



## STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



### A Note From Rick

Greetings, friends!

I hope you are navigating well this current storm we are going through. As I look out my window today, the sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and a haze of pollen wafts through the air! I remember when this time of year the only airborne worry was hay fever.

In our culture today, during times like this, the most common form of staying in touch with others has become social media. People sharing emails – people sharing on Facebook or Instagram or Twitter – people collaborating through video conferencing. But not everyone has internet access, thus the Forecaster you hold in your hand today.

The Fairmount family wants you to know that we love you and are praying for you. Whether you are connected through every means possible with the world outside – or whether your connections are merely a phone, a TV, and the daily mail – you are deeply and profoundly loved and you are prayed for every day.

Though the church office is closed for the time being, I want you to know that you can reach out to any of us on staff – any of the elders – any of our deacons – any of our teachers – at any time. As we are able, we want to assist each and every person within our congregation's reach. Whether you need help with groceries – or you have been laid off – or you are lonely – or you need prayer ... please, please reach out. You can call my phone number anytime, day or night. If I don't answer, leave a message and I'll call you back. My number is (804) 405-2908.

I miss seeing our church family, but I know we will be back worshipping together soon. The Church is resilient. If the gates of hell cannot prevail against it, neither can a virus. We will be together again soon.

Take care of yourself. Stay in the Word – wash your hands – and pray without ceasing.

I love you!

Rick

# “Reflections”

By Rachel Wood  
Nursing Professional Development Specialist  
Bon Secours Mercy Health

In this time of such uncertainty and disruption, it is easy to get drawn into the anxiety and fear that is rampant in our society. The evolution of this COVID-19 outbreak and the resulting response is unprecedented, and I can't help but wonder what unseen forces underlie this situation. Several themes have emerged during my time of study, and I want to share what God has laid on my heart.

The first thing I noticed was how much this current situation is driving us all to isolation. From social distancing, to sheltering in place, to discouraging even basic human contact, we are being told to avoid others at all costs. After recently studying the power of togetherness, the need to love our neighbor, and the strength that comes in being a united family, I can't help but think there is a danger in this widespread isolation and distancing. Now to be clear, I fully support the need to protect our vulnerable by limiting the spread of illness. But I worry that as we drive people to fear personal contact, both in group gatherings and in physical contact, we will be taking steps backwards in our work towards building community. Perhaps my perspective is different because as a healthcare provider I am accustomed to being with the ill and not shying away from touching even the sickest. I have seen the healing power of presence and human touch. So as much as I want to see this current virus contained and controlled, I also don't want to lose community, togetherness, and connection. We have already seen some people offering food, support, and services to those struggling. I pray that these kinds of efforts lead to stronger bonds among our neighbors than ever before.

Which leads me to another insight I have tried to lean into. This push for social distancing is forcing us all to spend a lot more time than usual at home. And for many, that means lots of extra hours in the same house as a family. In our society we have seen a breakdown in the family unit, a loss of unity and cohesion even in our homes. Perhaps He will use this time to force us to rebuild those family connections, to strengthen “together” at home. I pray that despite driving us out of community on a large scale, God uses this virus to help families across our country find healing, rekindled love, and newly strengthened unity.

Another insight that came out of a recent conversation with a friend is that perhaps God is jealously seeking our attention and adoration. Perhaps through these disruptions He is revealing the things that have taken too much prominence in our lives and making us turn back to Him. For example, the public response seemed to escalate quickly when sporting events and concerts got cancelled. Perhaps we have placed too much value in our society on sports and celebrities, to the point where we worship them over Him. Even on a smaller scale, daily conveniences that are gone or threatened could be things that have kept us from seeking Him fully. Even the financial impacts that are looming could be a reminder that He is sovereign, that He will provide, that money should not be our focus. I pray that He reveals to each of us where we need to let go of other 'gods' and turn our hearts more fully to worshiping Him alone.

