

FEBRUARY 2023

The Flame

FAIRVIEW CHURCH



FROM PASTOR STAN WRIGHT

It has only been 5 days since history was made for Fairview Church. The Disaffiliation! It has been an unusual journey since we started the whole process back in July. I have spent many hours in prayers over the matter, first asking God for wisdom for all members in making the decision and then hours, thinking about my own decision. It was not until the first of December that I got the final decision of our District Superintendent about what choices I had for the future.

With the final decision made just 5 days ago, Reverend Bates, announced my future a bit premature. There were only two choices: withdraw from the United Methodist Church myself, which is long process with several interviews and the surrender of my credentials, my orders. Or, “re”-retire. I was concerned that my decision would somehow affect the church vote. She, Reverend Bates, wanted me to announce my decision before Christmas. I thought this would have been a very inappropriate time, right at Christmas, so I did not announce to the whole church my decision. Reverend Bates did that for me. I would have preferred telling you myself, but it’s ok now.

At first I thought I would have to retire again immediately, but the disaffiliation process will go on at least for another 90 days, even after the February Annual Conference. I have requested to at least stay until the end of our normal conference year...June. We shall see what takes place. I pray this will give our church adequate time to search for a new pastor.

It has been an honor and privilege to be with you all. I think when I was asked to come and see the church through COVID, that it would have only been through June of 2021, but God blessed us and knit us together in an unusual way. If I were 25 years younger, I would definitely have withdrawn from the UMC so I could stay with you all. I think God has truly blessed our time together. I love Fairview and will always have a special place in my heart for all of you.

In the scripture lesson for this past Sunday, Paul writes in Philippians 3:13 “...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” That is my prayer now for Fairview. You have a great legacy from a wonderful past in ministry, but now perhaps, as a church, you should press on into the future. A future with new blood in ministry, to begin to guide Fairview into another 100 years. You all have a new opportunity to search, pray and invite someone new to be your pastor, not assigned one from the Bishop. The entire congregation now will have a voice in who the leadership will be into the future. This should be the time of great discernment and prayer, asking God to send someone to you.

Thank you for a blessed time that we have had together. I truly think God anointed our time together.

God bless you all.

In Christ name,

Pastor Stan



KATHERINE LEWIS
DIRECTOR OF
CHRISTIAN
MINISTRIES

Happy February!

Each year at some point between Christmas and the beginning of the New Year, I begin to pray, as many of you know and seek God's Guidance for a word and scripture to press into for the year. I have had many different ones in the past and when I sit and ponder them. They always have been exactly what I needed, when I needed it! Well Friends, God is Good and this year, unlike some, my word came to me quickly and very definitively. This year my word is:

RENEW

God sent with this word the perfect scripture.

Romans 12: 1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

That, my precious friends, is what I pray for all of us during this year of transition and change. That for us, the Body of Christ here are Fairview, that we can all be renewed and work together in all things for HIS Glory! I don't know about you but I remain excited to see what God has in store for us!

There are lots of awesome things coming our way many are still in the planning phases. Watch your bulletins for more info on events that will be coming up. This is what I have for us so far for February. Watch your bulletins for weekly info about new things coming!

Kids

Sunday School Each Week 9:45-10:45

JUMP – This is fun time for kids from PreK4 to 5th grade that meets on Sundays from 4-5. Each week we explore our story and have time for creative response. Join us for a time of wondering.

Youth

Sunday School Each Week from 9:45-10:45

Youth Group: Please note our NEW TIME: 5:15-7:15 We will meet each week to enjoy food, fellowship, games, Bible Study and lots of fun! Super Bowl Sunday is on the 12th. More info on that specific week is coming.

WINTER JAM is February 25th and a group from here is going. All are welcome to come. More info is coming but I will be needing to get a headcount to make sure we have transportation and adult chaperones covered. There are some great bands there this year! Hope you can join us!

Adults

We currently have 4 Adult Sunday School Classes. If you have not found your way into one of these, please let me know how I can help get you connected. They meet each week from 9:45-10-45 as well.

