

What's Happening, Fairmount?

January-February 2022



Praying our Goodbyes

Recently I met with the Thursday Bible study group for the last time. We have gathered weekly for 2 ½ years since the fall of 2019. Though the invitation has always been open, only a few come to this dedicated group. I don't remember the first few biblical books we studied, but for over a year now we have been going through the Acts of the Apostles verse by verse. The Book of Acts is a continuation of the Gospel of Luke, written by the same hand. It's the story of what happens after the risen Jesus tells those first disciples, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Those first disciples who first huddled in Jerusalem took courage from one another and God's Spirit at work. They healed, baptized, preached, served, struggled, rejoiced, and eventually said their goodbyes to all that was familiar, including life itself. Acts is full of the drama that comes when the forces of evil go against the power of the living God. The last few chapters relate Paul's final journey to Rome under arrest, and his bold witness to resurrection life, even in chains, through storms and shipwrecks and obstacles of every kind. Luke ends with these words, "Paul lived in his own rented quarters for two full years and welcomed everyone who came to see him. **Unhindered** and with complete confidence, he continued to preach God's kingdom and to teach about the Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 28:30-31)

Fairmounters can also take courage from the Spirit at work among us, unhindered even by our sins and struggles. The Church is meant to continue the story begun in Acts, as generation by generation, new disciples persevere with faithfulness and love despite all the obstacles.

It's time for me to say thank you and pray my good-byes to this flock whom God has entrusted to me as shepherd. May the Spirit of Jesus continue to delight and dance with you, challenge and comfort you, and lead you forward. It has been an unhindered joy to be on the journey with you.

Vaya con Dios,

Pastor Jessie

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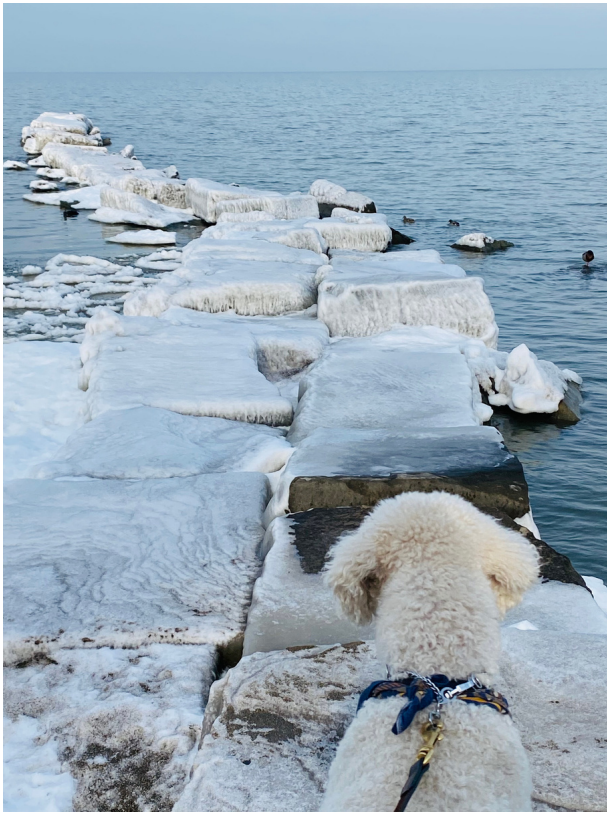
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LMM "Let's Build a House"



Session Update

A Note from Gordon Landefeld, Clerk of Session

2022 is an exciting time for Fairmount Presbyterian Church as we welcome the Reverend Ryan Wallace, his wife Amanda, and their children Mae, Silas and Cece. We anticipate hard and fun work as we learn Rev Ryan's vision for bringing Christ's light to the world. A warm welcome to our new Session Elders, Class of 2024, Peter Bush, Rob Faxon, Jeri Gype, and myself. Welcome to our newest caregivers, Deacons Class of 2023, Julie Egre, Kathy Imbler, Joyce Pope, Jan Spalding, Judy Steehler, and Julia Swanson. And welcome to our Endowment Trustees Class of 2024, Ann Gerhart and Ginger VanWagenen.

