



# FAIRMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN Church

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



## Pastor's Note

At first, I thought it was a coincidence, but by the thirtieth pair of colorful socks, I knew something was up. Apparently a passing comment at a staff meeting about my wanting to wear more fun socks led to the 'sock it to the pastor' campaign, a campaign that reminded me of three things:

### **It feels good when people take notice of what you're asking for.**

Take notice of what someone in your life is asking for. It may be a friend, or a familiar clerk at the market, or someone at work. Whoever it is, notice what they are asking for and then do your best to help them get what they need. Your intentionality will go a long way to communicate to them just how much they are loved.

### **Deciding to do one thing makes other decisions easier.**

Once I committed to wearing fun socks all the time, something interesting happened: I stopped worrying about my socks matching, which freed up several minutes each day. What could you commit to that would make other decisions easier? Perhaps it is attending worship more consistently or setting aside time every morning to meditate or pray. It could be a commitment to read every day, or join a small group, or engage in an activity that feeds your soul. You can't do everything, but you can commit to something.

### **A concerted effort by a few people can make an impact in someone's life.**

It may sound silly, but with every pair of fun socks I received, I felt more and more loved. What might God be calling you and a few others to do, together, to make a difference in someone's life? Where can you and some of your friends make a concerted effort to make an impact on the life of another?

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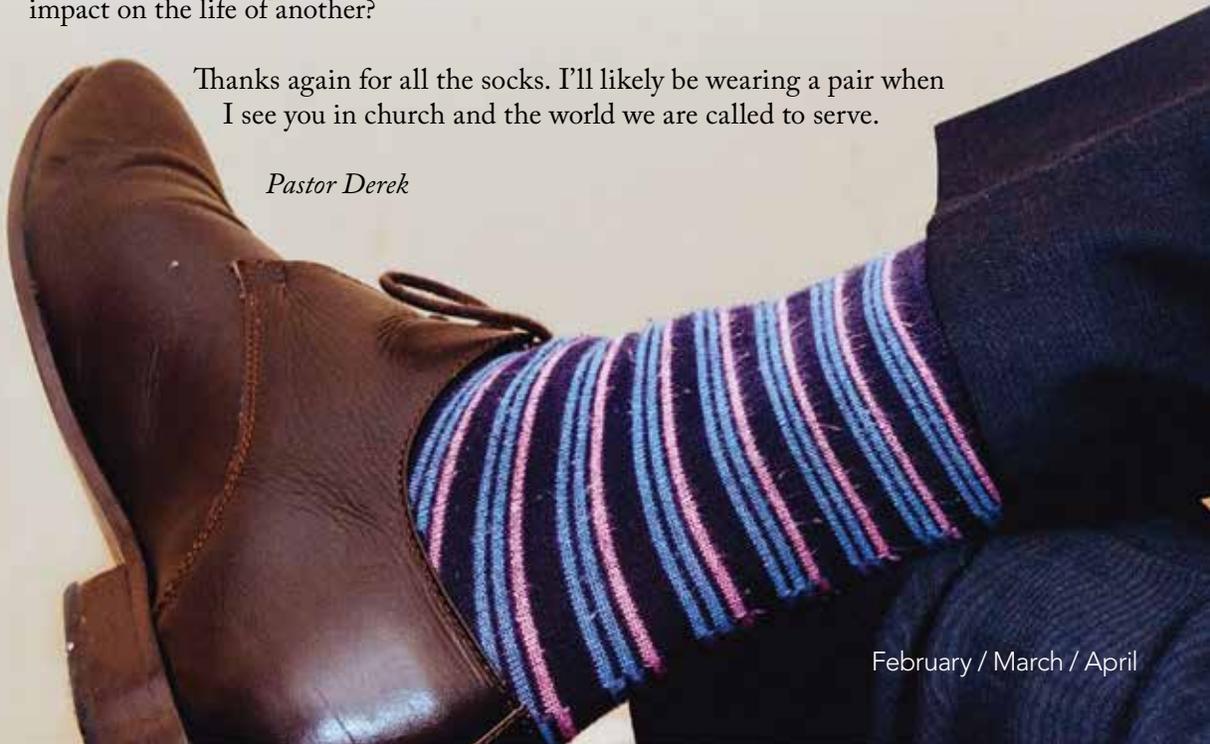
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Thanks again for all the socks. I'll likely be wearing a pair when I see you in church and the world we are called to serve.

