

# The FORECASTER

AT FAIRMOUNT CHRISTIAN CHURCH



In 2010, the preaching team had a series called, “The God of Second Chances.” As part of that, I was one of the people who gave their testimony about how God had given them a second chance in a certain area of their life, sharing about my struggle with depression. Since May is Mental Health Awareness Month, I was asked to share that testimony again here in the Forecaster.

I’d like to believe I have a fairly decent sense of humor. But the fact that I have any sense of humor at all is nothing short of a miracle. Back in the fall of 1992, you would have found me in a treatment center, where I was hospitalized for clinical depression, and struggling to find the will to simply continue to live. Up until that point, I managed to plaster a happy face on the outside, but on the inside I was experiencing the slow death of any semblance of a joy-filled life. I didn’t get there overnight – it had been building for decades.

My troubled childhood was filled with, among other things, significant health issues resulting in being told I would never father children, abuse and molestation by family members, a fire that nearly burned our house to the ground, and the divorce of my parents. For me, dealing with all that life had thrown my way was simply too painful – and if you’re not really going to “deal with” your problems, the only other option is to pretend that they don’t even exist. So I lived many years in classic denial and ignored all the warning signs of my impending depression. The result was not pretty.

The emotional pain began to take its toll physically. I developed severe insomnia, only sleeping 1-2 hours per night. I reached the point where not only could I not cope emotionally, now I could not function physically. I finally sought help from a psychiatrist and was admitted to a treatment center for 2 weeks, followed by intense therapy for over a year. Recovery was a hard and painful process.

The second chance I was given to live a joy-filled life was brought to me directly by God, but through other people. The staff members of the Christian treatment center were incredible, Godly professionals, who not only helped me really work through my past, but also gave me tools for guarding against depression in the future. My Christian counselor was patient but firm – always challenging me when I fell back into old thought and behavior patterns. I was eventually able to extend forgiveness to those who had caused me harm, and while not all relationships were restored, I WAS able to reach an acceptance with the circumstances of my life.

I would have never made it through those dark days without my rock – my Godly wife who loved me unconditionally and demonstrated super-human amounts of patience and strength. Most importantly, even when it FELT like God was a million miles away, He was there beside me all along the way, constantly offering up to me a second chance to live a joy-filled life!

I thank God that those dark days are now a distant memory. Is it just that life is now free of challenge and conflict? Goodness no! Life continues to be quite challenging. So, what has made the difference? Rather than running away from my problems, I try to face them head on. Instead of withdrawing from people when the going gets tough, I reach out to them for support and prayers. I remind myself continually of the fine line between doing things with excellence and expecting perfection.

John 10:10 says, *I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* For decades now, I have been living that abundant life. Praise be to the God of second chances!

**-Tracy Thomas**

*If you or your loved ones are concerned about your mental health, please seek help. There are a variety of resources available here at Fairmount. Call the church office or reach one of our ministers if you need assistance. Our Fresh Hope for Mental Health Group meets from 7-8:30pm every Tuesday in the Music Suite for those experiencing mental health issues and to provide support for their loved ones.*





## Vacation Bible School for All Ages

June 25-29 6:30-8:30PM

Register Infants through 8th Graders at [fccsignups.info/VBS2023](http://fccsignups.info/VBS2023)

We can't wait for this year's VBS! When you put your trust in Jesus, you can "make waves" because of His Spirit living inside you. Through fun activities, engaging lessons, and God's Word, we'll help kids understand how they can share God's love with the people around them. Preschool and elementary kids will enjoy lessons, fun activities, crafts, music, and snacks each night. (Please eat dinner before coming.) Middle schoolers will hear devotions from special speakers, play crazy games, take a trip off-site, and eat great food. To volunteer with Preschool or Elementary, contact Ashley Sears at [asears@fairmountcc.org](mailto:asears@fairmountcc.org). For Middle School, contact Davis Ellenberger at [dellenberger@fairmountcc.org](mailto:dellenberger@fairmountcc.org). Dinner will be provided to volunteers in Room 152.

