



FAIRMOUNT

PRESBYTERIAN Church

www.fpcclle.org

Following Christ | Growing in Faith | Serving Together | Caring for All

FALL 2021



Coming Home

We had a joyous Celebrate Sunday on September 12th, and it was so fun to see a fuller sanctuary and a beautiful side lawn with Fairmounters enjoying Popeye's chicken, side dishes and baked goods from Edwins. We're also grateful for those who joined us online during worship, extending the sanctuary from Fairmount Boulevard out into the community. Our prayers continue to be with all the children, parents, and personnel during this new and challenging school year. May there be nurture and safety in our homes, our schools and our communities.

Our next fellowship event will be a Harvest Home Festival to cap off Gratitude Sunday on October 24th. On this day we will be giving thanks for God's generosity to us and our faithful response. We plan to be outside after the 11:00am worship service to enjoy Cheesy Dave's Food Truck, another Edwin's Bake Sale, creative home-themed activities for children, youth and adults. We will also have a professional photo booth for individuals and families to get their holiday season photo for free (you might want to use that on your 2021 Christmas card!).

Note several opportunities for adult and youth faith formation in this issue. Coming home to God involves growing in our faith and commitment to doing justice in the world. I'm grateful to be sharing a spiritual home with all of you.

Peace,

Pastor Jessie

jmacmillan@fpcclle.org

Come On Home

We all know the feeling—
the shaky ground,
sinking sand,
water-is-rising,
sun-is-fading feeling
that makes steady breathing
an entire miracle,
and holding back tears
a marvel in and of itself.
And when those days come,
I call my parents.
And I call my church,
and I call my friends,
and they say in unison
what God has said
from the very beginning,
which is, "Come on home."
Is there anything more healing
than an open door?
If you're seeking sanctuary,
if the waters are rising—
listen.
It may be hard to hear,
but God is always saying,
"Come on home."
Written by: Rev. Sarah Speed
sanctifiedart.org



Join us, Harvest Home Festival at Fairmount!

Sunday, October 24, 12-1:30pm

We will have creative home-themed activities for youth, children, and adults and a professional photo booth. Enjoy Cheesy Dave's Food Truck and another Edwin's Bake Sale. This is a great fellowship opportunity, so come and hang out with your church family and enjoy the gifts fall has to offer.



Music at Fairmount

Sunday, October 10, 3:30pm

Fairmount Presbyterian is proud to host the Duffy Liturgical (DuffyLit) Dance Ensemble for a second time. We welcome anyone who is willing to attend or watch live on Sunday, October 10 at 3:30pm.

The mission of the DuffyLit Dance Ensemble is to research, preserve and perform the American Negro Spiritual and to educate the community about this art form. Their classes and performances inform audiences about the influence the Spiritual and its refractions (blues, gospel, jazz) have had on social change, social justice and the cultural development of the United States of America.

Children and youth who attend classes at DuffyLit Studio develop respect, self esteem and garner pride in their American Cultural Heritage. DuffyLit is dedicated to improving the quality of life through performance of the Spiritual and application to everyday life of its universal message of faith, hope, optimism, and perseverance.

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Conversation

Wednesday, October 13, 6:30pm

We are excited to welcome Marcella Brown, Vice President for Development & Communications of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, on Wednesday, October 13 at 6:30pm for a Zoom conversation! She will be talking about the ministries of LMM, as well as giving a presentation about their Breaking New Ground Campaign. Come to hear more about this incredible project and to ask any questions you might have about it. Zoom details to come in the E-News and bulletin prior to the event.

Americans Making Immigrants Safe (AMIS)

Sunday, October 17, 9:45am

Attorney Brian Hoffman and Anne Hill will make a presentation on immigration. Brian will speak about the law and what is happening now with immigration reform. Anne will talk about the local work with Heights Friends of Immigrants and AMIS.

Q&A period to follow.

All are welcome, and this event will also be available to participate in virtually. Zoom link to follow in e-news and bulletin prior to the event.

Cleveland Ecumenical Institute for Religious Studies

For 30 years, the Cleveland Ecumenical Institute for Religious Studies (CEIRS) has provided sophisticated courses in Christian theology across both orthodox and liberal ideologies. Covering broad themes including art, history, and practical approaches to cultivating human spirituality, there is a CEIRS course for every Christian seeker.

