



# Fairmont focus



Fairmont United Methodist Church

March/April 2026

## **A Word from the Pastor**

What a wonderful celebration we had for Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday last week! It warmed my heart to see so many folks from our congregation, the Wesley Foundation, and Sunday Night LIVE, all coming together to enjoy the festivities and participate in the two services we offered. It was a good example of teamwork to get all the cooking and cleaning done and planning for the diversity of food and worship services. For the short one we had in the Fellowship Hall, the most memorable thing that happened to me was how all the kids came up first to receive their ashes. That was not planned. I had never seen that before for an Ash Wednesday service. Their enthusiasm made my night.

As we now move into season of Lent, I thought I'd leave you with a poem. It highlights one of the things Jesus talked about in Matthew 6 when he discussed the importance of fasting. And while Jesus mainly highlighted the spiritual discipline of not eating so that you can use that time to get closer to God in the text, "fasting" has also been interpreted for Lent to fast from certain behaviors to draw us away from God. This poem eloquently expresses these thoughts well for us.

Fast from judging others;  
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.  
Fast from the fear of illness;  
Feast on the healing power of God.  
Fast from words that pollute;  
Feast on speech that purifies.  
Fast from discontent;  
Feast on gratitude.  
Fast from anger;  
Feast on patience.  
Fast from pessimism;  
Feast on hope.  
Fast from negatives;  
Feast on encouragement.  
Fast from bitterness;  
Feast on forgiveness.  
Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion.  
Fast from suspicion;  
Feast on truth.  
Fast from gossip;  
Feast on purposeful silence.  
Fast from problems that overwhelm;  
Feast on prayer that sustains.  
Fast from anxiety;  
Feast on faith.

-Author Unknown

As we "fast" this Lent, may we be brought closer to Jesus, so that we may "feast" on his holy and beautiful ways in this holy season.

*Scott*

# 2025 Fairmont by the Numbers

Fairmont United Methodist Church

March/April 2026

## Fairmont Numbers and Stats from 2025

As we settle into 2026, it's always a good practice to reflect and think on some of the church's numbers and statistics from the previous year, so we can see the big picture. So let's do that for a minute for Fairmont. In 2025, we received 2 new members into the life of the church. We also received 2 children who will become a part of our baptized roll. Our average attendance at Fairmont was 110 total for our two services. This is slightly up from 106 in 2024. When it comes to online attendance, we received an average of 26 longer views over the course of a week (of at least 1 minute) on Facebook and YouTube, but this is slightly down from 36 longer views in 2024. When it comes to our financial stewardship, the picture is more rosy. In 2025, we received a total of \$330,238.70 in contributions. This is up from \$293,311.77 in 2024. When you include 2025 funds from our endowment, church use fees, memorials, and fundraising money, the final and complete 2025 General Fund Total was \$370,101.25. This is also an increase from a General Fund Total of \$321,583.89 in 2024. In 2025, we also paid 75.69% of our apportionments to the wider United Methodist Church and its mission in the world. In 2024, we paid 9.99%. Our Boiler Campaign receipts continued to receive the \$30,000 necessary to pay off our loan to keep our building heated and cooled. In 2024, we received \$47,350. And in 2025, we received \$30,700. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your faithful prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to God's kingdom and Fairmont UMC!!

2024 Average Attendance: 106  
2025 Average Attendance: 110

2024 Online Attendance: 36  
2025 Online Attendance: 26

2024 Contributions: \$293,311.77  
2025 Contributions: \$330,238.70

2024 General Fund Total: \$321,583.89  
2025 General Fund Total: \$370,101.25

2024 Apportionments Paid: 9.99%  
2025 Apportionments Paid: 75.69%

2024 Boiler Campaign: \$47,350  
2025 Boiler Campaign: \$30,700

## Children and Youth

### A Word about Children's Church

Our Children's Ministry has been averaging 3-6 older children and 1-3 younger kids. The older children thrive on discussion of a wide variety of topics, and our curriculum sometimes needs to be paused so we can have conversation on more relevant topics. Then we can apply what God teaches us in moments when grown ups are nervous about a snow storm or how much fun it can be with snow days. Our youngest folks in this community are very insightful and humorous. We share many laughs and infuse God's teachings into our conversations and lessons.