LADIES: Our Monthly get together has had a Change of Location. We will meet for Lunch on **February 8th at noon** and for Dinner on **February 9th at 6:30 at JOE & MIMMA'S**. Last month was awesome. Hope to see more of you this month. Please sign up so we can let them know how many are coming.

WEDNESDAY February 22nd is Ash Wednesday. Join us for this service to Kick off our Lenten Journey together.

Don't forget our Monthly Mission Challenge! We are asking everyone to bring in one canned good each week!

I am excited to serve beside you in this year ahead of us. I look forward to a "renewal" of our excitement for Mission, Discipleship, Fellowship and Growth. This is an exciting time for us all here at Fairview and I pray each day for all of us to see the changes and opportunities as ways we can push forward and Glorify God.

Love to all,
Kate

Mission Update

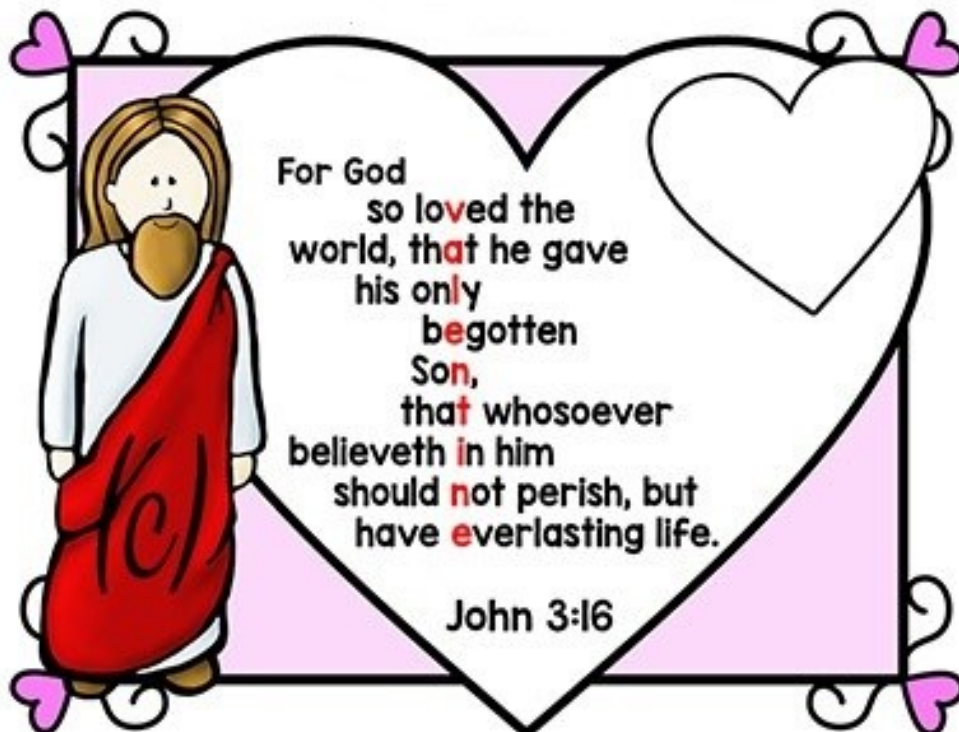
Our mission's committee is ready to serve as we enter this new year. Our Christmas Mission went so well we would like to help keep our focus on outward, local mission alive! It is our goal to have a mission Challenge each month of 2023 for our church to unify and work toward reaching together! We hope you and your family will find this as a fun opportunity to not only give but work together with the Body of Christ here at Fairview to reach a goal together. We have ideas for some of the months ahead but if you have other local missions we might be able to help, see Martha Mitchell or Lavonne Walden to give them your ideas.

As you know for the month of January we collected Socks for the Homeless Shelter and the Salvation Army! Thanks to all who donated and helped out these organizations!

Our February Challenge should you choose to accept it..... Will be Canned goods for God's Storehouse. We are asking each individual to bring one can each week. At the end of the month we hope to have a group take the canned goods and find out how many pounds of food we donated! This is a small way to help others. So, look in your pantry or run to the store and find something you would like to donate each week! Let's make a food mountain in the Narthex!

