



FAIRMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN Church

FOLLOWING CHRIST | GROWING IN FAITH | SERVING TOGETHER | CARING FOR ALL



DRAW NEAR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1

Pastor's Note

Page 2

Advent Calendar

Page 3

connect

Page 4

Happenings at FPC

Page 5-6

Youth Ministries

Page 7

Children & Families

Page 8-10

Music at Fairmount

Page 11

Administry

As we prepare to draw near the gift of Christ this Advent season, it is a good time to take stock of all the good things God has *already* given us:

Relationships that sustain us and challenge us.

Bodies that, while imperfect, allow us to engage life.

A church that, while constantly changing, still remains a source of comfort and peace.

A neighborhood where people strive for community and understanding.

A nation where we are free to practice our religion and vote for our leaders.

A world that, while complicated, is so full of beauty, diversity and wonder.

As we draw near the gift of Christ this Advent, gratitude for all God has given us is not an optional activity; it is as necessary to our faith as the air we breathe is to our life.

At Christmas we do more than celebrate a birth that happened long ago. At Christmas, and the Advent seasons of preparation, we remember all the ways God has moved into our lives, communities, and world with the goal of making all things new. No one knows what the future will bring, but as the birth of Jesus reminds us, we live in a world where God chooses to dwell.

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Derek



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FAIRMOUNT

Sunday, December 2nd

8:30 and 10:00am *Draw Near to Wonder Worship* - Luke 21:25-38
11:15am *Connect: Breaking Bread Potluck*

Friday, December 7th

7:30pm *Choir Concert, "How Great our Joy"* in the Sanctuary, free, childcare provided

Sunday, December 9th

8:30 and 10:00am *Draw Near to Truth Worship* - Luke 3:1-6
5:00pm - 7:00pm *All Church Christmas Party* in Andersen Hall

Sunday, December 16th

8:30 and 10:00am *Draw Near to Justice Worship* - Luke 3:7-18
11:15am *Connect: Growing in Faith, Cookie Making*

Wednesday, December 19th

5:00pm *Cookies and Cocoa*

Thursday, December 20th

5:15pm *All-Church Caroling*

Friday, December 21st

6:30pm *Longest Night Worship* in the Chapel

Sunday, December 23rd

8:30 and 10:00am *Draw Near to One Another Worship* - Luke 1:30-45, 46-55
11:15am *Connect: Small Group Sunday*

Monday, December 24th

5:00pm *Christmas Eve Candle Light*
Childcare provided
10:00pm *Christmas Eve Candle Light*
Choir, no childcare provided.

Sunday, December 30th

10am *Carol Sing* in Andersen Hall (no 8:30am worship) Continental breakfast, singing, and prayers

Sunday, January 6th

8:30 and 10:00am *Epiphany, Star Words Worship*
11:15am *Connect: Breaking Bread Potluck*

connect

GATHERING AT 11:15 AM

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” This is the premise for our new CONNECT ministry — to bring people to a deeper relationship with each other and with Christ, and it seems to be working!

Each Sunday at 11:15am there are opportunities to nurture our faith through relationships, learning, prayer, and experience. Together we have learned about biblical storytelling, different energy saving practices we employ at the church, the new Monarch butterfly way-station, contemplative prayer and prayer using art. We have drummed together, talked about the mission work of Fairmount, written letters to our representatives advocating for military families, and of course, eaten together! And we’ve done it in a way that welcomes people of all ages to spend time together, learn from one another, and understand more tangibly the depth and breadth of God’s creation.

As we continue into the new year, we look forward to the ways in which these relationships will continue to be built and fostered. If you have an idea for CONNECT, or would like to be a part of the planning teams, contact Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis (lindsayhl@fpccle.org or 216-321-5800 x105). We want everyone to be involved in these meaningful conversations and ordinary moments that have the power to transform our hearts and our community.

CONNECT DECEMBER & JANUARY SCHEDULE

December 2nd

Breaking Bread potluck

* There is no CONNECT on December 9, instead we encourage you to come back at 5:00pm for the All Church Christmas Party!

December 16th

*Growing in Faith
Cookie Making*

December 23rd

Small Group Sunday

January 6th

Breaking Bread

January 13th

Reaching Out

January 20th

Growing in Faith

January 27th

Small Group Sunday

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Stepping Forward

As we near the end of the year, two things typically happen in the realm of stewardship.

