



FAIRMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN Church

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



MAKING THE CONNECTION: Politics and Faith



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Through our new ministry CONNECT we are emphasizing the importance of making connections with God and one another, and it has been great to see so many connections being made, as the gospel is best lived out in community.

Of course, as followers of Christ we are not only called to connect with God and one another, we are also called to connect to the world God loves. Interestingly, how the church lives out this call to love and serve the world might be where Christians most disagree, since loving and serving the world moves us into the realm of politics.

During worship beginning on Sunday, October 14, and running through Sunday, November 11 (after the mid-term elections), we will explore the theme “Politics and Faith.”

- How should our inner spiritual life inform our outward expression of faith?
- Should the church engage in politics, and if so, how?
- What does it mean to love your neighbor during an election year?

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Making the Connection: Politics and Faith

Continued from page 1

- What can we learn from Jesus about a disciple's appropriate relationship to politics?
- Can we have an undying loyalty to a particular party or platform and follow Jesus?
- How is the church called to speak and act in such a divisive political climate?
- What impact should our faith have on how we vote?
- What is the church's role after the election, regardless of who wins?

Using Jesus, scripture, and the wisdom of the greater church as our guide, we will wrestle with these and other questions as we seek to be faithful to one another, to God, and to the world we are called to serve.

See you in church!



Pastor Derek

If you have not yet met one of our newest members of the staff, introduce yourself during CONNECT or during fellowship hour between services on Sunday. They would love to hear your story and talk with you about your faith!



GATHERING AT 11:15 AM

is our new intergenerational community offering at 11:15am on Sundays.

Thank you to everyone who participated in CONNECT in September – we are off to a great start! Mark your calendar for these exciting opportunities at CONNECT:

October 7

Breaking Bread

A catered Ethiopian meal to celebrate World Communion Sunday

October 14

Reaching Out

Earth Stewards Day

October 21

Growing in Faith

Prayer through Art & Contemplative Practice

October 28

Small Group Opportunities

Stay tuned for more information

November 4

Breaking Bread

Brunch sponsored by the Youth

November 11

Reaching Out

Various projects surrounding Veterans Day

November 18

Growing in Faith

Holiday Traditions and Practices

November 25

Extended Coffee Hour

Children of all ages are welcome at CONNECT each week. The nursery will remain open until 12:30pm for families who could benefit from that opportunity.

Stewardship: Gratitude Sunday, October 28

Members and friends of the church are invited to bring their 2019 financial pledges to worship on Sunday, October 28th, when we celebrate Gratitude Sunday, when we give thanks to God for all our blessings through the act of giving.

The theme for this year's Stewardship campaign is **Stepping Forward**, as we look forward to a new season in the life of the church, with ministry and programming changes, new faces on staff, and new energy and focus in our ministries and mission. There have been a lot of changes in the church this year, and we are excited to see these new seeds blossom as we seek to serve our members and our community.

Please bring your 2019 pledge card to church on Sunday, October 28th for Gratitude Sunday. You can also mail in

your pledge, make a pledge by calling the church office, or visit our website <https://fpccl.org/about-us/donate>.

Thank you for sharing your abundance with us!

Blessings,



Pastor Derek



Pastor Lindsay



Peggy Roberts, Moderator of Stewardship

ALL CHURCH PIZZA AND PUMPKINS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28 4:00pm-6:00pm

Join us for an afternoon of pumpkin carving, community building and pizza. We will meet (weather permitting) on the center lawn. Rain plan will be in the dining room. We will provide food, drinks and the tools for carving pumpkins.

We need you to BRING A PUMPKIN to carve, and a friend or two.
Please RSVP to Valerian: valerian@fpccl.org to help us provide enough food.





Advent is the season when we claim our longing for God's closeness and for a world made new. This Advent, through the theme

"Draw Near," we will affirm God has drawn near to us by taking on flesh and experiencing what it is to be human, cry out for God to draw closer to us and the broken places in the world, and commit to drawing near to God by leaning into wonder, justice, truth, and one another. Join us in worship this Advent as we draw near to God and the promise of a God who is with us and for us in all things.