Peace Be With You,  
*Regan.*

# Children. Youth. Music. More

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## A Night Out for Children...and Parents!

**Olds Elementary Kids Movie Night** - On Friday, March 13 from 6 to 9 PM, Olds Elementary is hosting their annual fundraiser at Raleigh Brewing Company. In order to encourage more participation from the parents, they have picked Fairmont to be a place where parents can drop off their kids for free childcare so they can enjoy the event, especially if getting a babysitter is a little much for their budget. So we are looking for a few more volunteers to help us as we greet the kids on our playground, eat a pizza dinner with them--provided by the PTA, and watch a Kid's Movie in the Sanctuary. If you would like to help, please put your name down at the Sign Up Place at the back of the Sanctuary or email Margie at [info@fairmontumc.org](mailto:info@fairmontumc.org).

## Youth News

The Youth dished out a lot of chili on February 8! Their Annual Chili Cook Off is always a hit. Congratulations to the winners:

1<sup>st</sup> place - Kelly Lewis' Buffalo Chicken Chili (last year's 2nd place winner!)

2nd place - Holy Chili (Foster Family)

3rd place - Beef/Sausage (Greg & Helen Kraus)

This month, the combined Youth Groups will meet at Avent Ferry UMC on March 8 and 22.

## Community Garden News

Spring hasn't quite sprung, but it is time to start thinking about the Community Garden. Our Garden Guru, Helen Kraus, invites all who are interested to join us for a weekly Community Gardening Hour. All are welcome to come spend time together in our community garden for fellowship, learning, and gardening.



## Music Notes:

Congratulations to Randy Shepard! The long-time director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. All Children's Choir was honored and celebrated at an event on Saturday, February 21, where he was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for his 40 years of work with the choir. Randy is retiring this year. The choir has called Fairmont their rehearsal home for more than 20 years.

Hello Fairmont Family!

Easter is coming! Come join the choir for our special music on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. We'll be part of combined choir at West Raleigh Presbyterian church.

*Randy Shepard*

# Social Justice and Missions

Fairmont United Methodist Church

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**Documentary Showing in Honor of Black History Month:** Join us on Sunday, March 1st at 3 PM in the Fellowship Hall as we watch *Oberlin: A Village Rooted In Freedom*. This is an hour long documentary that highlights the stories from the once thriving town of Oberlin (just a few blocks from us) that was originally separate from Raleigh and built after the Civil War by formerly enslaved and free blacks. At one point, Oberlin had more than 1200 inhabitants before being paved over in the name of progress. But the renovation of two 1880s houses by Preservation North Carolina has exposed remarkable stories about the families who lived there. Following the movie, our own Randy Shepard (who is in the documentary) and Allison Ottley (who is currently doing tours for the Friends of the Oberlin Village) will lead us in a time of Q & A and discussion.

**Chocolate Party for the Work Team 2026:** The re-scheduled Date is March 7 from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm at the Wimbledon Subdivision Clubhouse-425 Coorsdale Dr, Cary, NC 27511 - proceeds go to the Mission Work Team.

If you haven't signed up to help make the party a success there are still a few open slots. Find the links in the email newsletter and online.

## Holy Week - March 29-April 5

### Palm Sunday - March 29



10:00 AM Procession and Parade with Donkey - All ages are invited to participate! Gather in the grassy lawn at Fairmont UMC at 9:45 to get palms and take pictures. Parade starts at 10:00 AM from the West Raleigh Presbyterian courtyard.

11:00 AM\* and 7:00 PM - Palm Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary; palms, hosannas, and children's procession (11:00 AM)

### Maundy Thursday - April 2

7:00 PM - Worship in the Fellowship Hall around tables.

### Good Friday - April 3

7:00 PM - West Raleigh Presbyterian will host the Community Joint Worship Service with West Raleigh Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Lutheran, and Aventura UMC. It will be a Tenebrae Service of Darkness and Shadows with a community choir.

### Easter - April 5

11:00 AM\* and 7:00 PM Easter Worship in the Sanctuary; communion, alleluias; Easter Egg Hunt for children at 10:00 on the playground and under the oaks.



