



# FAIRMOUNT

## PRESBYTERIAN Church

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

September 2021



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## Coming Home

Chickadees made their tiny home on my back porch this spring and then flew away. Their house sits empty, and the porch tomato plant wraps arounds the roof as summer goes on. Now I imagine they are the same birds visiting the feeder morning and evening singing their happy songs, but who really knows? I miss watching them go in and out of the house, the babies stretching toward food, and winged escape.

My children too are making their own homes in the world, away from me, yet sometimes drawn back when there is good food around. The youngest of the four will be a senior in college this year. The pandemic gave us the gift of more time under the same roof, at least it felt like a gift to me.

The meaning of home has been stretched for us all in these past seventeen months. Home has become work space and school, a place to enjoy a restaurant meal or to practice being a gourmet chef. Home has become the gym and the yoga studio, the temple and the sanctuary.

As we head into this fall, I don't know whether we will be spending more time at home or less, and how much this pandemic will affect the hope-filled plans we may have to get away from home or return to it. We are planning for in-person worship with communion at 8:30 and hybrid church at 11:00 am. Some of you will be coming to the Fairmount sanctuary, while others worship from home. During worship, we will consider what it means to "come home" to God and "come home" to ourselves.

We will also be challenged to provide homes for those in need through the Breaking New



*Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. —Matthew 8:20*

Ground Campaign of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry. This is a natural outgrowth of Fairmount's focus on youth, poverty and education. The need for safe and affordable housing in Cleveland cannot be overstated. Our commitment to provide a total of \$100,000 to this project is one expression of our identity as a Matthew 25 congregation, which means we are committed, along with other churches and presbyteries in our denomination, to actively work on congregational vitality while addressing structural racism and systemic poverty. This is a big task, but we are not alone. The God who accompanies us from our birth to our final homegoing will give us the strength and resiliency to fulfill this call.

I'm thankful to be sharing the spiritual home of Fairmount with you.

Pastor Jessie





## Looking for a good read around the theme of "home"?

*Check some of these books out!*

### CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- *The Little House*  
by Virginia Lee Burton
- *No Place Like Home*  
by Ronojoy Ghosh
- *If You Lived Here*  
by Giles Laroche
- *Home by Another Way*  
by Barbara Brown Taylor

### FICTION

- *The House of the Spirits*  
by Isabel Allende
- *The House on Mango Street*  
by Sandra Cisneros
- *Song of Solomon*  
by Toni Morrison
- *Home* by Marilynne Robinson
- *Little House on the Prairie*  
by Laura Ingalls Wilder

### SPIRITUALITY

- *Searching for Home*  
by M. Craig Barnes
- *Finding My Way Home*  
by Henri Nouwen
- *Dear Heart Come Home*  
by Joyce Rupp
- *Always a Guest*  
by Barbara Brown Taylor

### NON-FICTION

- *Shelter Theology: The Religious Lives of People without Homes*  
by Susan J. Dunlap
- *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*  
by Matthew Desmond
- *Coming Home: Christian Perspectives on Housing*  
by Graham Tomlin and Malcolm Brown

## Session Update

The Fairmount Session has been meeting over the summer and our August meeting was in person on the Chapel patio. Here are some highlights:

### JUNE

- Renewed Pastor Jessie's contract as Interim Pastor for one year, effective 9/1/21.
- Increased numbers for in-person meetings/events/worship to 50 in the Chapel and 200 in the Sanctuary per Re-Entry Task Force recommendations.
- Passed an updated Benevolence Policy and Application for Assistance from the Deacon's Fund.



### JULY

- Approved the Ministry Information Form to send to the Presbytery!

### AUGUST

- Re-instituted masking while inside the church building.
- Approved 8:30 am and 11:00 am times for Sunday worship during the program year.
- Approved updated Child/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policies and related forms.

## COVID-19 Update

In accordance with CDC guidelines, and in order to caretake for the most vulnerable in our community, we ask that you wear your mask at all times while inside the church building, with the exception of partaking in Communion. In the sanctuary every other pew is roped off to encourage physical distancing and we will be passing the peace from our seats. Thank you for helping us ensure the health and safety of all members of our community.