While our elected women and men will work together to do great things, I invite every member at Fairmount to ask what talents you have with which you can help make Fairmount's mission stronger. Maybe you'd like to work with youth. Perhaps you enjoy arranging flowers. Or love yard work, or painting, or singing in a choir but have never stepped forward to do so. Now is your chance. Or maybe you've enjoyed serving Fairmount in some capacity but want to try something different. We welcome you, too. I or Pastor Lindsay or any staff member would love to talk with you about how you can help.



COVID-19 Safety

Worship is held in-person at 8:30am in the chapel with communion, and 11:00am in the sanctuary, with communion on the first Sunday of the month. Due to social-distancing protocols, attendees participate in the sacrament with individual single-servings while remaining in their seats. Otherwise, masks are to be worn while inside the church building at all times. The 11:00am sanctuary worship is also live-streamed online and recorded.

Stewardship Update

Momentum is building wonderfully in our 2022 Stewardship Campaign. Thank you. The spirit of advent is moving among us! We have 157 pledges amounting to \$637,000, or 91% of our goal. Thank you to those of you who have remembered to submit a pledge so far. If you haven't had a chance to, please visit Fairmount's website where you can make a pledge (<https://fpccle.org/giving-and-stewardship/>), or bring in your pledge card to church in the next couple of weeks, or simply call the church office at 216-321-5800 and we can record your pledge over the phone. Thank you for all of the ways you give!

Committee of Ministry Reminder

Pastor Jessie's interim ministry with Fairmount will end on February 6, except for some behind the scenes transitional duties. Though Fairmount has been through recent transitions, it's always worth a reminder about the rules of the presbytery. When the date ending a clergy-congregation relationship arrives, the pastoral ministry of the departing Pastor should end. Similarly, pastoral ministry expectations on the part of the congregation for that Pastor should cease.

The Committee on Ministry, therefore, has adopted the following as the policy for the Presbytery: After the date ending a pastoral relationship, a Pastor or Associate Pastor

A. May not officiate at any wedding, funeral, or baptism for members of his/her former church, or at services within its properties, except upon invitation from the moderator of session, or in case of inability to contact the moderator, from the clerk of session.

B. Shall not continue to counsel former parishioners, extend insights concerning affairs of the parish, or perform any other pastoral function.

We are thankful for the ways in which Jessie has walked with this congregation, and we bless her as she moves from Fairmount into the future God is calling her to.

Full to the Brim, an Expansive Lent



Stayed tuned for more information on how you can connect with your faith and the Fairmount community during this Lenten Season through worship, small group conversations, and other activities.

Lent begins with a service for the imposition of Ashes on Wednesday March 2, and continues for 40 days until we reach Palm Sunday and Holy Week, followed by Easter on April 17th.

The scriptures for this Lenten season are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise—these sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace. We've done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. Full to the Brim is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

Life in the Church



Farewell Celebrations for Rev. Jessie MacMillan

As Rev. Jessie's time with us comes to a close, our Fairmount family will be celebrating her in true Pandemic style! Come to a drive-thru in the church parking lot from 10:00-11:30am on Saturday, February 5th to say goodbye to Jessie in person. At 3:00pm that afternoon we will host a zoom celebration for those who are unable to attend the drive-thru. Please register at <https://bit.ly/celebratingjessie> to receive the Zoom link.

On Sunday, February 6th, we will give thanks for Jessie's ministry among us during worship at 11:00am, which will be live streamed. The Session will be sharing gifts of appreciation with Jessie on behalf of the congregation. You are encouraged to write Jessie a note of thanks and appreciation as well, which can be mailed to the church office.

Become a Liturgist: Help Lead Worship

Anyone can help lead worship because we are all image-bearers of God! And now, FPC has a new streamlined, simple way for interested liturgists to choose the Sunday(s) and worship time(s) that work best for their schedule. Sign up to help lead worship, <https://bit.ly/fpcliturg>. Questions? Contact Kate McFadden at kate@fpcclle.org.