*Pastor Derek*



# Lenten Prayer Centers



During Lent you will find a variety of self-guided opportunities to take some time to be in God's presence, to reflect, pray and even create. These centers can take anywhere from one minute to an hour...it is all up to you. All centers are meant for all ages, and we encourage families to experience them together.

These centers will be available through Lent during times the church is open, unless there is a specific event or meeting in the space of one of the centers. Centers can be found by looking for the posted lavender signs. Each week of Lent a new prayer center will be added, so come more than once to experience something new.

During Holy Week the Labyrinth will be set up in the Chapel for you to utilize. We hope that you will take some time to come and be filled during this time.

## Looking for a daily devotional?

Copies of *THESE DAYS* daily devotional can be found throughout the church. Amy Kim can also direct you to some wonderful online devotionals. During Lent we will once again have the daily remind text prompts. Email Amy Kim, amykim@fairmountchurch.org, to be added to this list. **Look in Andersen Hall for Lenten Devotionals for all-ages.**

### Ash Wednesday: February 14th

6:00pm Community Meal  
6:30pm Worship in the Chapel



## HOLY WEEK

### Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 25th

Palm Sunday we will have worship at 8:30am and 11:00am. All children and parents are invited to join us in the narthex at the beginning of the service for the procession with palm branches.

### Maundy Thursday, Thursday, March 29th

Join us for worship for all ages at 6:30pm in Andersen Hall.

### EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sunday, April 1st**  
**9:00am & 11:00am**

Easter brings festive music for brass, organ and choir.

### The Easter Egg Hunt

will be on Easter Sunday, April 1st, between the services from 10:00am-10:45am, with a continental breakfast. Starting March 4th, you can help us fill eggs by picking up a bag of empty eggs and filling them with wrapped candy. This year we will also need golden eggs filled with small toys/prizes for those who have allergy concerns. Please contact Amy Kim with questions about this event.





# Session's Annual Retreat

Every member of the Session, along with staff Derek Starr Redwine, Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks and Sarah Kok, gathered on Saturday, January 27, at Tern Point on Lake Erie, with Elder Ellen M. Roberts serving as host for Session's Annual Retreat. In addition to enjoying food and fellowship, the Session:

- Heard inspirational statements of faith from the newest Session members: Steve Minter, Brian Perkins, Christina Seekely, and Vanessa Whiting.
- Engaged in a some "Design Thinking," and identified *Community Engagement* and *Spiritual Growth* as the desired outcomes for all who participate in the ministries of the church. The outcomes were then applied to the conversation regarding the ideal Sunday morning schedule.
- Set the summer schedule of worship: one service at 10:00am from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with outdoor worship on the first Sunday of the month, worship in July taking place in the chapel, and communion every Sunday.
- Discussed the format of the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 6, with no 8:30am worship, breakfast at 9:30am, a meeting from 10:00am to 10:45am in Andersen Hall, and worship at 11:00am.
- Received a report on the 2017 Budget and 2018 Stewardship Campaign.
- Identified priorities for 2018 that included identifying the Sunday morning schedule that best supports the current vision and values of the church, and the successful integration of new staff.
- Discussed the vision for Fairmount's music ministry.



*Back row, left to right: Ellen M. Roberts, Rick Smith, Bourbon Zeigler, Cherie Parsons, Steve Minter and Steve Ekeberg  
Front row, left to right: Walter Cha, Hallie Stewart, Vanessa Whiting, Ginger Van Wagenen, Stephanie Washblock, Christina Seekely and Brian Perkins*

- Received an update on the pending sale of the former manse.
- Reviewed the Christmas services, with a focus on the time of the services.
- Elected Officers of the Corporation: Rick Smith, President; Ginger Van Wagenen, Vice President; Bourbon Zeigler, Secretary/Clerk; and Matt Hruby, Treasurer.