Regardless of what comes in the days ahead, I know God is in control. He knows what is coming, and He knows why. I will continue to seek His wisdom in how I respond. I will look for ways to build my family stronger and keep my community strong. I will try to thoughtfully consider what I have been worshiping that has distracted me from worshiping Him. And I will continue to seek His will, to lean into what He reveals, to bring His light into this situation, and to trust in His plans for our world. Because ultimately, I know how this story ends. He wins.

## Join Us Virtually!

Join us for services on Sundays at 9am (Traditional Service) and 11am (Contemporary/Modern Service) by accessing our public Facebook page. You do not have to be a member of Facebook to access the public page or one of our worship services. A link to the services is available on our website. Our facility is closed to all meetings, activities, and visitors and all church staff are now working remotely.

## Remote Staff Contact Information

|  |                   |                              |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Rick Raines</b> - Senior Minister .....               | 804-405-2908..... | rraines@fairmountcc.org      |
| <b>Chris Santasiere</b> - Associate Minister.....        | 804-366-9117..... | csantasiere@fairmountcc.org  |
| <b>Seth Wortman</b> - Associate Minister.....            | 417-861-1905..... | swortman@fairmountcc.org     |
| <b>Tracy Thomas</b> - Worship/Music Minister .....       | 804-869-5180..... | tthomas@fairmountcc.org      |
| <b>Ryan Card</b> - Associate Worship Minister.....       | 804-909-7805..... | rcard@fairmountcc.org        |
| <b>Davis Ellenberger</b> - Youth Minister .....          | 804-339-6249..... | dellenberger@fairmountcc.org |
| <b>Krista Barnes</b> - Youth Ministry Asst. ....         | 804-339-0524..... | kbarnes@fairmountcc.org      |
| <b>Ashley Sears</b> - Children's Director .....          | 804-306-8633..... | asears@fairmountcc.org       |
| <b>Amber Grubbs</b> - Early Childhood Director.....      | 804-310-8779..... | agrubbs@@fairmountcc.org     |
| <b>Brandon Woodard</b> - Church Executive .....          | 804-200-9637..... | bwoodard@fairmountcc.org     |
| <b>Barry Will</b> - Director of Technology.....          | 804-916-9687..... | bwill@fairmountcc.org        |
| <b>Jef Powell</b> - Facilities Director .....            | 804-916-0225..... | jpowell@fairmountcc.org      |
| <b>Tyler Owens</b> - Facilities Assistant.....           | 804-516-9378..... | towens@fairmountcc.org       |
| <b>Veronica Brewster</b> - Office Manager .....          | 804-306-1519..... | vbrewster@fairmountcc.org    |
| <b>*Sherri Fadool</b> - Administrative Asst. ....        | 804-921-0772..... | sfadool@fairmountcc.org      |
| <b>*Chris Branch</b> - Administrative Asst.....          | 804-543-7377..... | cbranch@fairmountcc.org      |
| *Can be reached Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, at 804-559-8070. |                   |                              |

## Letter From the Elders

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)*

Fairmount Christian Church Congregation,

The situation around the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to unfold across the world, here in the USA, and in our communities. As Christians, we have yet another opportunity to show the love of Christ as we reach to others in many ways. At Fairmount, your Elders have been monitoring information coming from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), state and local Departments of Health, as well as guidance and mandates provided by government officials. We have provided direction to staff, who moved forward showing flexibility and creativity in how technology and care can be combined to continue proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. In addressing this challenge, you have seen online worship services, ministry updates, and Bible studies offered as ways to continue our study of the Word and our worship as a church. We also are encouraged that so many are reaching out by telephone and other means to care for each other and those in need.

For many, they see a world on edge, and we have seen how fear can lead to frenzy and in some cases fights over toilet paper! Our faith provides more than enough reason for courage – for we worship a heavenly Father who created life and through His Son, conquered death and sin. Regardless of events in this life, Jesus walks ahead to prepare a place for us, and our focus and walk will continue in that direction. At Fairmount, we are not the only Christians, but we are Christians only and are part of God's flock, a flock that has a Mission – to develop followers of Jesus who love God, love people, and introduce the world to Christ.