Advent 1, Sunday, December 2

Draw Near to Wonder

8:30am and 10:00am
11:15am Breaking Bread

Advent 2, Sunday, December 9

Draw Near to Truth

8:30am and 10:00am
11:15am Reaching Out

Advent 3, Sunday, December 16

Draw Near to Justice

8:30am and 10:00am
11:15am Growing in Faith

Longest Night Service, Thursday, December 20

Draw Near to the Darkness

6:30pm (childcare provided)

Advent 4, Sunday, December 23

Draw Near to One Another

8:30am and 10:00am

Christmas Eve

Draw Near to Christ

5:00pm and 10:00pm (childcare provided)

Starting the week of November 25th, Advent devotional books will be available for pick-up. You may also sign up for daily devotionals at d365.org.

Blessing of the Animals: OCTOBER 6th

Saturday, October 6th at 5pm join us for Blessing of the Animals on the lawn of Forest Hill Church (3031 Monticello Blvd; Cleveland Heights). Bring your animals for this special time to pray and lift up the lives of our animal family members. This will be a joint event with Church of the Covenant, Fairmount Presbyterian and Forest Hill Church.



SERVING TOGETHER: NORTH CHURCH

A small group of volunteers are needed on Sundays in November from 9:30am to 1:00pm, to support the ministry and mission of North Presbyterian Church, a small, vibrant congregation serving the urban core of Cleveland. The men, women, and children at North Presbyterian offer joyful worship praise Sunday after Sunday, as they deal with issues related to poverty, mental illness, violence, and addiction. North shares its space with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, a social justice and advocacy ministry of Lutheran denominations in the Cleveland area. North enjoys partnerships with several suburban congregations of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve. Volunteers will worship with the community gathered and help prepare and serve the meal that takes place after worship. 6 to 8 volunteers are needed per Sunday. If you are interested, please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054DA9A82AA5FB6-november>.



TRUNK — OR — TREAT

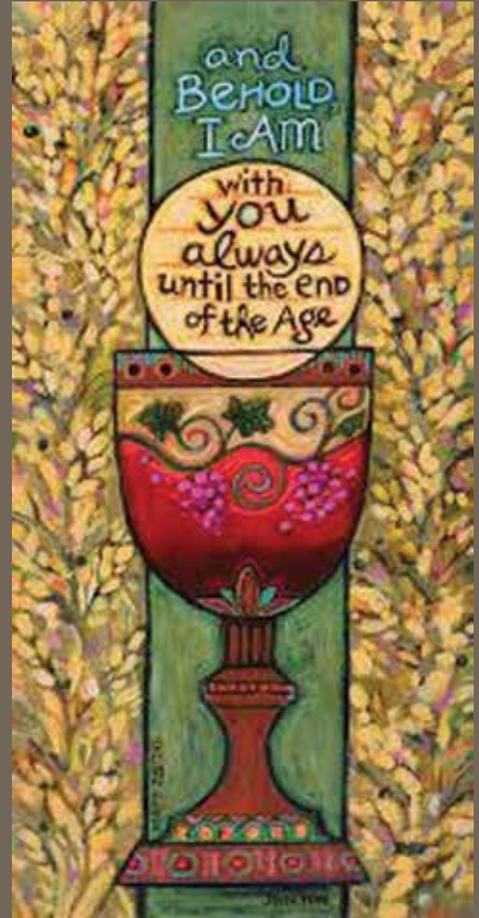
Decorate your trunk or just join us for the fun at Church of the Covenant's Trunk or Treat

Every year Church of the Covenant opens their parking lot for trunk or treating, hay rides, dinner and community. This year we are hoping to get folks from our Fairmount Family to join Church of the Covenant in the fun! Decorate your trunk, bring candy or bring kids to trunk or treat.