\*Children's Church & Child Care available.

# Calendar

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## Documentary Showing in Honor of Black History Month

Sunday, March 1 at 3 PM in the Fellowship Hall; watch *Oberlin: A Village Rooted In Freedom*.

## Chocolate Party

Saturday, March 7 from 5:00-8:00 PM

Wimbledon Subdivision Clubhouse-425 Coorsdale Dr, Cary, NC 27511



## Olds Elementary Movie Night

Friday, March 13 - 6:00-9:00 PM; pizza supper in the Fellowship Hall followed by a movie

## HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday-March 29

Maundy Thursday-April 2, 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Good Friday-April 3, 7:00 PM at West Raleigh Presbyterian

Easter Sunday-April 5

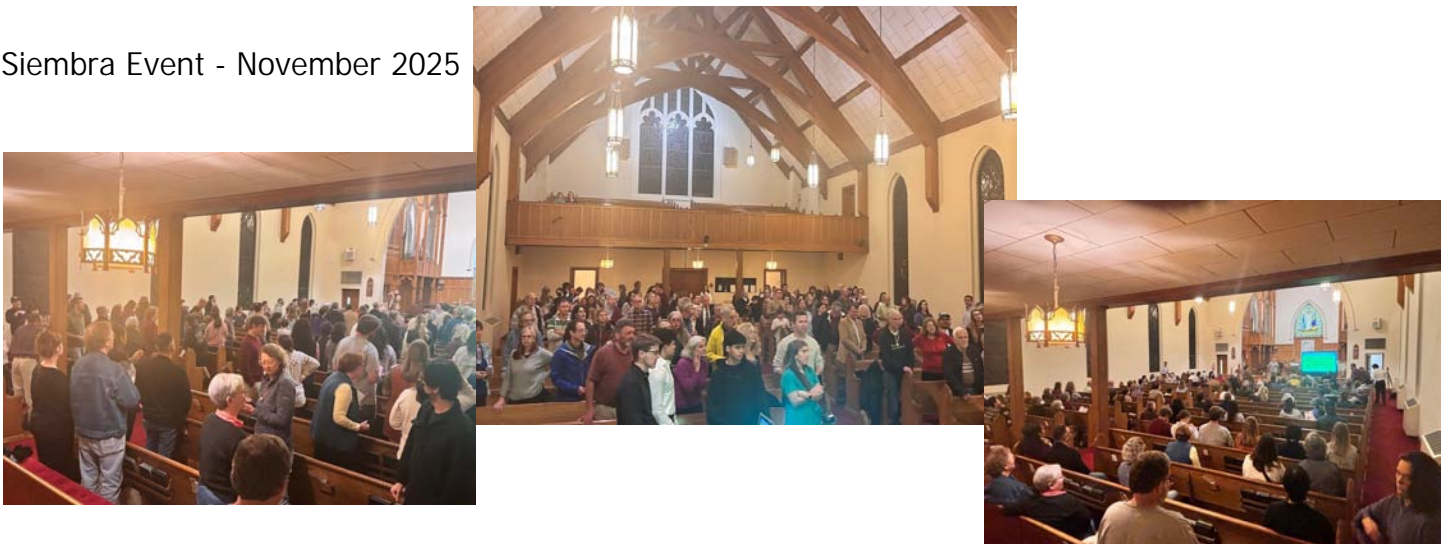
Easter Egg Hunt for the Children at 10:00 AM

Worship at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM



## Recent Pictures

Siembra Event - November 2025



# Recent Pictures

Fairmont United Methodist Church

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Decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas



Impromptu Christmas Pageant

# Recent Pictures

Fairmont United Methodist Church

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More Impromptu Christmas Pageant



Handing Out Flowers  
on Valentine's Day



Welcoming  
New Members  
Kady Ann Foster  
Cayce Lee  
Coleman Parler



# Recent Pictures

Fairmont United Methodist Church

March/April 2026



Breakfast for Supper and  
Ash Wednesday Worship



Wesley  
Students  
at  
Work in the  
Church  
Library



**Our Mission**  
to love God, worship joyfully,  
advocate for peace and justice, embrace diversity  
and serve with Christ-like compassion.