1. Nearly 30% of our annual financial contributions are received.

We count on the generosity of members and friends of the church in December to balance our budget and meet our mission commitments. Please consider the church in your end-of-year giving.

2. The final batch of pledges for the upcoming year are turned in.

As of November 21, 2018, we have received 140 pledges for a total of \$484,921. This is an average of \$3,460 a pledge, but \$282,000 short of our pledge goal of \$767,000. The good news is that 225 families/individuals pledged in 2018, and if those remaining 85 pledging units come to an average of \$3,500, we will exceed our goal!

Every financial pledge makes a difference as it allows the Session to faithfully budget for the coming year. If you haven’t already, would you consider *Stepping Forward* into the future with others to ensure Fairmount continues to be a church that makes a difference?

Thank you for all the ways you give.



IT'S A PARTY

All-Church Christmas Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9th, 5:00pm-7:00pm in ANDERSEN HALL

Come for an evening of food, Fairmount family, music and celebrating what it is to be a community of faith. Children are invited to join in the telling of the Christmas Story, complete with costumes.

We will provide the ham and drinks while you provide a dish to share. Last names A-P please bring a side dish while last names Q-Z bring dessert.



The Longest Night Service

December 21st at 6:30pm in the Chapel



Many of us journey through Advent holding both grief and anticipation in tension. Comfort and joy do not always come easy and we long for time with loved ones who have died. We struggle with relationships in a world that seems so broken and wonder how to celebrate the birth of a Savior in the midst of such dark times. The longest-night (winter solstice) services is a space to bring all of this and more.

Come for a contemplative safe-space to hold it all while continuing to long for a prince of peace. Childcare is provided.

Discernment & Decision-Making

An Experience of Using Ignatian "Discernment of Spirits" in Daily Life

Together we will explore the Spiritual Gifts we have been given to follow God day-to-day and how to look to the light of the Spirit when making important decisions.

Six Sessions, Mondays 7-9pm
January 14 & 28, February 4 & 25, and March 4 & 18 with a closing Retreat Day: 9am – 4pm on Saturday March 23
All sessions held at Fairmount Presbyterian Church

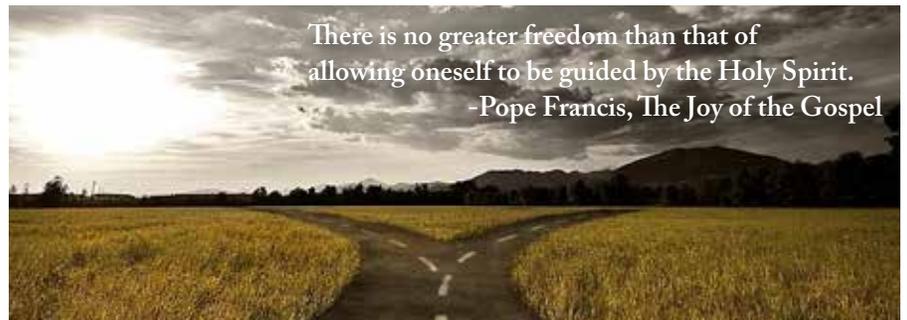
Program leaders: Patrick Cleary-Burns & Rev. Liz Nau

This program is based on the Spiritual Exercises. Participants need to have participated in The Prayer Experience last year or read What is Ignatian Spirituality? by David L. Fleming SJ.

Program Cost: \$140

Register before December 17th for \$100 early-bird rate-www.fpccl.org/events
Contact Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks for more information: amykim@fpccl.org

There is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit.
-Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel



ALL CHURCH CAROLING

Thursday, December 20 at 5:15pm

Bundle up and join us for an evening of proclaiming "Peace on Earth!" and goodwill in our neighborhood. Simple Dinner and Dessert provided. This event is great for **ALL AGES**. We will stay right in the church neighborhood.