Little Free Pantry Curators Needed Throughout 2022

Food insecurity is all around us, sometimes unseen, right in our midst. The Little Free Pantry at FPC responds to this need providing curbside, 24-hour access to non-perishable food and personal care items. Curators keep the pantry clean, stocked, and organized throughout the year. Curators are asked to oversee the pantry for one month, visiting a minimum of once per week. But, don't worry, you don't have to curate alone! Most share the job in partnership with a friend or another family. Sign up to curate the pantry for a month, <https://bit.ly/FPC-FLP22>. Questions? Contact Stacy Hunter at stacyhunter@gmail.com.



Welcoming the Rev. Ryan Wallace!

Rev. Ryan Wallace, in his own words!

When I was 12 years old, I returned home from a mission trip and told my parents that I had decided to become a pastor. It stuck. After growing up in the Chicago suburbs, I went south for college to Vanderbilt University. While I never quite acclimated to southern culture, I did fall in love with a genuine southern belle, Amanda. We moved to Chicago when I began studying at McCormick Theological Seminary, and we were married in Amanda's hometown (Chattanooga) in 2011. We have three children—Mae (6), Silas (3), and Cecilia (7 months). Mae loves to read, Silas loves tools, and Cece loves her mom.

Halfway through seminary, I felt the Spirit calling me into community-based social justice ministry. I graduated with a Master of Theological Studies and spent several years working in community organizing and public policy at two faith-based non-profits—Community Renewal Society and Interfaith Worker Justice. I worked on a wide range of justice issues at the city, county, state, and federal levels, including violence prevention, education funding reform, wage theft, restorative justice, tax policy, re-entry and recidivism, and police reform.

In addition to my community organizing experience, I also served five PC(USA) congregations—most recently as Associate Pastor for Faith Formation at the First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville in Illinois. I love every aspect of congregational ministry, but what I love most is the people. The call of a pastor—to walk alongside people of all ages and backgrounds in their spiritual journeys—is a blessing that defies description.



I also have a strong entrepreneurial streak. I've been involved in three church plants in Chicago (including one that raised money by brewing beer), and over the past two years, I've been working to foster connections between churches and social entrepreneurs. I've served on the launch team for the Small Business Growth Initiative at the Lake County Community Foundation and I'm also the co-founder of The Spiritual Entrepreneurship Lab, an ecumenical project that aims to align the mission and resources of churches and social entrepreneurs to create new and innovative ways of doing church and business.

I have served in other leadership roles to support the Church, including a term on the Mission Committee of the Chicago Presbytery during its relaunch, redesigning a model to distribute more than \$250,000 each year in grants. I serve on the Board of Directors for the Inclusive Collective, a progressive Christian campus ministry with a focus on serving LGBTQ young adults in Chicago. I am also a fellow at the Ecumenical Center for Clergy Spiritual Renewal at Holy Wisdom Monastery.

We look forward to Sunday, February 27th when Rev. Ryan will join us for his first Sunday Worship at Fairmount Presbyterian Church. Learn more about Rev. Ryan, visit <https://fpccle.org/rev-wallace/>

Help our New Pastor Get to Know You!

The Congregation of Fairmount Presbyterian Church approved the call of the Rev. Ryan Wallace to be Fairmount's 10th Senior Pastor in our 105 year history. Pastor Ryan will begin his service at Fairmount in late February. As we get to know the Rev. Ryan and his family, let's help Rev. Ryan Wallace get to know us! Make sure to update your contact information in Realm. Realm offers tools for us to stay in touch with one another. Make sure your address, phone numbers, and emails are correct. And you can also upload a recent or fun photo of yourself for your profile! This will help Rev. Ryan Wallace get to know you!

Visit <https://onrealm.org/FairmountPresby/SignIn>. If you do not have a Realm login, or forgot your password, email info@fpccle.org.

Faith Formation Opportunities



The 2022 Faithful Lives Film Series (26th year)

This year, the sub theme is "Faith in Pandemics and Other Times of Disaster". The movies are shown the 2nd Friday evening of the month, January through May, at Fairmount Presbyterian Church. Please arrive by 6:30pm. All films begin promptly at 6:45pm. Pizza and popcorn will be provided. Please bring your own side and utensils as well as your drink of choice. For more information, contact Bryan Seekely, bseek57@aol.com. To attend the Faithful Lives Film Series movies in-person, the requirement of attendees will be to attest to being fully vaccinated and boosted, and masks to be worn at all times except when consuming food and drinks. Please email Bryan Seekely with your intent to attend and confirmation of your vaccination requirement for attendance.