Sunday morning worship throughout the summer will be at 10 am, with communion each Sunday, and will be offered in person and online.

Beginning September 19th, Sunday worship will be held in person at 8:30 am in the Chapel with communion and 11:00 am in the sanctuary. The sanctuary worship will also be live-streamed and recorded. This schedule will allow adequate time for staff to prepare for a hybrid worship experience. Youth and adult faith formation will be held at 10 am as needed, and small group meetings are also possible during this time. Remember masks are requested inside the church building.





## Celebrate Sunday Sunday, September 12th



Join us for worship and a celebration on September 12 as we kick off the new program year! We will have worship at 11 am, both in person and live streamed, followed by a picnic outside. We will have a large tent with tables and chairs set up underneath it or you can bring your blanket to sit on the grass. There will be fried chicken and side dishes, a blessing of the backpacks, surprise FPC swag (it's good, we promise!), and desserts from Edwins on sale. We will also have a drive-thru option in case of inclement weather, or for those who are not comfortable attending in person. Visit <https://bit.ly/fpc-celebratesunday> to RSVP for Celebrate Sunday. We can't wait to see you there!

## Pastor Nominating Committee Update – August 5, 2021

We have reached a significant milestone in the process of Fairmount's pastoral search:

Our Ministry Information Form has been approved by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, formally kicking off our candidate search! Please continue to hold the PNC in prayer as we continue the work of discerning whom God is calling to serve as our next settled pastor.



AN UPDATE FROM THE  
Pastor Nominating  
Committee



## Online Sanctuary

**Are you unable to get to church?  
Do you miss your Fairmount  
community? Come worship with us in  
the Online Sanctuary!**

Peter and Brenda Horth will be hosting a Zoom worship meeting during the livestream on Sunday mornings, beginning with Celebrate Sunday. There will be time for greeting before and after worship as well. You will be able to find the Zoom link in our weekly e-news, or by contacting Brenda Horth at [brendamhorth@gmail.com](mailto:brendamhorth@gmail.com). She'd love to talk to you if you need technical help or have questions. We look forward to seeing you!

## Edwins Bake Sale – September 12

Fairmount has a missional focus of Youth, Poverty and Education, and is continually looking for ways to support local efforts in these areas. So, we are inviting you to a bake sale with Edwins Restaurant on September 12th after worship!

Edwins is a local leadership & restaurant institute that gives formerly incarcerated adults a foundation in the culinary and hospitality industry while providing a support network necessary for their long-term success. Students of this institute are not only equipped with basic culinary skills, but are also assisted with finding employment, and have the opportunity to utilize free housing, legal services, basic medical care, clothing, job coaching, literacy programs and more. There will be a variety of baked goods for sale, the proceeds of which will go to support Edwins Institute – stay tuned to our e-news and worship bulletin for more details!



# World Communion Sunday and Peace-making Offering

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our siblings around the world. Paul tells us that we are to “discern the body” when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our siblings in Christ in the celebration. Thus it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with those in need. A gift to this offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world.\* We hope that you will consider making a contribution to this offering. You can do this by:

1. Physical check made payable to Fairmount Presbyterian Church, with “Peacemaking Offering” in the memo line.
2. Cash donations brought to the church office/Welcome Center, Monday through Friday from 9 am to 1 pm, for which you will be given a receipt.
3. Using our online giving form: <https://onrealm.org/FairmountPresby/give/now>

*\*from the PC(USA) website*

## Congregational Care

As we continue through life in pandemic, we have found that our fellow church members have gone through an incredible number of struggles and joys in their lives. The burdens we carry often largely go unseen by others, and because of that seem to get pushed to the side. Maybe you’ve lost someone, or received a troubling diagnosis for yourself or someone you love. Maybe there has been a change in marital status, job or a child’s health. It’s important that we listen to and look out for one another in Christian community, and offer help where we can.