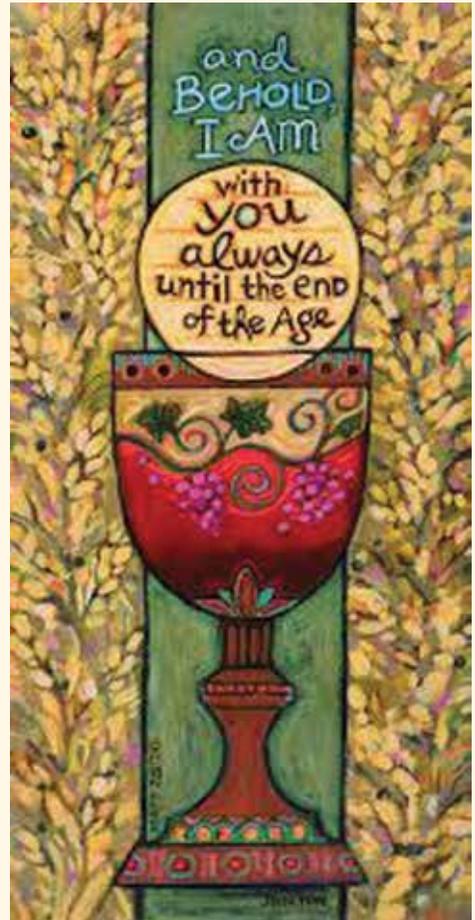




Youth Christmas Party!

Middle and High School aged youth are invited to attend our gift exchange on Sunday, December 16th, from 4-6pm in Andersen Hall. We will share in holiday treats, baked potato bar and gift exchange in conjunction with Youth Ministries of Forest Hills and Church of the Covenant. We are asking that youth keep their gifts under \$10. Get creative and have some fun with the gift you bring. See you there!

We encourage all of you to attend our All Church Christmas Party Sunday, December 9th from 5-7pm!



CONFIRMATION DECEMBER

Sunday, December 2, "Confessions 101" – Youth & Mentors, join us for Breaking Bread at 11:15am, Confirmation will run Noon-1:15pm.

Sunday, December 16, "Who is our Lord?" – Youth & Mentors, brunch provided 11:15-1:00pm.

JANUARY

Sunday, January 6, "Jesus Christ 101" – Youth & Mentors, join us for breaking bread at 11:15am, Confirmation will run Noon-1:15pm.

Sunday, January 27, "Who is your Savior?" – Youth Only, brunch provided 11:15-1:00pm.

YOUTH FUNDRAISING UPDATE

A huge thank you to everyone who assisted with the Pancake Breakfast. Whether you gave of your time, money, or resources, it is much appreciated and our youth are fortunate to have a community that supports their ministry endeavors! If you still want to give towards Youth Summer Trips, you can still do so by text or QR Code:

TEXT



To give by text,
text "FPCCLE Youth"
to "73256"

SCAN





Middle School Mission Immersion: Baltimore

WHO: Youth entering 6th grade in the fall of 2019 through current 7th grade youth
WHEN: July 6th-13th, 2019
ESTIMATED COST: \$650

Our group will be paired with a local congregation or community ministry. The center works in different neighborhoods and has developed community partnerships and ministries all over Baltimore. Our mission experience will be unique to the week and our group, but the foundation of the trip will be the same as every group who serves - integrating hands-on service with learning and theological reflection throughout. Registration is now open, go to www.fpccl.org/events.



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2019
July 16-20, 2019 · Purdue University

Get ready for the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium — a gathering held every three years for High School aged students in the PCUSA and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Youth from all across these denominations come together for the life changing, life giving, faith growing gathering! Five days that help form a younger generation of active Presbyterians. Five days that shape the leadership gifts and deepen the discipleship awareness for a generation who are already achieving a strong presence in this church and this world!

Date: Tuesday, July 16th- Saturday, July 20th, 2019

Location: Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Audience: High School age youth and adult advisors (Entering freshmen through graduated seniors)

Theme: "Here's My Heart"

Estimated Cost: \$650

Website: www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org

Youth from FPC will be traveling with other youth and adults as a delegation from the Presbytery of the Western Reserve.

Registration will be live December 2 at www.fpccl.org/events deadline January 21, 2019.