Prior to the meeting, the Session also received an update from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. As of January, the APNC has received over one hundred applications that range from seminary students to pastors with years of diverse experience. The committee is scheduling in-

depth interviews and is excited about meeting with candidates. They asked for our prayers.

At their meeting in January, The Presbytery of the Western Reserve (PWR) chose to follow the leads of the Sessions of Fairmount Presbyterian, Old Stone Presbyterian, and the Church of the Covenant by voting overwhelmingly to draft and send a resolution to Ohio Senators expressing the PWR's opposition to House Bill 233 that reduces the penalty for individuals who carry loaded, concealed weapons into designated 'safe spaces.' The resolution adopted used the wording of the one adopted by FPC's Session at their meeting on November 1, 2017.



*Left to right: Rev. Derek Starr Redwine, Karen Dakin, Jake Ezell, Assa Boudwin, Em Ezell, Brendan Pham and Walter Ginn*

## Assa Boudwin: A Refugee Progress Report

When Assa Boudwin arrived in Cleveland 13 months ago, he knew little English, couldn't pay rent, depended on government benefits to purchase food, clothing, sundries, to get healthcare, and he had a bad cataract in one eye which limited his reading/writing ability.

Today, Assa has a full-time job with benefits, including excellent healthcare, a nicely furnished, cozy apartment, on a main bus route, a computer and cellphone, no cataract, a temporary driver's license, and an ability to converse well in English. This "transformation" would not have been possible without the incredible support of so many FPC members.

While Assa has made huge progress and is substantially independent, he often struggles in a community and country that is especially complex. Assa has no family nearby to help and support him, though he has a small group of friends. So as Assa deals with daily living decisions, our support can still be of enormous benefit to him, do much to enhance his quality of life, and help him to better manage the challenges in his new country.

Areas where Assa can use some help include money management, cooking (food and ingredients in U.S. grocery stores are quite different than in the Congo), computer skills, English (particularly writing and reading), shopping (until Assa gets his driver's license and a car, Assa's mobility, particularly in winter, is limited), navigating the healthcare system (how to select doctors and order/purchase prescriptions), and preparing his tax return.

If you would like to help Assa in any of these areas, call him (216-612-2782). But before calling Assa, contact a Refugee Task Force member (such as Walter Ginn) or Pastor Redwine and inform them of what you intend to do (to avoid duplicating support efforts). And finally, share your Assa experience with a note in Realm. Also use Realm to share your ideas and ask questions about Assa. Asante (thank you), as Assa would say in Swahili.



## REFUGEE MINISTRY PHASE 2: Fairmount to Partner with Catholic Charities

Fairmount Church's international refugee commitment advanced to the next phase when the Refugee Task Force decided to partner with Catholic Charities' Refugee and Immigration Services. "For more than 80 years, Catholic Charities has welcomed and helped assimilate more than 300 refugees annually in Greater Cleveland," said Walter Ginn from the Refugee Task Force.

Walter described the second phase which will take an increased volunteer commitment. "Before being assigned a refugee family by Catholic Charities, we will need to recruit and train a team of about 12 volunteers. Members of this Transition Team would greet the family at the airport and commit to meeting with them for one to two hours weekly for three months.

The required 3.5 hours of volunteer training from Catholic Charities will provide helpful refugee background information, teach best practices, and set clear boundaries and guidelines for the work. Following the three-month commitment, the Transition Team will complete their ministry with a wrap-up meeting to share lessons learned and give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve," Walter added.

"Once the volunteers are recruited and trained, and Fairmount is assigned a refugee family, the congregation will be asked to provide items for the family such as basic household supplies, furniture, and so forth. Expect an email from the church for this needed collection of refugee needs," Walter concluded.

"Partnering with a proven provider of refugee services, like Catholic Charities, will allow us to create meaningful, short-term mission opportunities for members and friends of the church, while providing much needed mentoring and support to families emigrating to the United States," said Pastor Derek. "If you are interested in joining a refugee transition team, please contact me. This is a great chance for members to serve a critical local ministry."