The **Adult Program** will meet Sunday-Wednesday in the Sanctuary from 6:30-8:15PM. Dinner for adults will be fully provided in room 132, so take a break from cooking and come and enjoy the food and fellowship! Adult t-shirts are available for purchase. Order at [fccsignups.info/tshirt](http://fccsignups.info/tshirt) by June 4th. Kids get free shirt.

Everyone is invited to the wrap-up in the Worship Center at 8:15 each night, featuring the pie in the face contest! This year's mission is Polish Christian Ministries. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to help with war relief efforts in Ukraine. Thursday night will be **FAMILY FUN NIGHT!** After the Closing Program, we will be celebrating the last night of VBS with big inflatables, fun games, ice cream, and a variety of food trucks!

**Donations Needed** (name brands please; drop off in either lobby beginning May 28<sup>th</sup>)

Pepperidge Farms Goldfish crackers - Sensible Portions Veggie Straws (sea salt) - Kellogg's Rice Krispy Treats  
Doritos Snack Bags (individually packed) - Full-Size Packages of Oreo Cookies - Skinny Pop Popcorn (individually packed) - Mini Water Bottles - Full Size Water Bottles - Gatorade or Powerade - Variety Packs of Chips/Cookies

APRIL ATTENDANCE	
In Person Average	1,127
Online Average	376
<b>Total Worship Average</b>	<b>1,504</b>
Bible School Average	443

APRIL OFFERING		
	Actual	Budget
<b>General Fund</b>	208,593	\$260,907
<b>Onward</b>	21,905	\$18,302



MAY IS

FOSTER CARE  
AWARENESSMONTH 

The Hanover Foster Care  
and Adoption Network  
Presents

**Foster Care  
Awareness Event**

May 21st from 3-5 pm in  
Room 132

This event is intended to provide you with an understanding of the Foster Care process in Hanover County. It is also designed to provide information on the many other ways our faith community can get involved beyond fostering children.

Please RSVP at  
[hanover-foster-care-awareness.eventbrite.com](http://hanover-foster-care-awareness.eventbrite.com)

We all need  
redemption...  
some of us more  
than others.



**Scrooge**  
THE MUSICAL

Coming In December

Auditions May 20th. For more info and how to help, visit [fairmountcc.org/scrooge-the-musical](http://fairmountcc.org/scrooge-the-musical)

## Graduation Sunday June 11th

We can't wait to honor our high school and college graduates! Graduates will be recognized during all worship services on **Sunday, June 11th**. All grads and their families are invited to a special reception that afternoon at **12:30 in Room 132**.

Use the following link to RSVP and provide us with some important information for our annual publication and slide show.

<https://fccsignups.info/gradsunday>

Contact Krista Barnes at [kbarnes@fairmountcc.org](mailto:kbarnes@fairmountcc.org) or call the office at 804-559-8070 for details.



Graduate

Sunday

Hanover and King William  
 **Habitat for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>

**FAITH BUILD**

Habitat Faith Build is a partnership with local faith-based organizations and businesses. Fairmount is working with our local Habitat for Humanity to help build and fund a home for a family in Ashland. The house is almost complete! Fairmount has been tasked with completing the landscaping for the new home. We will be gathering on **Saturday, June 3rd at 9:00 am** to work on various yard projects, including spreading mulch, planting flowers and shrubs, and trimming existing bushes. Due to Habitat regulations, only those 16 and older can volunteer. Please sign up at [fccsignups.info/faithbuild](https://fccsignups.info/faithbuild).