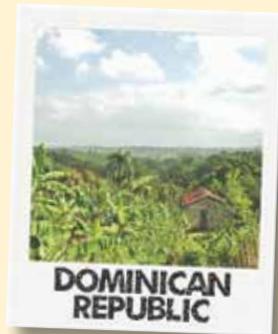


High School Youth Mission Immersion Trip

WHO: Youth currently in 8th-12th grade
WHEN: June 15-22, 2019
ESTIMATED COST: \$1,300

This summer we will travel to the Dominican Republic to:

- Learn about our continued partnership with Batey 105
- Build relationships with youth in the Batey
- Explore and learn about La Romana, Santo Domingo, Punta Cana and its effects on life in the Batey
- Process and learn with one another throughout the week
- Expand our understanding of God in our lives and in the world at large
- Open ourselves to new ways of understanding ourselves and our place in the midst of it all
- Strengthen relationships with youth and adults



www.fpccl.org/events

Informational meeting Sunday, December 9th, 11:30am in Room 114.



COOKIES AND COCOA

Wednesday, December 19th at 5:00pm

Wednesday night, December 19, at 5:00, Children, parents, grandparents and families are invited to join us for the annual Cookies and Cocoa. Come in your jammies for the Christmas Story, some songs, and a snack. This is a great way to prepare right before Christmas.



MINISTRY TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES – CHILDREN BIRTH-5th GRADE

**Friday, December 14th is
Club 4/5 from 7-9pm**

4th and 5th graders can come for a time of games, devotions, and community!

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

The Second Friday of each month from 6:00pm-9:00pm. Children birth-10 years old are welcome to join us for a night of fun at the church with our Staff and Volunteers. This ministry is as much for the kids as it is for the parents. We know life is full and we hope this night will help our kids build community while allowing parents to take a break and connect with one another.

This year we are changing it up a bit. **We are asking families to pack a sack dinner for their children.** We will have some sort of healthy snack half way through the evening.

Parents Night Out dates for the rest of the year are as follows:

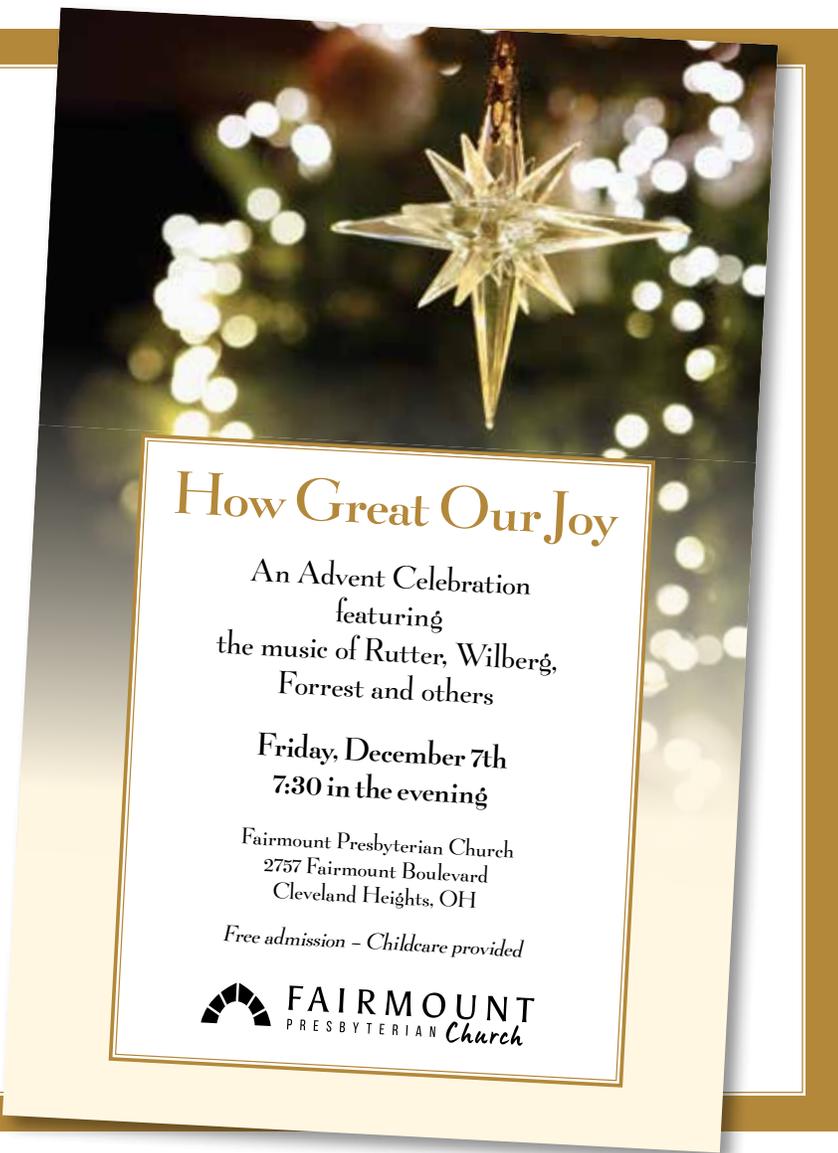
December 14, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12 & May 10.