Through our Deacons, there are teams of people at the church who are working to plan for and provide care for members and friends of our congregation. We are looking for Flock Tenders who will have an informal individual conversation, typically by phone, with approximately 10 individuals, twice a year, to check in with folks and help them know that their church community cares about them. We are also gathering a group of people to discern whether we are ready to relaunch Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministry is a ministry that organizes, equips, and supervises a team of congregation members—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. **Please let Pastor Lindsay know if you are interested in giving or receiving care in any of these ways.**

Pastor Jessie and Pastor Lindsay are also available for confidential conversations, check-ins, and pastoral care. Do not hesitate to contact them! ([jmacmillan@fpccl.org](mailto:jmacmillan@fpccl.org), 216-321-5800 ext. 115; [lindsayhl@fpccl.org](mailto:lindsayhl@fpccl.org), 216-321-5800 ext. 105).

## Faith Formation

- Thursday Morning Bible Study to Resume in September at 9:00 am! Contact Pastor Jessie if you would like to receive the weekly Zoom link for this one-hour Bible discussion on passages from the Acts of the Apostles. All are welcome.
- Fall New Member Class: we will be holding new member classes this fall both virtually and in person. The time commitment is approximately three hours spread out in two sessions. Please contact Pastor Jessie if you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of Fairmount. [jmacmillan@fpccl.org](mailto:jmacmillan@fpccl.org)





## Fairmount Presbyterian Church Welcomes Dr. Joshua Bennett

**A WILLIAM BIRKETT WILLIAMS EVENT**  
**Save the Date! Sunday, October 3rd at 4:00pm**



Fairmount Presbyterian Church, as part of the William Birkett Williams Memorial Lecture series, presents Dr. Joshua Bennett, Professor of English and Creative Writing at Dartmouth College.

Dr. Joshua Bennett is the author of four books of poetry and criticism: *The Sobbing School* (Penguin, 2016)—winner of the National Poetry Series and a finalist for an NAACP Image Award—as well as *Being Property Once Myself* (Harvard University Press, 2020), *Owed* (Penguin, 2020), and *The Study of Human Life* (Penguin, 2022). Earlier this year, Joshua received a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Whiting Award for Poetry and Nonfiction. He lives in Massachusetts with his wife and son, Pam and August, and their family dog, Apollo 5.

## Meet the Munyazesa Family

The Fairmount Presbyterian Refugee Team (made up of 14 hardy FPC members) was introduced to the Munyazesa family in late Fall 2018 by representatives of Catholic Charities that sponsored the family's resettlement in Cleveland.

The family, consisting of two parents and six children ranging in age from 6 to 20, had come from living 20 years in an African refugee camp. The Refugee Team's commitment was to mentor the family for 3-6 months, based on what the family, Catholic Charities and the Refugee Team identified as the family's greatest needs.

Identifying the lack of essential household items and furnishings as a priority, the team set up a Giving Tree in Anderson Hall which resulted in more than 30 members contributing many critical items, including vacuum cleaners, pots and pans, dishes, cleaning supplies, etc. Cleaning and the use of cleaning products was another critical need for which the Refugee Team members were very qualified to provide guidance. Learning English was important to every family member, and we used a variety of tools and methods to work on that. There was an ongoing need for furniture/home fixing and

repair. A highlight for everyone was a trip on a gloomy Saturday in February to the Aquarium.

Although the six-month mentoring commitment ended in Spring 2019, several team members remained involved with the family to help with discrete activities and projects. These included a move to a better located apartment, and assistance with beds and bedding at their third residence. Thank you to several church members and a member of the Presbytery for hand making quilts for the family! The team members also contributed to a burial marker for one son who was tragically killed in a carjacking. They helped in getting another son involved in a soccer league, and in driving the four school-aged kids to summer school activities this summer. Most recently, they helped to work out school arrangements for the four school-age children in connection with the reopening of the local schools. The pandemic created



new challenges for the Munyazesa family and intensified existing challenges. The ongoing support of the team members and FPC enhanced the family's ability to navigate in these uncertain times.