The 2022 Faithful Lives Film Series Movies:

- February 11th - *The American Experience: Influenza 1918*
- March 11th - *Joan of Arc*
- April 8th - *50/50*
- May 13th - *Killing Kasztner*



Reconnecting with God's Creation

Forest Hill Presbyterian Church members Steve Sedam and Kemp Jaycox will teach their Reconnecting with God's Creation class again this coming spring for the fifth year in a row and invite Fairmount members to participate. The class will take place via Zoom on Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30 PM from March 13th to June 5th (Easter, Mother's Day and Memorial Day are optional). If you know of someone who is interested in participating, they can use the Breeze link below to sign up for the class. Sign up link:

<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/e0fc68>

Looking Forward: Lenten Retreat at the Cleveland Museum of Art with the Cleveland Ecumenical Institute for Religious Studies (CEIRS) March 26th

This retreat is semi-self-directed involving the participant's reflection on a single piece of art. Rev. Deacon Lydia Bailey will prepare participants for choosing a piece of art for personal reflection. It can be an icon that serves as a window into God." Deacon Lydia has an essay published in the upcoming issue of Parabola on the theme of 'Wonder.' Parabola is a quarterly journal devoted to the exploration of the quest for meaning as it is expressed in the world's myths, symbols, and religious traditions, playing well into the visual cues which abound at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The museum opens at 10:00 a.m. and the retreat will convene under the bamboo trees in the Atrium shortly thereafter. Participants are invited to bring lunch or dine at the museum café. To register, visit: <https://ceirs.org>.

To learn about additional Faith Formation opportunities, visit

<https://fpccl.org/faith-formation/>


January - May 2022 Youth Faith Formation

 @fairmountyouth


JANUARY

- Sun, Jan. 9 • Confirmation Session Five @ FPC 12-2PM
- Thur, Jan 20 • [Montreat Middle School Conference](#) (July 20-24, 2022 - Tennessee) Zoom Info Meeting @ 6PM
- Thur, Jan 20 • [High School Youth Triennium](#) (July 24-27, 2022 - Indianapolis) Zoom Info Meeting @ 7:15PM
- Sun, Jan 23 • Volunteer @ Food Not Bombs 2-4:30PM
- Fri, Jan 28 • Fairmount Temple Tour, Q&A // Shabbat Worship @ 5:30PM - 7:30PM (confirmation requirement) 

FEBRUARY

- Sun, Feb 6 • Youth Group (6th-12th) @ 10AM // Pastor Jessie's Farewell Sunday
- Sun, Feb 13 • Confirmation Session Six @ FPC 12-2PM
- Sat, Feb 19 • A-FAB Self Care Sleepover (9th-12th) @ FPC 5PM (concludes Sun, Feb 20 @ 12PM) 
- Sun, Feb 27 • Volunteer @ Food Not Bombs 2-4:30PM


MARCH

- Sun, Mar 6 • Youth Group (6th-12th) @ 10AM
- Sun, Mar 6 • Lunch @ FPC 12-1PM // Islamic Center of Cleveland Tour @ 1:30PM (confirmation requirement) 
- Sun, Mar 13 • Confirmation Session Seven @ FPC 12-2PM *Daylight Savings*
- Sun, Mar 27 • Volunteer @ Food Not Bombs 2-4:30PM
- Wed, Mar 30 • Tentative Evening Semler Rock Concert @ FPC [Check out Semler on YouTube Here](#)

APRIL

- Sun, Apr 3 • Youth Group (6th-12th) @ 10AM
- Sun, Apr 10 • Palm Sunday // Confirmation Session Eight @ FPC 12-2PM
- Sun, Apr 17 • Easter Sunday 
- Sat, Apr 23 • Confirmation Retreat @ FPC 10AM (concludes Sun, May 24 @ 12PM)

