

### Advent 1

- 8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion in the Chapel
- 10:15 a.m. Fairmount Choir Warm Up in Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and Online
- 12:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal in Undercroft

### Fairmount Happenings

Today marks the beginning of Advent. This year's Advent bags are located outside of room 114. Only 1 bag per family is needed, but feel free to share a bag with a friend or loved one you think might enjoy it!

We invite you to visit our Slow Advent Space (Room 114). Slow down with self-guided activities including a book nook, puzzle corner, and artistic and other spiritual practices. Sundays 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. & Weekdays 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at FPC.

### **With Grateful Hearts this Season**

We are deeply moved by the generosity of our Fairmount community. Your gifts make it possible for our church to offer vibrant ministries and missions for all ages. As we enter this sacred season of Advent - a time of hope, anticipation, and renewal - we give thanks for your continued support and faithful presence. If you have yet to make your 2026 commitment, commitment cards are available in the pews and can be returned to the church office, or you may use the QR code to make your commitment online. Should you have any questions, please call our office at 216.321.5800. Thank you for helping Fairmount continue to grow, serve, and shine.



For those who wish to pay their 2025 pledge or prepay their 2026 pledge by the end of December, please note that the envelope must be received or postmarked no later than Wednesday, December 31, 2025. The 2025 contribution records will be closed December 31st.

### **Volunteers Needed: No Strangers Club on Sunday, December 14th!**

Fairmount is committed to being a "third place" where people of all or no faiths can connect and see the humanity in one another. In a culture that is increasingly anxious, angry, and transactional, we seek to offer space for healing and connection. No Strangers Club is an interfaith, community-facing gathering for anyone who has a hunger for intentional, low-tech, meaningful connection. There will be cookies, cocoa, and holiday cheer! If you believe creating space for people to practice the truth that we belong to one another is sacred, consider volunteering! Sign up by scanning the QR code. Questions? Contact Kate Bouldin: [kate@fpccle.org](mailto:kate@fpccle.org).



### Music Ministries

- ★ **Thursday, December 4th at 7:30 p.m. – CityMusic Cleveland Chamber Orchestra.** Pay at the door what you can. Music by Mozart, Haydn, and Stravinsky
- ★ **Saturday, December 6th at 7:30 p.m. – Noel, Noel by Les Delices.** This candlelit concert brings together beloved Christmas carols, French noels, German hymns, and festive Baroque music. Soprano Elena Mullins Bailey and an ensemble of recorder, violin, cello, and organ are sure to put you in the holiday spirit! The congregation can get 25% off tickets by entering code FPNOEL at checkout. Tickets and more information at <https://lesdelices.org/event/noel-heights-2/>
- ★ **The Intergenerational PopUp Choir** will sing for worship on Sunday, December 7th with rehearsal at 10:15 am. All ages and all stages of singers are welcome. Can we get 40 singers?
- ★ **Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 p.m. – Candlelight Carols--A Concert with a Cause.** Free Concert featuring the Fairmount Choir, handbell ringers, flute choir, the Joyful Noise, brass quintet, percussion, and organ – consider bringing a non-perishable food item to stock our free food pantry. This event is made possible by the Eleanor R Baird Music Fund.
- ★ **Dust off your instruments!** We are hoping to put together an Intergenerational Instrumental Ensemble (4th grade to age 100) to play a few Christmas Carols prior to the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Email me ([jim@fpccle.org](mailto:jim@fpccle.org)) of your interest and to get music. There will be one rehearsal on Saturday, December 20th from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

## Advent at Fairmount

As a reminder **Holiday Angel gifts** are due at the church by this **Friday, December 5th**.

**Next Sunday, December 7th**, join us after 11:00 a.m. worship for our **Breaking Bread meal and Nativity Making activity**, an all ages nativity making experience.

### **Ecumenical Bible Study on Wednesday, December 10th**

A special Advent discussion with Rev. Ryan Wallace and Rev. Dr. Napoleon Harris. Attend in person **12:00 p.m. at Antioch Baptist Church** (8869 Cedar Ave.) and at **7:00 p.m.** on Zoom in the evening.

### **Blue Christmas**

For those with grief of any kind, the joy of the holiday season can often feel out of reach. This service provides space for healing. Join us on **Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m.** at **Church of the Redeemer** (2420 S. Taylor Rd.)

### **Ecumenical Advent Service**

FPC is invited to an ecumenical Advent worship experience with several local congregations, including Shiloh Baptist Church. Join us on **Wednesday, December 17th, 6:00 p.m.** at **Antioch Baptist Church** (8869 Cedar Ave.)

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

On December 24th, each service features candlelight and carols in our Sanctuary and online.

☆ **4:00 p.m.** Intergenerational & Children's Choir

☆ **7:00 p.m.** Chamber Choir

☆ **10:00 p.m.** Fairmount Choir and Bell Choir.

### **Christmas Poinsettia Dedications**

Each Advent season, through your generous contributions in memory and in honor of loved ones, we decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias for our Christmas Eve worship services. Any additional money raised from your contributions will be used to help cover the expense of worship flowers throughout 2026. The 2025 Poinsettia dedication form is open through **Wednesday, December 17th**. Scan the QR code to make your dedication.



## Supporting Our Community

### **Caring For One Another: Support the North Church Ministry**

Thank you Fairmount Community for your generosity in supporting the North Church Christmas outreach mission! All that you do is done in Love. Thank you for the blessing of your gifts. We will continue to collect personal care items this Sunday. Katherine Chilcote will have a workshop at North Church on December 6th from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. to assemble the Christmas toiletry gifts. Volunteers are welcomed, If you would like to help please sign up in the office. **Toiletries Needed:** *body wash, soap, deodorant, body lotion, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, razor, shaving cream, AA batteries, socks and winter hats.* Please place all items collected in boxes on stage in Andersen Hall.

### **International Student Holiday Homestay Program**

UPCaM is seeking families to host international students who remain in Cleveland over winter break (Dec. 18, 2025 – Jan. 8, 2026). Hosts provide a welcoming home, shared meals as able, and a sense of community during the holidays. To learn more or ask questions, contact Campus Minister Amanda Powell at [amanda@upcam.org](mailto:amanda@upcam.org) or 413-949-3366. Interested in hosting? Scan the QR code!