A joy for everyone on the Team was the resounding level of appreciation that our efforts were met with and the resilience that the family exhibited in spite of the many setbacks that they faced. We look forward to continuing to be in relationship with this remarkable family!

*Written by Walter Ginn*



## LITTLE FREE PANTRY

*Written by Marin Hunter with support from the FPC Youth Group*

Hello FPC friends and family. The FPC Youth Group has some information and updates regarding our Little Free Pantry (LFP), located by the back parking lot. First, we would like to thank everyone who has donated for your generosity; it is much appreciated and certainly needed! For those of you who are not familiar with the pantry, it is a small structure that houses food, toiletries, and more for any who needs it. The pantry is kept in stock because of the donations so many of our community give! Throughout the pandemic, we have held several small food collections, primarily at drive-thru communion. We received so many donations at these collections, that we found the need for an additional storeroom to hold any food or supplies we receive.

Recently the FPC Youth Group came together to organize this room and transfer the extra donations there. Our next steps will likely include creating a bin people can leave donations in at

The youth group has identified a list of items that are currently greatly needed for the pantry:

- Soap
- Instant cereals
- Lunchbox snacks (snack packs, granola bars, fruit snacks, etc.)
- Toilet paper
- Feminine products
- Personal care items (e.g. deodorant)
- Diapers (for all ages)
- Baby products (e.g. formula, snacks, or food)

any time, hosting more collections, and continuing to maintain and organize the pantry and its new stockroom. As we take these new steps, we hope for your continued support and donations.

We would like to reiterate that we cannot accept fresh or perishable items at this time. This means we are not able to accept donations such as fruit,



vegetables, bread, or milk. If such items are given, they will be thrown away or will not be accepted. We do not accept opened items (food or personal care items, such as toothbrushes) in the pantry and its stockroom; all items must be sealed. Any items that could be used for harm, such as razors, cannot be accepted. Expired food should not be donated to the pantry, nor should items such as toys, pamphlets, or books.

Once again, we appreciate your continued support. If you would like to assist with the pantry, you can sign up on our website ([fpcclle.org](http://fpcclle.org)).

## Children's Ministry

Over the summer, the children of Fairmount have been continuing their Worship Enrichment time through online videos with Miss Chris. We have also had the opportunity to meet in person during some of our Outdoor Worship Services!

Children of Fairmount were able to participate in our 2nd Annual Virtual Compassion Camp, which focused on the theme "Loving Kindness". Children meet with Miss Chris over a 3 week course where families meet on Zoom to discuss each week's theme. We all shared stories, bible verses, and songs to accompany each focus of the lesson. Throughout each week of camp, children were encouraged to participate in online activities provided on our website, as well as engage with the at-home activities given to each family at the beginning of camp. It was a blessing to have our families participate and join together!

**This fall, beginning on SEPTEMBER 19, Worship Enrichment will be a live Zoom meeting beginning at 10:00 am.** We had so much fun getting to see each other over the course of Compassion Camp, that we would like to continue connecting with each other as best we can during the pandemic. Miss Chris will host our virtual WE time with bible stories, song, prayer and activities. All are encouraged to attend and connect with our Children of Fairmount. For more information please contact Chirs Fader at [cedirector1@fpcclle.org](mailto:cedirector1@fpcclle.org).

Miss Chris will send out the Zoom link to all families and members of the Fairmount Community who wish to participate. We are looking forward to starting our Fall season together!



# FPC Youth Summer of Service Recap

When I started in March, I sought out conversations with FPC parents of youth (6th – 12th grade) and listened for what they hope to see in FPC Youth programs. The top request I received was more service opportunities. Especially after a hard year of pandemic trauma and disconnection, and its impact on our economy and local systems of support, everyone was keenly aware of the greater need in our community.

There are perhaps few better ways for adolescents to learn about God's love than through acts of service. Serving our earth and its people without judgment or expectation is essential to developing young faith and fostering connection with diverse people and places.