Please go to the events tab of the website: www.fpccl.org to link to the sign-up and yearly medical release form. Each month the evening will be limited to 20 children so please sign up soon. Contact Amy Kim and Valerian know if you have any questions about this opportunity.

Volunteers are welcome! Contact Valerian at valerian@fpccl.org to sign up to help. Every volunteer must be background checked prior to helping out. Thank you!



Join us Friday, December 7 at 7:30pm for our holiday concert, "How Great Our Joy." The program features works by Mack Wilberg, John Rutter, Dan Forrest and other contemporary composers of sacred choral repertoire. One of the most distinguishing features of this concert outreach is the diversity of its participants — our Fairmount Choir is comprised of volunteers as well as soloists from Baldwin Wallace, Cleveland Institute of Music and Oberlin. Youth from our congregation sing accompanied by professional string players, and our accomplished Handbell Choir will help us ring in the holidays with exuberance. We're united in our love for this beautiful music that anticipates and celebrates the Advent season. The concert will last approximately 1 hour. Admission is free and childcare is provided.



The Fairmount Handbell Choir at Cleveland Botanical Gardens Glow on Friday, December 21st!

Your Fairmount Bell Choir will be performing at the Cleveland Botanical Garden on the evening of Friday, 12/21, from roughly 6:30-7:30pm. Start your weekend in the holiday spirit with one of Cleveland's most celebrated holiday traditions — the Gingerbread House Display, gorgeous holiday trees and your very own ding-a-lings. For more information visit, <http://www.cb garden.org/glow.aspx>.

READY TO BE A "DING-A-LING"?

Come try out handbell ringing in a non-pressure, fun CONNECT opportunity. On CONNECT Sundays starting in January, a ringer (bell in hand so you won't be able to miss them!) will be outside the Sanctuary to lead interested folks down to our rehearsal area in the Undercroft. We'll start at the beginning – basics of ringing and technique – and then make music together! We hope you'll join us for this musical team sport.



Join us Sunday, December 30th at 10:00am for a Congregational Carol-Sing!

The Origins of 10 Popular Christmas Carols

You know all their words by heart. But do you know how some of the world's best-known Christmas carols were created?

"SILENT NIGHT"

The story goes that Father Joseph Mohr of Oberndorf, Austria, was determined to have music at his Christmas Eve service, even though the organ at his beloved St. Nicholas Church was broken. So, he penned a poem and asked his friend Franz Gruber to compose a score that would not demand an organ. The truth; however, is a little less dramatic.

In 1816, the Catholic priest wrote the poem "*Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!*" When he transferred to St. Nicholas's two years later, he did ask Gruber to help him write guitar music for the poem, which the two performed — backed by a choir — on Christmas Eve of 1818. The song has been translated into 142 languages to date.

"HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

The earliest incarnation of this carol was a poem penned in 1739 by Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. However, the original opening line as it appeared in his collection *Hymns and Sacred Poems* was "Hark how all the welkin rings," using a rarely invoked term for heaven. The jaunty tempo it's sung to today came from German composer Felix Mendelssohn.

"DECK THE HALLS"

This jaunty tune dates back to sixteenth century Wales, where its melody and much of the lyrics were pinched from the New Year's Eve song "*Nos Galan*." Lines like "Oh! how soft my fair one's bosom/ Fa la la la la la la la," were transformed into Yuletide wishes like "Deck the halls with boughs of holly/ Fa la la la la la la la," and lines like "Fill the meadcup, drain the barrel," have been swapped for "Don we now our gay apparel."