MAY

- Sun, May 1 • Youth Group (6th-12th) @ 10AM
- Sun, May 1 • Confirmation Session Nine @ FPC 12-2PM
- Sun, May 15 • Confirmation Session Ten @ FPC 12-2PM
- Fri, May 20 • Confirmation Cloud of Witnesses Dinner @ FPC 6PM 
- Sun, May 22 • Confirmation Celebration in Worship @ 11AM + Reception Following

More info, forms, and updates online: [FPCCLE.ORG/YOUTH](https://fpccler.org/youth)



DISCLAIMERS: mask required for all indoor activities, eating will take place outdoors whenever possible, standard social distancing protocols will be in place for all indoor/outdoor programs, events are subject to change based on COVID-19 risk assessment by FPC Staff and Session

Serving Our Community:

"We Have a House to Buy"

Fairmount Presbyterian's "We Have a House To Buy" campaign funds affordable housing initiative for homeless families. Fairmount Presbyterian Church announced its plans to contribute over \$126,000 to the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries \$3.5 million "Breaking New Ground" campaign to purchase and renovate 20 houses in the St. Clair/Superior neighborhood to be rented by families transitioning from homelessness. The commitment, which will fund the renovation and maintenance of one house, is the largest contribution by a single church to the LMM campaign. Fairmount's own campaign – "We Have a House to Buy" was inspired by the church's 2021 commitment to a denomination-wide Matthew 25 initiative, which focuses congregational work on building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. Fairmount has a long history of supporting affordable housing beginning in 1968, when the church funded the construction of Fairmount Village, a 22-unit two-story townhouse complex at East 90th Street and Hough Avenue, as well as two Habitat for Humanity houses. The idea began in March 2021, when Fairmount Session leaders took a remarkable step in using better-than-anticipated endowment income to make significant gifts five social service organizations that are making a difference in the Cleveland community. The largest of these gifts (\$50,000) was given to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's "Breaking New Ground" campaign. The Session then went further, pledging to match the \$50,000 endowment gift to LMM by raising an additional \$50,000 from the Fairmount congregation. \$100,000 would be enough to purchase and renovate one of the 20 houses.

In August, a small group of Fairmounters, led by Pastor Jessie MacMillan and Associate Pastor Lindsay Haren-Lewis, gathered together to take up the \$50,000 challenge fundraising campaign. Jim Dakin, Hank Doll, Carol Gilitz, Sarah Stone and Ginger Van Wagenen began an informal listening campaign to explore how the congregation's support of the LMM affordable housing project would offer a tangible beginning to their Matthew 25 commitment. The response was immediate, and half the goal was contributed before any request was made. One family was so enthusiastic about the project that they offered a \$10,000 challenge to encourage participation – giving \$1,000 for each five new contributions received.

The "Let's Buy a House" movement gathered momentum in November, buoyed by eloquent sermons centering around the importance of home, imaginative Lego houses made by Fairmount children on the altar, and home-made craft houses, large and small, throughout the church. At services on November 14, the committee announced the \$10,000 challenge and fundraising began in earnest.

The results of the campaign were beyond expectation. On December 19, committee member Jim Dakin announced that the \$50,000 campaign had exceeded its goal – by 50%. As the campaign concluded at year-end, 72 donors had given a total of \$76,523.84. Gifts ranged from the \$3.81 collection offered by a preschooler involved in WE time to much larger donations. Fairmount's generosity met and surpassed the \$10,000 challenge.

"Our faith calls us to find our home in God AND build homes for those in need." - Rev. Jessie MacMillan

The total Fairmount commitment of \$50,000 from endowment income and the individual contributions – over \$126,000 in all – will support the purchase and renovation of one "Breaking New Ground" house and contribute to the endowment fund to support the homes' maintenance. It will also be used to help residents get established in their newly renovated homes, find suitable jobs that will enable them to pay modest rent, and address other services such as childcare that would support their families. A check presentation to LMM honoring Pastor Jessie and Pastor Lindsay for their leadership is planned for early 2022 as the Fairmount congregation continues to celebrate this Matthew 25 commitment to our community.



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Learn More about the Fairmount Congregation and Leadership,
visit: www.fpccl.org

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