**"Partnering with a proven provider of refugee services, like Catholic Charities, will allow us to create meaningful, short-term mission opportunities for members and friends of the church..."**

*– Pastor Derek*

## UPDATE ON 2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Stewardship Committee would like to celebrate you for your generosity in 2017 and your commitments to 2018. You are truly living up to our theme for this year's pledge campaign: "Surrender & Gratitude." Thank you!!

Your gifts make a huge difference to the church and to the people served by our ministries and missions. In 2018, our total fundraising goal was \$743,000 in pledges. We have just surpassed that goal!

If you are one of the individuals or families who have yet to turn in a pledge for 2018, it is never too late. Please contact the church office (216.321.5800) or visit the "giving" page on our website ([www.fpccl.org](http://www.fpccl.org)) to enter your pledge electronically.

Thank you for reviewing this update. Engagement from each member on this important topic is essential to ensure the growth of our church over its next 100 years! If you have any questions about Stewardship, please call Peggy Roberts (216.268.9303) or talk with Pastor Derek.





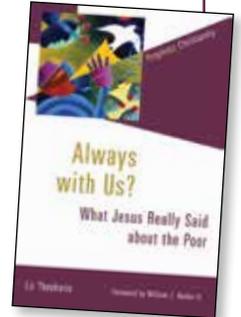
## Guest Preacher, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson



On March 4th we have the honor of having the Rev. Dr. J Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA), preach during both services. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from this dynamic and prophetic leader of our denomination.

## Always with Us? by Liz Theoharis – Adult Faith Formation in March

Join us as we read and discuss this book. In this book Liz Theoharis examines both the biblical text and the lived reality of the poor to show how that passage is taken out of context, distorted, and politicized to justify theories about the inevitability of inequality.



Theoharis reinterprets “the poor you will always have with you” to show that it is actually one of the strongest biblical mandates to end poverty. She documents stories of poor people themselves organizing to improve their lot and illuminates the implications for the church. Poverty is not inevitable, Theoharis argues. It is a systemic sin, and all Christians have a responsibility to partner with the poor to end poverty once and for all.

Book discussion will begin March 4th and run through March 25th.

## Parents Night Out

Once a month on the second Friday of the month, our Nursery Staff, along with some fantastic volunteers, staff this event from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the church for kids birth through 10 years of age, while you take time for yourself. Each night will be limited to 20 children, so please register today!



If you have older children that would like to come and help, please contact Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks, amykim@fairmountchurch.org.

To register, please go to [www.fpccl.org](http://www.fpccl.org) and click on the events page. Parents Night Out dates for the rest of the year are February 9th, March 9th, April 13th, and May 11th.

## Six Words

In 2006, *Smith* magazine founder Larry Smith launched a simple online challenge asking: Can you tell your life story in six words? To date, *Smith* magazine has recorded over 1 million (and counting) stories on [sixwordsmemoirs.com](http://sixwordsmemoirs.com). The Six-Word Memoir project has become a global phenomenon and a bestselling book series. Six-Word Memoirs have been featured on NPR, in *The New Yorker*, and, among other places, inside 1 million Honest Tea bottle caps. Now, we're asking Fairmounters to tell their life stories in six words. Youth Ministry will be tackling this during Lent and then will share the process with adults in April. The results will be displayed in May for all to share in the story.

## Faithful Lives Film Series

Below is the schedule of our 22nd year of the Faithful Lives Film Series.

All films start at 6:30pm. Pizza, popcorn and beverages are provided. Childcare is available with advanced notice from 6:00pm to 9:00pm through Parents Night Out. To register for childcare go to [www.fpccl.org](http://www.fpccl.org) and click on the events page.

- February 9th *Hacksaw Ridge*, Dr. Rob Hilton-facilitator
- March 9th *Of Gods and Men*, Pastor Derek Starr Redwine-facilitator
- April 13th *The Shack*, Susan Bookshar-facilitator
- May 11th Lee Daniel's *The Butler*, Dr. Kay McKenzie-facilitator
- June 8th *Man of The Year*, Geoff Barnes-facilitator



## YOUTH SCHEDULE

### Art Museum Tour: February 25th from 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Fairmount member Lara Mullen is offering a tour of the Cleveland Art Museum! The art work comes alive as you learn about its history and meaning, often hidden to the untrained eye! It's a great opportunity and a fun afternoon. We'll grab lunch in the Youth Room and leave from church after the 11:00am service.