Project: Church Directory

As things begin to grow and change here at Fairview, The time has come..... We need a new directory and I am up for the challenge. As we begin to have lots of new and returning faces, it's time to make sure we all know who is who! Currently our church uses an online program called SimpleChurch and it is full of great info. If you will send me your favorite picture of yourself and your family members, I can put them with your profile in this software we are already using. It will enable us to make a printed directory with pictures, address and other pertinent information without having to use another company. Please email me your images at director.fumc@comcast.net or text them to my cell 434-251-6107 and I will take care of the rest. If you already have a current picture in SimpleChurch, you can disregard. Also know that this can be added as an app to your phone so you can keep it at your fingertips all the time. See me for more details. -----Kate



Upcoming Dates to Remember

Ash Wednesday In-Person Service on February 22 at 7:00 pm

Daylight Saving Time Begins (set clocks ahead one hour) on Sunday, March 12

HOMELESS SHELTER MEALS

We have two slots to fill for volunteers to take food to the House of Hope (homeless shelter) the first Saturday of November and December. It requires providing dinner for about 20 people. If your Sunday School Class, family, small group, or friends are interested in helping, let Christi Ragsdale or Lavonne Walden know.

Backpack Update

JESUS says in Matt.25:35 "For I was hungry, and you gave ME something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave ME drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in. . .Verse 40--"And the KING will answer and say to them, "Truly, I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to ME.

For several years now Fairview has been following our LORD'S INSTRUCTION to feed the hungry (Matt. 25:35); and we do this for 120 children at Park Avenue School. Every week of the school year when the children are in class, we deliver 120 bags of food for children who are food deprived at this school.

Prayers and congratulations are in order. Thanks to Katherine Lewis who submits the application for this need to The Community Foundation. We have been blessed to receive this grant for the past several years (and for the upcoming year). We are also blessed to have men, women and youth who meet to purchase and set up the food (Christi Ragsdale), teams that fill the bags with food, and then deliver (Neal and Christi Ragsdale) these bags before they go to work on Wed morning.

Due to the economy, especially food prices, the generous grant does not always cover the food costs for the entire year. We are so grateful for all of our members who share in the cost of the food. Please consider contributing financially to this worthy program as we follow our LORD JESUS' instructions. ---Suzanne Giffen

To my Church Family,
I miss the worship and fellowship we shared together. Thank you for thinking of me thru cards and prayers. I will continue to pray for my Church Family and I ask for your prayers in return.
Much Love,
Joanne Barnes

**1st Sundays:
Worship at
8:30 and 11:00**

Monthly on each first Sunday
8:30 worship features contemporary music with Josh Marlowe



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person Worship</u>	<u>Online Worship* (Vimeo)</u>	<u>Offering</u>
December 4	118	12	\$13,275.00
December 11	100	38	\$12,939.00
December 18	121	36	\$7,916.00
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	93	n/a	\$0
December 25	49	17	\$2,940.00
December 31 (End of Year)	n/a	n/a	\$5750.00

Average Weekly Giving in December 2022:
\$8,564.00

2022 Budget approved by Admin Board :
\$ 473,702.00

Average Weekly Giving Year to Date 2022:
\$4,357.29

2022 Weekly Contributions Needed to Meet Budget:
\$9,109.66

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person Worship</u>	<u>Online Worship* (Vimeo)</u>	<u>Offering</u>
January 1	91	48	\$4,548.00
January 8	91	35	\$6,420.00
January 15	101	50	\$6,054.00
January 22	66	18	\$5,330.56
January 29	86	TBD	\$4,070.00