Saturday, October 27th, 6:00-8:00pm
Church of the Covenant
11205 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44106

We are also looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen and bring candy. Please contact Valerian: valerian@fpccl.org if you would like to help.

We will have a bin to collect wrapped Halloween candy on the stage of Andersen Hall October 7th through October 21st.



CONFIRMATION

OCTOBER

Sunday, 10/7, 12:00-1:15pm
 Baptism 101 – Youth and Mentors
 Join us for Breaking Bread at 11:15am

Sunday, 10/28, 11:15am-1:00pm
 Youth only, bagels provided
 How do we know and trust God?

NOVEMBER

Sunday, 11/04, 2:00-1:15pm
 Bible 101 – Youth and Mentors
 Join us for Breaking Bread at 11:15am

Sunday, 11/18, 11:15am-1:00pm
 Youth only, bagels provided
 What is sin and how do we turn from it?



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Club 4-to-5 will be meeting this month on **Friday, October 12th from 7:00pm-9:00pm** and **Friday, November 9th from 7:00pm-9:00pm**. Children will build community through devotions, community, and a whole lot of fun! If you are not on the email list or have questions please reach out to Valerian or Amy Kim.

Club 4-to-5 is an opportunity for younger youth to build community and learn from one another. All youth currently in grades 4 & 5 are welcome to participate.

YOUTH GROUP:

Sunday October 7th, House Church for both Middle & High School Youth

We will meet at Forest Hill Church at 4:30pm (3031 Monticello Blvd; Cleveland Heights) to carpool with youth and adults from Forest Hill Church, Church of the Covenant, and Fairmount. We will travel to a lake house to enjoy dinner, worship and community. We will return to the FPC parking lot at 8:30pm. Wear layers and bring a friend.



OCTOBER YOUTH GROUP NIGHT

Youth Group Night will be meeting this month on Sunday, October 28th from 4:00pm-6:00pm for middle schoolers and 6:00pm-8:30pm for high schoolers. Youth will build community through devotions, community, and play! Young people are encouraged to invite a friend or four! All are welcome. Groups will be led by Pastors Derek and Lindsay, and Amy Kim and Valerian. If you are not on the email list or have questions please reach out to Valerian or Amy Kim.

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 provide a healthy snack halfway through the evening.

Parents Night Out Dates for the year are as follows:

October 12, November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12 and May 10.

Please go to the events tab of the website: www.fpccl.org to link to the sign-up and yearly medical release forms. Each month the evening will be limited to 20 children so sign up soon!

Contact Amy Kim and Valerian if you have any questions about this opportunity.

Volunteers are always welcome to contact Amy Kim or Valerian to sign up to help. Every volunteer must be background checked prior to helping out. Thank you!

QUESTIONS? REACH OUT TO VALERIAN@FPCCLE.ORG OR AMYKIM@FPCCLE.ORG

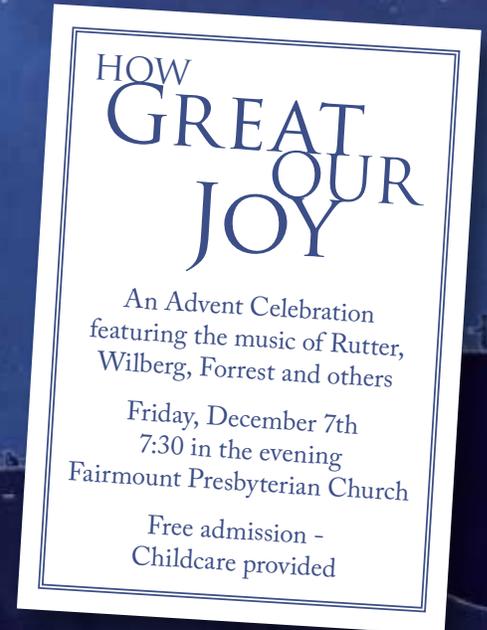


SING CHOIRS OF ANGELS! SING IN EXULTATION!

