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the FORECASTER

AT FAIRMOUNT CHRISTIAN CHURCH



This past year was one of tremendous opportunity, ministry, and growth for Fairmount Christian Church. We look back, not to pat ourselves on the back, but to celebrate the many awesome things that God did through our congregation this past year.

Fairmount had many moments in 2023 that are worthy to be highlighted. In my mind, four moments stand out:

Habitat Faith Build: Fairmount partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build a house for a family in Ashland. Fairmount's role included being a significant financial supporter of the project, providing lunches for work crews, and completing the landscaping around the house.

Fairmount's 120th birthday: The Fairmount family gathered for one joint worship service on the last Sunday in August to celebrate 120 years. It was a time of worship that will be remembered and cherished for years to come. Included in our celebration was the ordination into ministry of Jacob Ward and the commissioning of our new church plant, Local Christian Church.

Local Christian Church is planted: On it's 120th birthday, Fairmount gave birth to a new church. Local Christian Church held its first public worship services at Patrick Henry High School in Ashland on September 17. There were 120 people in attendance.

Scrooge the Musical: As our Christmas gift to the community, Fairmount presented this adaptation of Charles Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol". Held over the first two weekends in December, approximately 5,000 people attended.

Years ago, our staff was discussing Easter. Someone remarked that church experts regard Easter as the church's "Super Bowl Sunday". As a staff, we concluded that every Sunday at Fairmount is our "Super Bowl Sunday". We hold four worship services every Sunday morning that are dedicated to honoring God through music, prayer, communion, giving, and the preaching of God's Word.

As you will see, so many wonderful things took place at Fairmount in 2023. However, it all begins with our weekly Sunday morning worship. Thank you for being a part of the Fairmount family. Thank you for committing yourself to being here on Sunday mornings. Thank you for allowing God to use you to serve Him in amazing ways.

Enjoy this look back at 2023 and get ready for another year of serving God in 2024.

-Chris Santatsiere

REAL HOPE FOR REAL PEOPLE

Our New Vision: Real Hope for Real People

Happy New Year! 2023 brought with it an updated vision for our church. The mission of our church stays the same – and because it is derived from the words of Jesus Himself, it is unlikely to every change. We are a church that “Loves God. Loves people. And Makes Disciples.” Everything we do as a church family and as individual Christians comes back to that mission.

Our church's vision is the underlying incentive that is given to us by God in order to accomplish our mission. This past summer, the elder team updated our vision, keeping in mind the rapidly changing conditions of our culture. We are charged to accomplish our Christ-given mission by offering “Real hope for real people.” Our world – our community – our neighbors – desperately need hope. And we have it. Our lives reflect Biblical hope – real hope based on the very real promises of God. We offer that hope by introducing people to the hope-giving Jesus.

Moving into 2024, let's be sure our lives are doing just that – overflowing with hope. Let's be sure that we follow the prayerful exhortation of Paul in Romans 15: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” We've got hope. Let's give it away!
—Rick Raines

Vespers Service

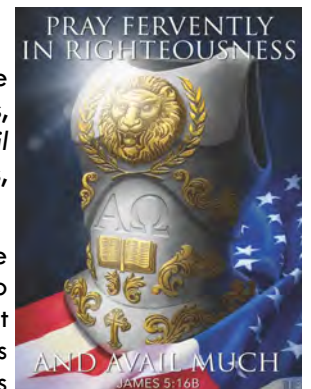


This year we introduced a **Vespers Service** at Fairmount. Vespers is a quiet space dedicated to hearing God's word, singing songs, and spending an extended time in prayer and contemplation. We also take the opportunity to commune together and confess our sins to God. It's a blending of the ancient Vespers tradition with some new ideas and practices. The Vespers service takes place in the sanctuary once a month and all are invited. It's not meant to be traditional or modern, but instead meaningful for all who love God's word and enjoy a reflective time of prayer. Please join us next time.
—Bill Nicol

National Day of Prayer

This year on May 4, 2023, approximately 120 individuals came together at Fairmount for the **National Day of Prayer**. The morning included a wonderful breakfast, honored guests and attendees, and heads bowed in prayer as the theme was explored: *Pray Fervently in Righteousness and Avail Much*. This group of prayer warriors spent time praying for family, church, education, businesses, media arts, military, and our government.

As we reflect on reasons to pray, we can't help but remember that the Lord said: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8. It is the responsibility of Christians to immerse ourselves in prayer and remove barriers that keep us separated from God. Prayer is a source of tremendous power by which we can meet the challenges of life with a calm confidence and conquering strength.



The next National Day of Prayer is scheduled for **Thursday, May 2, 2024**, at Fairmount. The theme for the morning will be: *Lift up the Word, Light up the World*, from the words of Samuel when he prayed: “For You are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness.” Mark your calendars now. We hope to see you at the next National Day of Prayer! Until then, keep on praying....
—Seth Wortman

Family Camp Night

This summer, we headed to Oak Hill Christian Camp to enjoy a Fairmount **Family Camp Night**. The evening was full of music, swimming, hot dogs, and culminated with a campfire topped off with gooey s'mores. It was a wonderful night of fellowship and fun! We can't wait to do it again!

—Davis Ellenberger



A 120 Year Birthday Celebration

Fairmount celebrated its **120th Birthday** in style at the end of August. The entire congregation gathered for one Sunday morning worship service, packing the Worship Center. Highlighting this celebration of God's goodness and faithfulness for the past 120 years was the ordination of Jacob Ward into ministry and the commissioning of Local Christian Church in Ashland.