Average Weekly Giving in January 2023:
\$5,284.51

2023 Budget approved by Admin Board :
\$481,096.00

Average Weekly Giving Year to Date 2023:
\$5,284.51

2023 Weekly Contributions Needed to Meet Budget:
\$9,077.29

*Denotes views of online worship videos for the first week available for viewing. Vimeo views are multiplied by 1.5 to account for families watching together. Videos are no longer posted separately to Facebook.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Bettye Parker	12 Nancy South	27 Kendall Hayzlett
3 Wesley Ashworth	20 Helen Harris	28 Dave Giffen
7 Frank Black	20 Barbara Jones	29 Emily Burton
7 Bryce Hayzlett	22 Phillip Smith	
8 Betty Jo Call	22 Martha Mitchell	
9 James Holt	22 Brittany Roberts	
10 Susann Dahlquist	23 Thelma Alverson	
10 Carol Black	24 Janice Holt	
11 Alan Jack	25 Mary Fulcher	

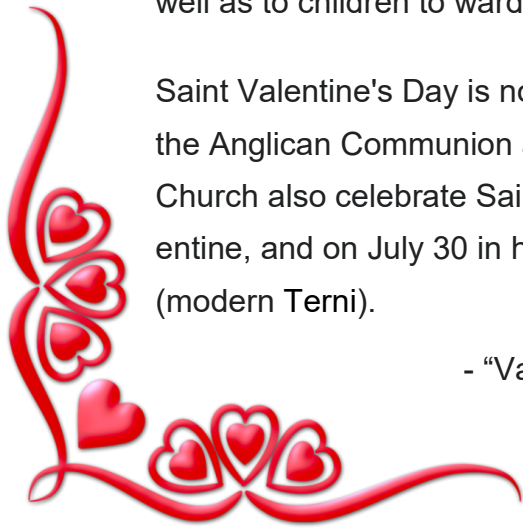


History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, also called **Saint Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**, is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

There are a number of martyrdom stories associated with various Valentines connected to February 14, including an account of the imprisonment of Saint Valentine of Rome for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire in the third century. According to an early tradition, Saint Valentine restored sight to the blind daughter of his jailer. Numerous later additions to the legend have better related it to the theme of love: an 18th-century embellishment to the legend claims he wrote the jailer's daughter a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell before his execution; another tradition posits that Saint Valentine performed weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry.

The 8th century Gelasian Sacramentary recorded the celebration of the Feast of Saint Valentine on February 14. The day became associated with romantic love in the 14th and 15th centuries when notions of courtly love flourished, apparently by association with the "lovebirds" of early spring. In 18th-century England, it grew into an occasion in which couples expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards. In Italy, Saint Valentine's Keys are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart", as well as to children to ward off epilepsy (called Saint Valentine's Malady).



Saint Valentine's Day is not a public holiday in any country, although it is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion and the Lutheran Church. Many parts of the Eastern Orthodox Church also celebrate Saint Valentine's Day on July 6 in honor of Roman presbyter Saint Valentine, and on July 30 in honor of Hieromartyr Valentine, the Bishop of Interamna (modern Terni).

- "Valentine's Day", *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, January 23, 2023.



A fundraiser to benefit **God's Storehouse**,
a local non-profit food pantry serving the community.



Ending hunger, one bowl at a time.

Friday, February 24, 2023

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Held at God's Storehouse
750 Memorial Drive • Danville, VA**

\$20 per Person

\$25 the week of the event

Get your tickets early... they usually sell out!

**We're back in-person with
our delicious soup and silent auction!**

*Receive a handmade pottery bowl created by
GWHS Art Teacher Frances Viden or
Jonathan Scollo / Artisans at Swanson Studio,
Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History*

Tickets available at:

God's Storehouse, GSH Board Members, Eventbrite

Check or cash only at the following:

Commonwealth Home Health / Piney Forest Road,
Karen's Hallmark / Danville Mall

Jonathan Scollo, Awards and Trophies / Piney Forest Road

Thank you to our sponsors:

The Danville Register and Bee

First National Bank

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

Optima Health



Fairview Church
1013 Westover Drive
Danville, Virginia 24541

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*Fairview is a Christ-centered
welcoming church that loves the community
in undeniable ways.*

STAFF:

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