"GOOD KING WENCESLAS"

This unconventional but beloved carol dates back to 1853 and focuses on the journey of a kind man who set out in terrible weather to provide aid to poor neighbors.

This titular "king" was a real man, Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia, who ruled from 924 to 935, when he was assassinated by his own brother, Boleslav the Cruel. Unlike his nefariously nicknamed sibling, Wenceslaus was adored by his subjects. His great acts of charity led to him posthumously being declared a king, and an eventual upgrade to sainthood. He is now the patron saint to the Czech Republic.

"O TANNENBAUM"

Commonly translated as "O Christmas Tree," the earliest version of the song dates back to the 16th century, when German composer Melchior Franck wrote a folk song about the tradition of bringing a small fir tree into one's home to decorate and sit beside the seasonal nativity scene. This decorating tradition moved from Germany to the U.S. along with its emigrants.

"O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

Phillip Brooks was a distinguished man of faith and intellect. A Boston-born Episcopalian preacher, he'd earned a Doctorate of Divinity from the University of Oxford, taught at Yale University, and publicly advocated against slavery during the Civil War. But he's best known for penning "O Little Town of Bethlehem" after a life-changing Christmas Eve experience in the Holy Lands.

In 1865, Brooks rode on horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, where he participated in the Church of the Nativity's five-hour long Christmas Eve celebration, complete with hymns. Returning home, this experience proved so profound that he channeled it into the song sung in churches to this day.

"JINGLE BELLS"

Though one of the most popular non-religious Yuletide tunes, "Jingle Bells" was not originally conceived for Christmas time at all. Penned by James Lord Pierpont in 1850s Savannah, Georgia, the song originally titled "The One Horse Open Sleigh" was intended to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Decades passed before it rose to prominence. Yet it made history on December 16, 1965, becoming the first song broadcast in space. The crew of *Gemini 6* followed reports of seeing Santa Claus with an improvised version of "Jingle Bells," which included bells and a harmonica that they had snuck onboard. Mission control responded to the surprise serenade with, "You're too much, 6."



Matt Bickett, Organist and Accompanist, and Jiana Peng, Assistant Accompanist!

The Session is excited to announce the hiring of Matt Bickett to the position of Organist/Accompanist and Jiana Peng to the position of Assistant Accompanist.

Matt and Jiana are both exceptional instrumentalists who bring with them a passion for music and a spirit of service. During the month of November, Matt will become acquainted with the choir in rehearsals for the concert on December 7th, and will join us in worship as our principal Organist during Advent. Jiana will be playing for both services and accompanying the choir through the end of the month, as well as participating in the concert. By the beginning of 2019, both musicians will be integrated into the worship life of Fairmount.



Matt Bickett, from Portsmouth, Ohio, is a student at Oberlin College and Conservatory, where he pursues a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance. While still a candidate for both degrees, he was accepted into Oberlin Conservatory's accelerated Master of Music in

Historical Performance degree program. His work focuses on musicologically-informed approaches to historical styles of organ, harpsichord, and clavichord playing. He currently studies organ with Jonathan Moyer, harpsichord with Mark Edwards, composition with Elizabeth Ogonek, and conducting with Gregory Ristow; and has coached with Marie-Louise Langlais, George Ritchie, and Bruce Neswick.

In 2017, Matt established the Oberlin Cantata Project, a period orchestra and choir specializing in 17th- and 18th-century concerted vocal music. Recent performances have taken the ensemble to Cleveland venues where Matt led the group in performances of church cantatas by D. Buxtehude and J. S. Bach. As organist, he has performed at notable venues such as St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle, Washington; Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon; St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown, Ohio; and in Cleveland, Ohio at Church of the Covenant and Trinity Lutheran Church.



Ms. Peng made her orchestral debut with the Cleveland Pops Orchestra in Severance Hall playing Ravel's *Piano Concerto in G Major* at the age of 16. She has also performed with Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, and the Philharmonic Orchestra of University of Alicante (Spain) under the batons of Carl

Topilow, Kimbo Ishii-Eto, and Uri Segal. She has made appearances in numerous festivals, including Music Fest Perugia, PianoTexas International Festival, and Duszniaki Piano Master Course.