Courses are taught by theologians from Northeast Ohio and beyond, representing thought leadership and a wide breadth of experiences across Christian denominations. CEIRS courses are affordable, accessible, and open to anyone who'd like to deepen their spirituality, form their faith, and invite the challenge of new ideas. There are no prerequisites, no examinations, and no written assignments. Instead, students will find great learning and camaraderie.

At CEIRS you will encounter outstanding local teachers and professors, as well as nationally known speakers, who teach on a myriad of topics: Biblical Studies, Spirituality, Ethics, Comparative Religions, and Theology and Culture.

Fairmount Presbyterian Church is one of the CEIRS church partners across the Greater Cleveland area, providing support and making it possible to keep the cost of CEIRS courses affordable.

Fall 2021 Classes

- **"Novel" Approaches to Religious Themes in Fiction**, Rev. Donald Cozzens, Ph.D., 4 Wednesdays: October 6, 13, 20, 27, 2021
- **Gratefulness: The Heart of Prayer**, Wayne Simsic, M.A., 6 Mondays: October 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021

Visit <https://ceirs.org> to learn more about the Fall Schedule and to register for the individual classes.

Living Well Through the End of Life



presented by
Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams
Sunday, November 7, Noon

Living well through all the phases of our life is of utmost importance. Yet our culture does all of us a great disservice by emphasizing youthfulness at the cost of the aged, and completely avoids anything dealing with the death of the body. Only when we embrace the fullness of life can we fully live through each part of our earthly journey. We will be focusing on pragmatic and spiritual issues regarding preparing for the end of life. *Materials will be provided for starting the conversation in your family and preparing a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare.*

Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams is a Spiritual Care Coordinator with Hospice of the Western Reserve. He first came to Cleveland from seminary in 1989 as Interim Associate Pastor for the Old Stone Church, and has since served OS as a Parish Associate, Wedding Officiant, and Gap Pastor. He has served as Interim Pastor for three other churches in the Cleveland area, and Gap Pastor for Lyndhurst Presbyterian. He has been a guest lecturer at CWRU, CCF and UH, having spoken nationally and internationally on such topics as Spirituality & Medicine, Healing Touch and Cultural Diversity. He is also an artist and trained vocalist, annually singing at Park Synagogue for the High Holy Days Choir. Pastor Stephen and his husband, Bruce, have been together 28 years, residing in Cleveland Heights, and are grateful for marriage equality.

Watch our website, www.fpccl.org, for additional details and registration.

A Prelude to Advent

Beginning November 28th

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Our theme: *Close to Home* acknowledges the "already but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

This year, Advent begins on November 28th. Join us as we come together in worship to explore these themes together. And back by popular demand – Advent boxes! Stay tuned for more details about how to pick up a box for your home that will be filled with items and devotional materials to help you celebrate the season.

Flock Tending

In the coming weeks members of our Flock Tending team will be calling Fairmount members to introduce themselves and check in as another way for our congregation to stay connected and keep in touch with one another. So, if you get a call from someone introducing themselves as a flock tender, it's not a new brand of telemarketer – it's a friend from Fairmount who just wants to say hi and see how you're doing! If you're interested in being a Flock Tender, be sure to let Pastor Lindsay know!

(lindsayhl@fpccl.org, 216-321-5800 ext. 105)



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 at 11:00am. There will be time for greeting before and after worship as well. If you need technical help or have questions, contact Brenda Horth at brendamhorth@gmail.com.

Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85628648447?pwd=ZFBmMytFTFhzQlZJMzFmRIo1Q1g0QT09>

Meeting ID: 856 2864 8447
Passcode: 423623



September Session Highlights

Care Council: worked hard on producing Celebrate Sunday, the joyous fellowship event enjoyed by members and friends. Several people have expressed interest in becoming Stephen's Ministers, but so far, no Stephen's Leaders have stepped up. The proposed Guess Who's Calling program will be folded into Flock Tenders.