Right now, we are in a situation where help is needed and have been asked to participate by upholding a community standard designed to mitigate the transmission and spread of this virus. As such, the Elders provided initial direction to cease church operations for a period of two weeks. I write now to provide an update that the Elders are now extending that direction for another 30-day period. During this period, the Elders are connecting weekly, under CDC guidelines, to pray, review situation status, address needs of the church and community, and update directions in this matter. Of course, this 30-day extension will be adjusted as the status of the virus unfolds and guidance changes. It is imperative to remain flexible during this time as many variables need to be considered throughout this period. Our Ministers, staff, and volunteers are working diligently looking for innovative, flexible ways to minister, provide care, worship, and to continue proclaiming the gospel. Please keep all of these servants in your prayers as they also pray for you.

We would like to encourage you by sharing a reminder that the world has not suddenly become a frightening, isolating place to survive but that the guidelines and mandates, including hygienic precautions and social distancing, are in place to stop the spread of this virus. Our immediate goal is to effectively manage this situation, assess its impacts and keep you informed as we continue to walk. The Elders are focusing on the following key items:

Prayer – seeking His will and His protection for the church

Health – eliminating and mitigating virus transmission within our church family and community

Gospel – walking on with flexible approaches to share the gospel

Ministries – supporting our ministers, ministries, and the resources needed for service to the Lord

Operations – supporting our church needs, staff, and the continued need for sacrificial giving of time, talent, and tithes

Please know the Elders continue to cover you in prayer. While this virus unfolds, we are more excited at how the Lord will unfold His will and hand through all of this and how Christians will respond. In closing, I share the following Scripture.

*“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4-7)*

Please feel free to reach out to me or any Elder at any time. I have included my contact information below. As we continue to monitor this situation, we will provide updates through Fairmount's website, social media, and emails.

Peace and grace to you,

Randy Allard

Elders, Chair

cell: 804-445-4494

Fairmount Christian Church



# FAIRMOUNT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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AUTO  
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RICHMOND, VA  
PERMIT #1479  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The  
**FORECASTER**  
best viewed online @  
[fairmountchristian.org](http://fairmountchristian.org)

| OUR CHURCH           |                                   |          |          |          |          |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ATTENDANCE & GIVING  |                                   | 03/08    | 03/15    | 03/22    | 03/29    |
| 8:15                 | Traditional Worship:              | 130      | 105      |          |          |
|                      | Children's Worship:               | 4        | 2        |          |          |
| 9:00                 | Traditional Worship Online Views: |          |          | 533      | 637      |
| 9:30                 | Contemporary Worship:             | 408      | 246      |          |          |
|                      | Children's Worship:               | 50       | 22       |          |          |
|                      | Online Views                      | 86       | 224      |          |          |
| 11:00                | Traditional Worship:              | 148      | 102      |          |          |
|                      | Children's Worship:               | 105      | 45       |          |          |
|                      | Online Views:                     |          | 119      |          |          |
| 11:00                | Cont/Mod Worship Online Views:    |          |          | 628      | 614      |
| 11:15                | Modern Worship:                   | 268      | 218      |          |          |
|                      | Online Views                      | 74       | 106      |          |          |
| Total:               |                                   | 1,273    | 1,189    | 1,161    | 1,251    |
| Bible School:        |                                   | 536      | 298      |          |          |
| Budget Requirements: |                                   | \$49,127 | \$49,127 | \$49,127 | \$49,127 |
| Budget Receipts:     |                                   | \$49,010 | \$38,451 | \$31,350 | \$40,644 |

Welcome to Our Newest Member: Julianna Stellwag was baptized on March 22nd.



**Fresh Hope  
Virtual Meetings**

Message our confidential email to receive specific online information/directions.  
Confidential Email  
[freshhope@fairmountcc.org](mailto:freshhope@fairmountcc.org)

**FAIRMOUNT  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**Rick Raines** - Senior Minister  
**Chris Santasiere** - Associate Minister  
**Seth Wortman** - Associate Minister  
**Tracy Thomas** - Worship/Music Minister  
**Ryan Card** - Associate Worship Minister  
**Davis Ellenberger** - Youth Minister  
**Ashley Sears** - Children's Director  
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