# June 2023



**FAIRMOUNT**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**Sat, June 3** 9am Faith Build Landscaping Project

**Sun, June 4**  
8am-12:30pm Sunday Services & Bible School  
11:15am-12:15pm Joining God's Family Class, 251  
5-5:30pm Children's Ministry New Volunteer Meeting  
5:30-6:30pm Children's VBS Volunteer Meeting  
6-8pm Forever Young Concert and Ice Cream Social

**Mon, June 5** 9-11am Caring Hearts & Hands, 132  
6:30-7:30pm Rockin Refit, FLC

**Tues, June 6** 7-8pm One17, Activity Center  
7-8:30pm Fresh Hope, Music Suite  
7-8:30pm Fins & Fangs, 152

**Wed, June 7** 10-11am Adult Bible Study, Room 132

**Sun, June 11**  
**GRADUATE SUNDAY**  
SCRIP Table Open  
8am-12:30pm Sunday Services & Bible School  
10am-12:15pm Shares Store Open, 250  
11:15am-12:15pm Joining God's Family Class, 251  
12-2:30pm JC Crew  
12:30pm Graduate Reception, 132  
6-7:30pm Cancer Support Group, Library

**Mon, June 12** 9-11am Caring Hearts & Hands, 132  
6:30pm Rockin Refit, FLC

**Tues, June 13** 7-8:30pm Fresh Hope, Music Suite  
7-8pm One17, Activity Center

**Wed, June 14** 10-11am Adult Bible Study, Room 132

**Sun, June 18** 8am-12:30pm **FATHER'S DAY**  
Sunday Services & Bible School

**Mon, June 19** 9-11am Caring Hearts & Hands, 132  
6:30pm Elders Meeting  
6:30-7:30pm Rockin Refit, FLC

**Tues, June 20** 10:30am Forever Young Lunch Offsite  
7-8:30pm Fresh Hope, Music Suite  
7-8pm One17, Activity Center

**Wed, June 21** 10-11am Adult Bible Study, Room 132  
6:30-8pm World Impact Meeting, 130

**Sun, June 25** 8am-12:30pm Sunday Services & Bible School  
6:30-8:30pm Vacation Bible School

**Mon, June 26** 9-11am Caring Hearts & Hands, 132  
6:30-8:30pm Vacation Bible School

**Tues, June 27** 6:30-8:30pm Vacation Bible School

**Wed, June 28** 6:30-8:30pm Vacation Bible School

**Thurs, June 29** 6:30-8:30pm Vacation Bible School Family Night

## June Daily Bible Readings

1	God Will Not Forget You	Isaiah 49:14-23
2	God Desires You Live in Purity	1 Thessalonians 3:11-4:8
3	Clothe Yourselves with Love	Colossians 3:8-17
4	You Shall Be Redeemed	Isaiah 52:1-12
5	The River of Life	Ezekiel 47:1-13
6	Receiving Everlasting Joy	John 16:20-33
7	The Right Kind of Spirit	James 3:13-18
8	Peace in the Midst of Distress	Psalm 4
9	God is Our Refuge	Psalm 46
10	Christ is Our Peace	Ephesians 2:11-22
11	A New Heaven and Earth	Isaiah 65:17-25
12	<b>The Confidence of God's Servant</b>	Isaiah 50:4-9
13	<b>God's Servant Makes Many Righteous</b>	Isaiah 52:13-53:12
14	Forsaking All for the Kingdom	Mark 10:17-27
15	The Greatest Must Be a Servant	Mark 10:35-45
16	Who is Like the Lord?	Psalm 113
17	A Humble Act of Love	Mark 14:1-9
18	<b>God's Servant David Shall Be King</b>	Ezekiel 37:15-28
19	Loved with an Everlasting Love	Jeremiah 31:1-9
20	A New Covenant	Jeremiah 31:27-34
21	We Walk by Faith	2 Corinthians 5:1-11
22	Renewed in Christ	2 Corinthians 5:12-21
23	God Abounds in Steadfast Love	Psalm 86:1-7, 9-16
24	Love is the Greatest	1 Corinthians 13
25	The Lord is in Your Midst	Zephaniah 3:14-20
26	The Redeemed from Every Nation	Revelation 7:4-17
27	<b>God's Invitation to Peace and Care</b>	Isaiah 55
28	Dreams and Vision Revealed	Daniel 7:1-14
29	<b>God's Peace Be with You</b>	Philippians 4:4-9
30	God Makes All Things New	Revelation 21:1-14

## Bible Studies

Please contact leader for details. Many groups break for summer.