Admin Council: Recently, an electric panel in the Sanctuary malfunctioned, and once turned on, there were sparks. The Admin Council voted to keep it off until it could be checked by professionals. These are the Sanctuary lights near the front. The side lawn work has been completed. The sprinkler system is in. Vicky Mentrek has worked hard on the landscaping. The mid-year financials through June 30th are complete. The Operating Budget is about break-even—which is good. We have about 75% of pledges fulfilled to date, but still short on pledges as a whole. The Treasurer is actively working to get the second PPP loan forgiven. Financially, the church is currently strong. The endowment is performing very well. Pledging is particularly important this year as we search for a new pastor.

Serve Council: The Breaking New Ground Campaign Committee is up and running. We are encouraging everyone on Session and Serve to participate by donating to the matching gift campaign. A possible 2022 youth trip to Batey 105 in the Dominican Republic is being explored, with a back-up plan.

Faith Formation

Session's responsibility for worship was discussed. Things are much more complicated now with the hybrid services, and more help from the congregation is needed. The church may benefit from having a committee to oversee worship and music. Discussion to be continued.

PNC Update

In the time since our last report, your Pastor Nominating Committee has been hard at work. We have:

- Received final approval from the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry of the "Ministry Information Form," which is a document that is read by prospective candidates to tell them who Fairmount is
- Established a process for reviewing prospective candidates' Personal Information Forms
- Held in-depth conversations around the criteria that we will use to guide our process
- Reviewed the Personal Information Forms of over 50 candidates

The PNC is thankful for your continued prayers as we continue our search.

Youth Faith Formation

Fall Youth Faith Formation programming is off to a great start! We kicked off September with fun freebies and program information on Celebrate Sunday, followed by a social event: bowling and pizza at Pinstripes. This year's confirmation class has completed orientation and we are excited for nine confirmands between 7th and 9th grade who will journey through the "Big God, Big Questions" process through June 2022. New this year: youth in 10th through 12th grade will serve as Confirmation Peer Mentors.



Here are the youth events coming up in October!

Sun, Oct. 3 - Youth Group @ 10am

Sun, Oct. 10 - Confirmation Session One @ 12:15pm - 2pm

Sun, Oct. 10 - Dominican Republic / Batey 105 Zoom Info Meeting @ 8pm - 9pm

Sun, Oct. 16 - Habitat for Humanity FPC Youth Volunteer Day (age 16+) @ 9am - 3pm

Sun, Oct. 24 - BIG Little Free Pantry Donation Drive before and after worship

Sun, Oct. 24 - Volunteer with Food Not Bombs @ 2-4:30pm

Sat, Nov. 6 - NEOCH Immersion Day (6th-12th + parents) 10am-5pm

Wed, Nov. 10 - Food Not Bombs Orientation 6-6:30pm on Zoom (one-time requirement)

Gratitude Sunday is October 24!

*This will always be my home;
this is what I want, and I'm
here for good.*

*I'll shower blessings on the
pilgrims who come here,
and give supper to those
who arrive hungry...
the holy people will sing
their hearts out!*

Psalms 132:14-15

We chose Reaffirming Our Home as a Stewardship theme this year because Fairmount has been doing just that! After time away from our sanctuary and from each other, we are making improvements all around the church, and welcoming each other through faith formation and programs to serve our neighbors. We are so grateful for our community of faith. As we move into the Fall season, join us in making a pledge toward giving in 2022. Any pledge counts, and it will help us create a solid financial foundation for the future. Please bring your pledge card on October 24th, or call the church office or visit here to make a pledge:

<https://fpcclle.org/giving-and-stewardship/>.

Thank you for all the ways you give of your time, talent and treasure to Fairmount.



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Keep Connected with Fairmount



@FPCCLE



Facebook.com/FairmountChurch



YouTube.com

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, so that you can Keep Connected with Fairmount!

Welcome to the Fairmount Presbyterian Church Podcast!

Listen to the worship sermons from Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Listen again to your favorite sermons, keep connected with Fairmount if you are traveling, or listen in if you need a moment of reflection, inspiration and love. You can find the FPC Podcast on Spotify, Google Podcasts, or at <https://join-us-at-fpcclle.buzzsprout.com>. Sermons and content are updated weekly, so check back frequently!

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!