She has won the 2007 American Open Music Competition, the 2009 Nice Cote d'Azur International Piano Competition, the Cleveland Pops Orchestra Music Scholarship Competition in 2012, and the Cleveland Institute of Music Concerto Competition in 2013. She was awarded CIM's 2013 Dr. Joseph and Bess Scharff Leven Prize in Piano and full scholarship for young artist program at PianoTexas International Festival and Academy in 2015. She is also a winner of the finalist award in the 2016 New York International Piano Competition and recently received CIM's 2018 "The William Kurzban Prize in Piano" for her outstanding artistic developments.

Ms. Peng received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Cleveland Institute of Music under the guidance of renowned pianists Antonio Pompa-Baldi and Haesun Paik. She is currently enrolled in the Oberlin Conservatory's Artist Diploma program and Oberlin-Como fellowship studying with Stanislav Loudenitch.

REFUGEE MINISTRY UPDATE

During the months of November and December, the Fairmount Refugee Mentoring Team has been getting to know the Munyazesa family. The family, including parents Mvuriye and Dianah and children Nemimana (20), Eric (16), Annet (13), Timothy (12), David (11), and Patience (6), came to Cleveland in August, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, which they left in the late 90s during one of the Congo's civil wars, eventually living in a Uganda refugee camp until this past summer. Thank you to all who have contributed items to the special collection for the family. We are partnering with Catholic Charities to offer assistance to refugee families upon their initial entry into the United States. If you would like to serve on future Refugee Mentoring Teams, please contact one of the pastors.

Church Building Closure Procedure

It is that time of year again, when occasionally, Northeast Ohio receives severe winter weather, prompting schools and other buildings to close. Fairmount Presbyterian Church follows the closing procedure of the Cleveland Heights/University Heights City Schools. When CHUH Schools close, so does the church. CHUH announces its winter weather closures on their website, www.chuh.org. We will also update our website, www.fpccle.org, and our Facebook page with building closure information.



Parking Lot: Phase One Completed!

We are excited to announce the church parking lot is ready for use. In the coming weeks, light poles will be added and the railing to the handicap ramp will be completed. In the spring, the final coat of asphalt will be placed and landscaping added to beautify. The new parking lot provides improved traffic flow with a designated entrance and exit, additional handicap spots (including ones adjacent to the sanctuary), and bioswale in the center to concentrate and remove debris and pollution out of surface runoff water, while reducing the church's annual storm water fees. Thank you for your patience during the project. As a reminder, on Sundays the parking lot is reserved for families with children, visitors, and those with accessibility issues.

Christmas Poinsettias

Each Advent season, through your contributions in memory of loved ones, we decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias for our Christmas Eve worship services. Any additional money raised from your memorial contributions will be used by the Serve Council in 2019 to provide support to our local mission partners. This year, in lieu of paper forms, we are asking you to complete an online form. Visit our webpage (<https://fpccle.org/home>). At the bottom of the main page, you will find the link to the online form. You may also email your dedication requests to cwinters@fpccle.org. During the week of December 3rd through 7th, you may call in your dedication to Christine at 216.321.5800 x119. On Sunday, December 9th, you will have the opportunity to fill out a poinsettia dedication in Andersen Hall after both worship services. A pastor will help you with your dedication. Please give \$10.00 per dedication. Instructions for payment can be found on the webpage listed above.

The FINAL DEADLINE for poinsettia dedications is Friday, December 14th





2757 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118-4017

Phone: 216.321.5800
Fax: 216.321.1044
E-Mail: info@fpcclle.org

Contacting Fairmount!

When you call the church, 216.321.5800, you will hear three options. These options are:

- Press 1 for Hours of Operation
- Press 2 for Worship Times
- Press 3 to enter staff phone extensions

If you are trying to reach staff, use Option 3. Then use the extensions on this list. When prompted, enter the extension number for the person you would like to contact. Entering "101" will send your call to the Welcome Center.

CALL 216-321-5800

Option 1 for Hours of Operation
Option 2 for Worship Times
Option 3 for Phone Extensions

Ext 101 - Welcome Center

Ext 115 - Senior Pastor
Ext 105 - Associate Pastor
Ext 121 - Director Of Spiritual Formation
Ext 135 - Artistic Director
Ext 123 - Leader for Youth/Young Adults

Ext 124 - Church Administrator
Ext 147 - Building Care
Ext 119 - Office Manager