



# ENCOUNTERS

## Some Observations

I've noticed a few things during this time of quarantine.

I've noticed a few unimportant things. I had forgotten how much I love applesauce. Betsy got a jar at the store one day and I can't get enough of it. It takes me back to my childhood and it tastes like dessert in the middle of my supper.

Last Friday I was doing the week's laundry. I noticed I had one pair of socks in the laundry basket. One pair. I had gone a whole week and had worn one pair of socks on one day – the day I recorded worship services at church. That has never happened in my life. It's like I'm living at the beach right here in Mechanicsville.

I've lived in the same neighborhood for 17 years, but I noticed that I now know my neighborhood better than ever. I know where every dog lives – the ones that bark and the ones that don't. I know what time high bicycle traffic is. I know when most everyone cuts their grass. I know who likes to wave and smile from their porches - and who wants to be left alone.

Being quarantined brings to mind such meaningless observations, doesn't it? But it also brings to mind some pretty meaningful ones as well.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Join Us Virtually!

Join us for services on Sundays at 9am (Traditional Service) and 11am (Modern Service) on our website, [fairmountcc.org](http://fairmountcc.org) or by subscribing to our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/c/Fairmountcc](https://youtube.com/c/Fairmountcc)

Our facility is closed to all meetings, activities, and visitors and all church staff are now working remotely.

## Kids & Teens

**The Virtual Memory Station is open Sundays from 10:15-10:45am** - Call in and recite your memorized verses from the Treasures in Heaven Memory Cards ([kidsrhis.org](http://kidsrhis.org)) or any verses you've been memorizing. Call, facetime, or video chat with Jennifer Hare, Rose Hendricks, or Ashley Sears. Email [asears@fairmountcc.org](mailto:asears@fairmountcc.org) for contact information.

**Congratulations to the following kids for earning their Treasures in Heaven awards in March!** Ethan Acors & Sofia Acors - Amber & Rose; Leah Beahr - Emerald; Palmer Buchanan - Bronze; Johanna Hare & Abby Sears- Nickel; Juliana Hare - Silver; and Cadence Walton - Bronze & Garnett.

**Virtual Bible School & Kids Worship:** Elementary Bible School and Jr. Church Online links are posted on the Fairmount Facebook pages and can be accessed through YouTube on the Fairmount channel.

**Wednesday Worship Time:** Join us on the Fairmount Facebook page for a time of worship including a devotion from children's ministry leaders and praise and worship. Elementary time is at 10am; Preschool time at 2pm.

**FCYM Wednesday Zoom Meetings:** Tune in each week for a 30 minute time of fellowship. Middle School - 1pm; High School - 2pm. Links and passwords sent weekly.

**FCYM - Stay Connected!** Join a Facebook Group - FCYM High School or FCYM 6th-8th Grade; Text FCYM to 94033 for text updates; Message [youth@fairmountchristian.org](mailto:youth@fairmountchristian.org) to receive email updates; Check out our website - [www.fcym.info](http://www.fcym.info)



## Fresh Hope Virtual Meetings

Message our confidential email to receive specific online information/directions.

Confidential Email

[freshhope@fairmountcc.org](mailto:freshhope@fairmountcc.org)



# IMPACT Ministry

## Coronavirus Community Assistance

By Chris Santasiere

The Coronavirus pandemic has thrown many families into crisis mode. For some families, this is a health crisis. For others, this is a job crisis and a financial crisis. Fairmount has taken the initiative to reach out and provide help to families, essential businesses, and healthcare workers in our community and country.

We have worked through our IMPACT Ministry to provide assistance. In many cases, we have been able to work directly through existing relationships that we have through partners such as Moments of Hope and Crossroads Missions. Here is an update on how our congregation has been able to help others in this time of need:

1. **Moments of Hope** - On April 1, we gave a \$5000 gift to Moments of Hope to help pay for temporary housing for homeless families in hotels. This is an arm of the ministry of Moments of Hope. Hotels serve as transitional housing for the homeless as they work and save money to be able to afford housing of their own.
2. **Manna Sunday** - On April 5, over 85 families participated in a "drive thru" Manna Sunday, resulting in two pick-up trucks full of food and over \$1,600 in monetary donations! The food was given to Moments of Hope and distributed to families in need. More details and instructions about our May 3rd Manna Sunday will be shared in the near future.
3. **Hospital Power Drops** - On April 6, we began weekly donations of snack, coffee, candy, and water supplies to Memorial Regional Medical Center for the nurses and medical staff. After consulting with our friends at Memorial on how we could help them, they suggested that snacks would be a great source of encouragement. Our second Hospital Power Drop occurred on April 15 and our next one is scheduled for April 22.
4. **Crossroads Missions Mask Project** - On April 8, we sent a donation of \$2,000 to Crossroads Missions, the ministry we partner with for our BIG Build projects and also the ministry our teens partner with on their mission trips to Mexico. Crossroads retooled their staff and some of their machinery with the intent of making and distributing 50,000 masks to medical workers across the U.S. Our donation provided for 2,000 masks. I received an email this past weekend that Crossroads has met their funding goal and has produced 50,000 masks. They are in the process of making 50,000 more.
5. **Fairmount Childcare** - Childcare centers have been deemed essential during this pandemic. The Fairmount Childcare remains open and is currently providing childcare to several children of first responders and medical personnel. As a show of support and appreciation, on April 8, we presented each worker at the childcare with a gift card to Chick fil-a.
6. **Hanover Helps** - We partnered with Mechanicsville Church of Christ to create a website called Hanover Helps ([www.hanoverhelps.org](http://www.hanoverhelps.org)). This website provides an outlet for people who want to help and a place to go for people who need help during this time. Churches and individuals have signed up to share in meeting the needs of people in Hanover County with things such as buying groceries, picking up and delivering groceries or prescriptions to homes, or assistance with a bill. In the last 10 days, Hanover Helps has assisted 6 families. Fairmount has directly assisted 2 of those families.

