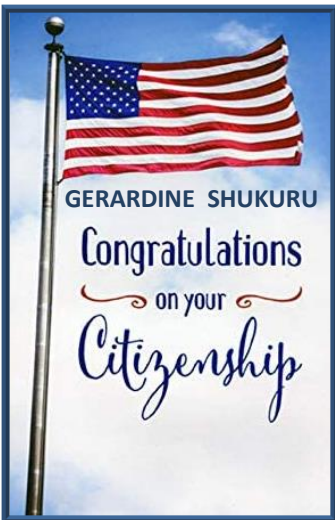


WE HAVE A SEAT FOR YOU!

MARCH 2023 SCHEDULE

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO SHARE IN THE EXCITEMENT!!



Those of us who were born into United States citizenship often take it for granted. We don't realize what it takes to become a citizen. Because Gerardine Shukuru is 18, she could not join her parents in a family citizenship program. Working with an attorney, she completed all requirements for citizenship including producing proof of identification and immigration, gathering her school history and getting FBI approval of her behavior. At the Federal Building in Cincinnati, she was examined and passed all the requirements for citizenship: both an oral test (100%) which included answering random questions such as "Who succeeds to the Presidency if both the President and Vice President are no longer available to serve?" And a written exam to prove her proficiency in English.

You can share in the excitement with our newest citizen by attending the Naturalization Ceremony for new Americans to be held at **Sinclair Community College, Building 12, Room 150** on **March 9, 2023** at **9:30 A.M.** You can witness her oath of loyalty and hear the words proclaiming her truly a citizen of the United States of America. No reservation is needed, but space can be an issue so come early. There may be security, so have identification ready.



We've heard reports of Spring flowers peeping up during these warm days, so we know winter will soon be over. Our pantry clients will be glad to see this change since many of them come, pulling carts through the snow to receive groceries.

We continue to feel blessed by the generous amounts of donations, both financial and of food to keep our pantry stocked.

Thanks to Dave and many others, we will soon have access to another storage room that houses a brand new freezer and a brand new refrigerator. On Thursday, February 16th we were able to fill those appliances with food from the Food Bank.

Vicky and I wish to thank our congregation for the many hours volunteers spend in keeping our pantry supplied. It takes a lot of effort from many to have such welcoming service to our community.

*Blessings To All
Barb and Vicky*



With Deepest Sympathy

Our sincere sympathies to Bertha Messer and Debbie Armold on the passing of their brother Frank. Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.

202351 PANTRY STATISTICS

Month	Total Households Served	Total People Served
Jan	51	141
Feb		
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		
Total		

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 \$911 in additional food this year. Donations to the pantry are welcomed any time. You can make automatic monthly donations through our website.

On our most recent Saturday, we served 17 families (40) people. 10 of those families were new

**MARCH
PANTRY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

FRI. 3RD	PAM HOUNSHELL PATRICIA WHITE	MON. 20TH	JACKIE MERGLER TINA HOWARD
MON. 6TH	JANET MICHAEL SHIRLEY MCBRIDE	FRI. 24TH	SUSIE KURTZ BONNIE MALONEY
FRI. 10TH	BONNIE MALONEY BARB ROWLANDS	MON. 27TH	INGRID TARTIGULA LESA WINBORN
MON. 13TH	KATHY FARMER DEBBIE ARMOLD	FRI. 31ST	TINA HOWARD
FRI. 17TH	BARBARA BUTTRAM TINA HOWARD	SAT. 11TH	SHIRLEY MCBRIDE

New Daily Devotion and Prayer Link

CLICK HERE → [*Daily Devotion and Prayer*](#)

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.



- March 2** Terry Lunsford
- March 7** Sam Smith
- March 10** Florence Carwell
- March 12** Frank Ndayisaba
- March 17** Bruce Hull
- March 19** Methode Niyogushima
- March 21** Lois Gorrell
- March 22** John H. Larsen
- March 24** Judy Golovcsenko
- March 27** Ed Rapp



Children and Youth are invited to step back in time to learn about life in Jerusalem with Jesus. Let's experience how people dressed, and learned, and had fun!

Maybe we'll learn a song to sing during worship!

Weekly starting Sunday, March 5, 2023

10 AM - 10:40 AM

Third Floor, Education Building



New prayer ministry after worship each Sunday. See Joyce Barrier if interested.





COLUMNS

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Pastor

Rev. E. Neil Gaiser, OSL

Administrative Assistant

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