Advent is the perfect opportunity to “join the mighty chorus” – as *Joyful, Joyful* would have it – and it’s almost here. Advent music will bring special meaning to your holiday. On **Friday, December 7th at 7:30pm** the Adult Choir as well as musicians from the community will be presenting “**How Great Our Joy**” – a concert featuring a range of music from familiar carols to beautiful anthems you’ve never heard before.

Rehearsals will kick off October 4th at 7:30pm. We will listen to the repertoire and schedules will be distributed – no commitment is necessary to come and enjoy a preview of the beautiful, expectant music ahead. Invite neighbors and others you know who love music but may not have a church home of their own. No experience needed. God is always singing through his servants. **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!**

Contact Leah (lwyman@fpcclle.org) with any questions about getting involved, or just show up – Oct. 4 at 7:30 in the Choir Room!



FAIRMOUNT CHOIR

"Come, Sing with Joy to God!" Adult Choir practices Thursday evenings from 7:30pm-9:00pm in the Choir Room. Fairmount has a rich tradition of singing quality choral music, and this season we'll be exploring worshipful music from a variety of times, genres and styles. The Fairmount Choir performs on Sunday mornings during the 10:00am worship service and for several other events throughout the year.

The ability to match pitch is helpful, but no formal experience is necessary - we'll provide support in part-learning and confidence building. It's a wonderful opportunity to release the stress of the week, enjoy fellowship, and encourage one another with truth through music. Questions? Contact Leah Wyman, Artistic Director, at lwyman@fpcclle.org or through the church office.

CRESCENDO CHOIR

Crescendo Choir for children 1st-7th grade rehearses Thursday nights 5:15pm-6:30pm. Dinner is included. Email Barb Lang at blang@fpcclle.org to sign up for emails and to get more information.

Rewards: spiritual growth, community involvement, friendship, confidence, musicianship, develop a good singing voice, vocal and instrumental ensemble experience, and FUN!

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE FPC COMMUNITY...

Come join in our DRUM CIRCLE!

October 28, 11:15am
CONNECT

Small Group Sunday

Drum Circles are created to:

- Have fun
- Allow for self expression
- Reduce stress
- Promote social interaction and community building
- Exercise the mind, body, and spirit
- Promote camaraderie and support
- Provide a multi-generation family activity
- Develop key musical skills: such as rhythmicity, improvisation, and ensemble playing



Instruments will be provided.

No prior musical experience is necessary.

All ages and levels of ability are welcome!

Parents, please attend with your children.

Questions? Contact Barb Lang at blang@fpcclle.org.



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October/November Featured Composer



Our featured composer during the month of October and the Faith/Politics series is Mark Miller. Mark is an Associate Professor of Church Music and Composer In Residence at Drew University in Madison NJ, and is a Lecturer in the Practice of Sacred Music at Yale University. The trademark

of Mark's anthems are a combination of resonant lyrics with soulful melodies, as well as relevant and poignant themes of social justice and need in our world. His compositions are sung in churches of every denomination. Mark resides in Plainfield, New Jersey, with his partner of 24 years, Michael Murden and their two children, Alyse and Keith.

Over the coming weeks, the choir and soloists will highlight his work with four relevant anthems. The Gospel ballad

Child of God comes to a powerful climax: "There is no thing, or no one, that can separate you from the truth that you're someone - you are family; you are meant to be a child of God." *Roll Down, Justice!* is a call for justice made with honesty, courage and conviction. *I Choose Love*, written in response to the tragic events that occurred at Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015, is a testament to the power of forgiveness and peace. In the midst of pain, of war, of brokenness... we choose love. We choose community. In *I Believe*, the sentiment of the anonymous Jewish poem text — written in WWII Europe — springs forth with inspiration and sends thoughts toward hope. "I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining..." We are thrilled to perform the worshipful, reverent, relevant music of this gifted composer and hope that it resonates with the listener as much as Mark Miller's work has inspired us.