### Breakfast with Stated Clerk Dr. J. Herbert Nelson: March 3rd

Join us from 9:00am-11:00am for community building, breakfast, and a discussion with our Stated Clerk, the Rev. Dr. J Herbert Nelson. Connect to other youth in the Presbytery while also learning about the work of the wider church.

### Middle School Youth Group: March 4th

A night for food, fellowship, faith, and fun! All 6th-8th graders are encouraged to meet from 5:30pm-7:30pm in the youth room!

### High School Youth Group: March 11th

Get together with Fairmount High Schoolers for a great night of youth group featuring food, games, and a chance to explore your faith.

### Good Friday Youth Group: March 30th

Dive into the story of Good Friday through worship and spiritual practice. We'll meet at church from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

### Bethany Hot Meals Ministry: April 13th

From 5:10pm-7:30pm we'll head to Bethany Presbyterian Church to take part in their community meal. Then from 7:30pm-9:30pm we'll be back at Fairmount for dinner and outdoor/night games.

### Youth Lock-In: April 20th from 7:00pm to 9:00am

Ever wondered what it's like to spend the night at church? Join Fairmount 6th-12th graders at our spring lock-in! We'll be playing games, having good food, creating, thinking, talking, and worshipping together!



## Sunday Morning Activities



Calling all 6th-12th graders: this Lent let's focus on faith! Reconnect with your spiritual side and explore what God is doing in your life through worship. Starting on February 18th, come to the youth room before worship starting at 9:50am, for breakfast snacks, hot chocolate and coffee, and a different topic/activity each day.

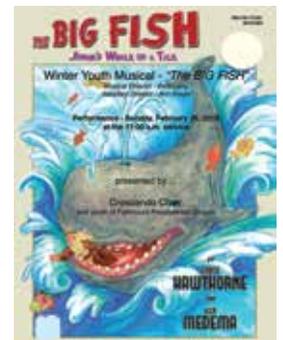
## PHOTO CIRCLE PHOTO CHALLENGE

This Lent all 6th-12th graders are invited to participate in a photo challenge. We'll be using the app PhotoCircle to share photos together and see the world through each others' eyes. Take some time to slow down and look for beauty in the world around you! Find information on how to join in the youth room.

## Crescendo Choir and Fairmount Youth Present: *The Big Fish*

Sunday, February 25th during the 11:00am Service

*The Big Fish* is the story of Jonah and the Whale, uniquely told through a "film-noir" style, like an old-fashioned detective movie. This new musical, written by Grace Hawthorne and music by Ken Medema, is a fresh approach on the Biblical story. Kids and adults alike will find both humor and truth in this creative production.





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## SOS (Sisterhood of Service)

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our group is now two years old, having more fun than ever.

We meet quarterly for fellowship over lunch.

Members provide service to the congregation and community by:

Keeping materials in the pew racks organized, providing rides to and from medical facilities for members who need to have procedures with sedation, collecting and donating convalescent equipment, collaborating with the Gathering Place and organizing annually a three part adult education series on mental health issues.

All single women and any other women wishing to join this fellowship are welcome.



## New Sanctuary Sound System

On behalf of the Admin Council, I am leading the initiative for a new sound system for the sanctuary, chapel and a couple of other critical areas of the Church. You'll be excited to know, we are making progress! We've already completed phase 1 which included a full consultation and recommendations and we are moving forward to phase 2, which includes an evaluation of the various systems we will be considering. I will keep everyone up-to-speed during the course of these next several months on our progress. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any specific questions by either finding me at church or emailing me at [mchevraux@hotmail.com](mailto:mchevraux@hotmail.com).

Sincerely,  
Mike Chevraux



## FPC Birthdays and Anniversaries

To respect individual privacy and in light of increasing privacy concerns, we will no longer be publishing the birthdays or anniversaries of members in our quarterly newsletter. Members are now encouraged to use our secure online database REALM to access this and other member information. You can also stop by Andersen Hall and view our Care Board, where you will find the names (names only) of all Fairmounters celebrating a birthday in the current month.