### Sundays

Adults: Roland Greene (804)746-0251; 6pm

Adults: Barry Will (804)916-9687; 6pm

### Mondays

Young Adult Bible Study: Jacob Ward -  
jward@fairmountcc.org; 7pm, email for location

### Tuesdays

Christ in Culture (3rd Tues); Felix Cross (804)363-8529;  
6:30-8pm; Room 132

Young Adult Group One17; Jacob Ward -

jward@fairmountcc.org; 7pm, Activity Center

### Wednesdays

Adults; Rick Raines (804)559-8070; 10am, Rm. 132

### Thursdays

Men: Rick Raines (804)559-8070; 6am

Ladies: Kari Smith (804)366-6540

Men (Pointmen): Kevin Bartlett (804) 932-3346; 7pm

### Fridays

Men: Harry Gill (402-6107); 6:30am @ Cold Harbor Rest.

## Life Groups

Contact Seth Wortman at swortman@fairmountcc.org

## Support Groups



Fairmount Cancer Support Group  
3rd Sunday of Each Month 7-8:30pm

For cancer patients, cancer survivors,  
and their care givers  
Contact Pepa Acors at  
pepaacors06@yahoo.com for details.



Weekly Peer Support Group  
Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm  
For those with a mental health  
diagnosis and their caregivers

Confidential Email: freshhope@fairmountcc.org

## Coming Events

Note: All dates and events are subject to change.

### July 2023

2 ~ Manna Sunday

3 ~ Blood Drive

9 ~ Family Movie Night

12-15 ~ First Chance 2 @ Camp Rudolph (2-3rd Gr.)

23-28 ~ Jr. Week @ Oak Hill Camp (4-6th Gr.)

19 ~ Congregational Meeting & Fellowship Dinner

24-28 ~ CIY MOVE for High School

### August 2023

2 ~ Children's Ministry Volunteer Dinner

6 ~ Manna Sunday

13 ~ JC Crew Pool Party

20 ~ Promotion Sunday

22 ~ School Begins

27 ~ Local Christian Church Send-Off Celebration

and Fairmount's 120th Birthday

### September 2023

3 ~ Manna Sunday

7 ~ Labor Day - Office Closed, No Church Activities

15-16 ~ Fearless

### October 2023

1 ~ Manna

14 ~ Impact Day

21 ~ Fall Festival

23 ~ Operation Christmas Child Packing

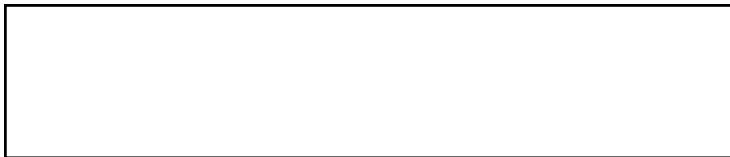
TBD ~ Elementary Retreat





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



We love offering little bits of “Biblical” advice, support, or sympathy to help people feel better. But what if the guidance you are giving or receiving just isn’t true? What if God Never Said That? Our new sermon series tackles common myths about God that we only *think* are in His Word.

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:00am	Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary	10:15am*	Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary Adult & Children’s Bible School Classes
9:00am*	Contemporary Worship in the Worship Center Adult Bible School Classes Children’s Worship	11:15am*	Modern Worship in the Worship Center Children’s Worship
10:00am	6-12th Grade FCYM community		*Worship service live-streamed at <a href="http://fairmountcc.org">fairmountcc.org</a>