And so, we developed the 2021 Summer of Service program. Given that the prospect of national or international service trips were grounded, we needed to find and create local opportunities to serve. Here's what FPC youth accomplished from May to August 2021:

- Collected non-perishable foods and personal care items for the Little Free Pantry
- Lifted boxes into trunks for people who need assistance with groceries at the FPC community Cleveland Food Bank distribution event
- Picked up waste and recyclables scattered across the beach at Edgewater Park
- Stocked and organized the new Little Free Pantry stock room at Fairmount (located in the Mimeograph Room)
- Assembled lunches for Habitat for Humanity construction workers and learned all about the work they do in Greater Cleveland
- Hosted a School Supply Drive to collect essential items for students and educators in the Cleveland Heights Public School District

FPC pre-teens and teens have so much energy, great spirits, mixed talents, and overwhelmingly a willingness to do good in our world. I was impressed at every project how volunteers showed up ready to complete the work, get to know one another, and laugh along the way.



Be sure to say THANK YOU when you see any of our youth who participated in a Summer of Service project: Bobby Berglund, Emelia Chevraux, Nora Chevraux, Jackson Fowler, Marin Hunter, Caroline Lamb, Emily Lamb, Olivia Nordstrom, Ash (Meredith) Pope, Blake Richer, Ethan Roberts, Molly Roberts, and Taplin Seelbach.



@fairmountyouth

I look forward to more opportunities for service, faith formation, and friendship this fall. Throughout the summer Pastors Jessie and Lindsay have been asking questions like "What do you need?" and "Where does it hurt?" Youth can help not only people and organizations outside of our faith family, but also within it. If you need help with a project, such as weeding in your garden or cleaning out a loved one's attic, let me know. Our youth are always looking for opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others.

*"Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

(Galatians 6:2)

Grateful to carry and be carried,  
Kate McFadden, Director of Youth & Adult Faith Formation  
[kate@fpccl.org](mailto:kate@fpccl.org)

## MUSIC AT FAIRMOUNT

Fairmount Presbyterian Church is pleased to offer exciting musical events in the coming months. Firstly, we are happy to announce the return of the Adult Choir to FPC starting in September! In view of the uncertainty regarding the future of the COVID Pandemic, we have decided to adopt a flexible approach to the choir. Rehearsals will be held on a weekly basis and will focus on preparing a major program for Blue Christmas. Choir members who are comfortable, are invited to sing at weekly Sunday service. This plan will allow us to implement any necessary changes that can arise due to modified CDC health guidelines.

In addition to the adult choir, there are several music performances to look forward to. These include an organ(!) recital in November, and a piano recital in October. Finally, we hope to share the choir's musical talents during Blue Christmas featuring movements of Mozart's *Requiem* with orchestral accompaniment. For more information, please contact our Interim Artistic Director/Organist, Konrad Binienda at [konradb@fpccl.org](mailto:konradb@fpccl.org), or 216-321-5800 x 135.







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## KEEPING CONNECTED WITH FAIRMOUNT



### Weekly Emails from Fairmount

Fairmount sends out our Sunday Worship Invite, worship reminders, special event announcements, spiritual messages, and church administration information through email. Are you receiving these weekly emails? If not, or if the primary email you are using has changed, contact Christine, [cwinters@fpcclle.org](mailto:cwinters@fpcclle.org), so that you can Keep Connected with Fairmount!

### Visit Fairmount - Online! [www.fpcclle.org](http://www.fpcclle.org)

We recently redesigned the Fairmount website. At [www.fpcclle.org](http://www.fpcclle.org), you can find our Sunday online worship and learn about our ministry, missions and upcoming events. You will also find several online forms where you can ask to be connected to a pastor, make a prayer request, ask a question, and reach out for help. The home page also has direct links to connect to our Realm site, our Facebook page, our YouTube Channel, and our Instagram account.

### Google Our Church!

Google Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Cleveland Heights. You will find general information about our church, a link to our website, and our Google Map. Need to help a friend find Fairmount? Share our Google Map and Google listing! Stop by and leave us a review!

## CONTACT OUR STAFF

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