On its 120th birthday, Fairmount gave birth to a daughter church. Local Christian Church is a realization of a long-time dream to plant a new church. The planting of a new church came about through years of saving and budgeting funds, partnering with Waypoint and Passion for Planters, and hiring Bruce and Bethany Humphrey to be our church planters. The Humphreys moved to Virginia from Florida in July 2022 and spent a year as a church planting resident at Fairmount in preparation to plant the new church.

The number '120' has special significance in the book of Acts. We read in Acts 1:15, that after Jesus' ascension into heaven, that there were 120 believers in Jerusalem which included the disciples and Jesus' mother, Mary. What an awesome day it was, on September 17, that for Fairmount's 120th birthday, the Local Christian Church held its first worship service with 120 people in attendance!
-Chris Santasiere



Fall Festival

Fairmount's annual Fall Festival is one of the largest community outreach events that Fairmount hosts. Throughout the evening, hundreds of people enter our building and get to see Fairmount's hospitality. People are always looking for wholesome activities to do with their families, and our Fall Festival includes free activities like Trunk or Treat, a hotdog dinner, pie, and a cake walk, which is something to look forward to. Of course, it would not be possible without the many volunteers. We look forward to continuing this fun tradition in the fall!
-Ashley Sears



Scrooge: The Musical

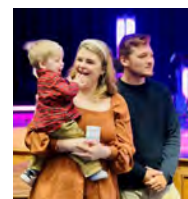
Scrooge: The Musical was a huge success at the end of a wonderful church year. The show was presented 9 times to over 5,000 people from our church and community. One of the highlights was a Friday morning school performance to over 850 students in the Mechanicsville area. The cast, crew, backstage choir and pit band worked extremely hard for many months, and we trust that the message of redemption made an impact on lives throughout our community.
-Tracy Thomas



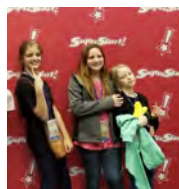
HIGHLIGHTS 2023



Fairmount is a church that is always in motion. Everything we do is intentional — loving God, loving people, and making disciples. We are proud to reflect on and celebrate our many events and activities over the past year. These listed below are just a sampling of the amazing work our people do for the Kingdom!



January: Faith Build Groundbreaking, Skate Night, E2 Conference, Baby Day, Baby Bottle Campaign, Encouragement Café, Read Thru the Bible



February: CIY Superstart, Night to Shine, Super Sponsorship, Sweetheart Banquet, Fearless Event, Box Car Drive-In, Brazil Trip



March: Big Daddy Weave Concert, Beast Feast, IMPACT Day, Faith Build Lunches, Road to Resurrection, CFR Estate Planning Seminar



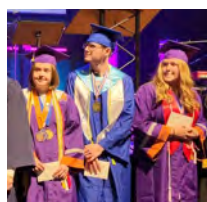
April: Church Work Day, Worship Choir Musical, Good Friday Service, Easter, Senior Event, Faith Build Lunches, Children's Day, Ladies Salad Supper, Ashland Train Day, Congregational Dinner & Meeting



May: National Day of Prayer, PRC Walk, Joyful Sound Concert, IMPACT Day, Faith Build Lunches, Nerf and Nachos, Mother's Day, Pizza with the Pastors



June: Faith Build Landscaping, Forever Young Choir Concert, Graduate Sunday, E2 Vision, Mission Values, Father's Day, Poland Trip, VBS





August: Congregational Meeting, Children's Volunteer Dinner, Family Camp Night, Faith Build Home Dedication, Celebration Sunday, Apal Bible Dedication Trip, Graduating Senior Bonfire



September: Mountain Mission School Trip, Fearless Event, Local Christian Church Launch, Vespers, New Zealand Trip, Micah Tyler Concert

October: Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection, Faith in Blue Event, Men's Steak Dinner, IMPACT Day, Fall Festival



November: Elementary Fall Retreat, The Fix Gala, Election Day, Veterans Day, Vespers, ICOM, Nerf and Nachos, Middle School Fall Retreat, Concert of Remembrance, Blood Drive, Thanksgiving Eve Service, Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Processing Trip, *Scrooge: The Musical*



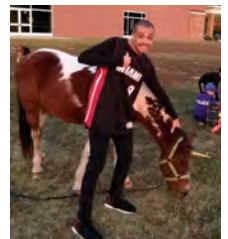
December: Mountain Mission School Gift Collection, *Scrooge*, Hanging of the Greens, Senior Luncheon, Journey to Jesus, Gingerbread House Decorating, A Quiet Winter's Night, Christmas Eve Services



Ongoing: Manna Sunday, MOH Saturday Servings, Rockin' Refit, Life Groups, Forever Young, Worship Choirs, Orchestra, Morning Friendship Circle, Bible Studies, Let's Go Services, Support Groups



Statistically, 2023, was a year full of blessings. Our staff conducted 33 funerals and 11 weddings. We had 62 additions to the church family - 34 baptisms and 28 transfers – not to mention several individuals from other church families who were baptized here at Fairmount. Fairmount's weekly worship attendance averaged 1,393. We averaged 533 men, women, and children per week in our discipleship ministries: Bible School, Bible Studies, and Life Groups. On top of all this excitement, we added two new staff members, Kasey Ogden and Lauren Haake. In addition, Chris Santasiere, Sherri Fadool, and Krista Barnes changed roles in their positions. God's hand has been in it all. **And to Him we give all the glory!**



Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!

We are already looking forward to what 2024 will bring!





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FORECASTER
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 9th.....Night to Shine
February 18th.....Sweetheart Banquet
April 13th.....Impact Day
March 31st.....Easter Sunday
April 15th.....Ladies Salad Supper
June 9th-13th.....Vacation Bible School

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 Youth Ministry Engage	*Worship service live-streamed at fairmountcc.org	