None of this would be possible without your generous giving. Thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord, your commitment to our congregation, and your care for our community.



# From the Elders

As you know, the COVID virus has been an extreme challenge for all. It has struck many and the impact is far reaching. Early on in this situation, the Elders decided to close Fairmount's facility, to eliminate gatherings and to move to online services in the interest of upholding a public health standard. In short, we don't want any in our congregation or in our communities to be impacted by this virus and our focus has been on eliminating and mitigating the potential spread of COVID-19 while also assuring that the church, which is not a facility or building, continues to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As this letter comes to your home, know that the Elders continue to cover you, your families, our congregation, communities, and our leaders in prayer.

While there is some talk about flattening curves, seeing peaks, and now seeing declines in spread, we are all still working within a framework of physical/social distancing, hygiene controls, and use of personal protective equipment. As such, we continue to seek God's will in preparing messages, and we are working on the best ways to move forward with online services. Please stay tuned for more details on how we will deliver services to you.

In the meantime, you, the church, can continue to be faithful in the following ways:

## 1. Pray

- for God's will for you, your family, your church family and their needs. Ask for God's direction in ways that you can reach out and serve others who may be in need at this time. We might need to be distanced physically right now but we don't have to be distanced in spirit.
- for your church leadership...your church Elders who lead, your Deacons who serve, your Ministers who reach to others, minister, and preach the Word.
- to give thanks to a Holy Father who, even now, blesses us richly and even gave His only Son that we might be saved.

## 2. Give

- your time and talents to those in need .... send a card, some flowers, pick up the telephone and give that someone a call. We may not be the church gathered right now, but we can be effective as the church scattered by reaching out to others and staying connected.
- to your church, even when not attending in person. Our needs and missions continue, so seek God's wisdom in your financial gifts. The Elders have directed changes in spending to support ongoing services but as a church we continue to reach to others.

## 3. Be faithful

- by staying in God's word. What more truth and encouragement do we need than what the Lord provides through the Bible? Just a few examples:
  - Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5: 6-7)
  - Be still and know that He is God (Psalms 46:10)
  - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (John 14: 1)
  - Rejoice in the Lord always; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 4, 6-7)

Remaining faithful in His word and His will, in humble servitude to you all,

Your Elders

Randy Allard

Elders, Chair

cell: 804-445-4494

Fairmount Christian Church

## OUR CHURCH

### ATTENDANCE & GIVING

	04/05	04/12	04/19
9:00 Traditional Worship Online Views:	515	719	513
11:00 Cont/Mod Worship Online Views:	552	657	516
Total:	1,067	1,376	1,029
Budget Requirements:	\$49,127	\$49,127	\$49,127
Budget Receipts:	\$58,695	\$43,382	\$51,068

Welcome to Our Newest Members: Ashley & Lauren Kaufelt were baptized on April 12th.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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I've noticed that people will find ways to connect. There are all the new ways to connect that have exploded onto the scene in recent times – some as recently as the last month. All of the social media platforms, combined with Marco Polo, House Party, Zoom, YouTube, texting, email ... the list goes on and on. But there are also the tried and true “old fashioned” ways that still work just fine. Phone calls. Talking over the back fence (appropriately distanced). Cards. We're waving more. Saying “hey” more as we encounter neighbors. We're simply being more friendly. We were created to be in fellowship with God and with others. So, we will find ways to connect – ways to touch, even if not physically. We will do it because we have to do it – it means everything.

I've noticed that people will find ways to connect to their faith. Churches moving their worship services online has gotten all the publicity, but I am convinced that the practice of people's faith is being tested by this time of crisis. For some – those experiencing the pain of this virus first hand – this may be a crisis of faith. I pray for those people. But for all of us, will we truly put feet to our faith? Many people are. Many people are using the change of daily rhythms as an opportunity to pray more, read their Bibles more purposefully. Many people are making an effort to connect in worship, to connect with other people of faith. Many people are reaching out with the love of Christ to their neighbors. This leads me to ask each of us ... when all of this is over ... will my Christian walk be stronger, weaker, or will it have stayed the same?

Peter writes in his first letter, “... for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.” I hope my faith – my walk with Christ – is stronger.

These are a few of the things I have noticed during this quarantine. What have you noticed? Call me at (804) 405-2908 and let me know – or email me at [rraines@fairmountchristian.org](mailto:rraines@fairmountchristian.org). *Rick*