



Merry Christmas!

We are grateful to spend this sacred evening with you, and we sincerely hope that you will feel at home here while you're with us.

If you've been to Fairmount sometime in the last few years, you may have noticed that we sometimes refer to Jesus as "*the Human One*." While it may sound strange and unfamiliar, *the Human One* is actually the name by which Jesus refers to himself most often in the gospels. We interpret the meaning of Jesus' title through the lens of Romans 8:29: "*The Son stands first in the line of humanity God restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.*" In other words, Jesus showed us how to embody God's love, which is how we reclaim the original and intended shape of our humanity.

We share all this to help you understand Fairmount's brand new mission statement: ***Reclaiming our humanity by embodying God's love.*** As a spiritual community, we feel called to live into this mission by creating a sense of deep belonging, by helping people discern and live into their purpose, and by teaching that our potential to transform our lives and the world itself comes from the power of God's love that dwells within each of us.

We dream of a world where each of us can become who we *really* are. That is, the *truest* and *fullest* version of ourselves. We know this world won't arrive by our own efforts, but by the power of God at work in and through us. And we believe that by fostering genuine belonging, living out our purpose, and embodying God's love, we open ourselves up to God's gift of liberation and we are free to become ourselves.

We wish you the gift of liberation this Christmas season—a life full of joy that rests in a simple truth:

I have enough.

I am enough.

God is enough.

Blessings,

Rev. Ryan Wallace

Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis

Rev. Andrew Genzler

Sunday, December 28th - Online Worship Only at 8:30 a.m.

On Sunday, December 28th there will be no in person worship at Fairmount. Instead, we invite you to take part in a contemplative service we will be posting online. Our **December 28th** worship will premiere at **8:30 a.m.** on our website and our YouTube channel.

View on Our Website

<https://www.fpccl.org/livestream/>

View on YouTube

<https://youtube.com/@fpccl>

Fairmount Church Holiday Office Hours

The FPC offices and building will be closed on Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th, as well as Thursday, January 1st and Friday, January 2nd. Our church offices will be open as normal on Monday, December 29th and Tuesday, December 30th. We will be open until 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31st.

With Grateful Hearts this Season

We are deeply moved by the generosity of our Fairmount community. 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. Should you have any questions, please call our office at 216.321.5800. Thank you for helping Fairmount continue to grow, serve, and shine.

Music Ministries

- ☆ **The Intergenerational PopUp Choir** will sing for worship on **January 4th** with a rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. All ages and stages of singers are welcome.
- ☆ **Give yourself the gift of music--Join the J-Term Choir for the month of January.** Shower singers or seasoned singers aged high school--adult. One rehearsal on Saturday, January 10th from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. to learn the music for the month. The J-Term Choir will sing on Sunday mornings at the 11:00 a.m. service. It's really that simple. Email Jim Riggs (Jim@fpccl.org) to register.

Save the Date

- 🌟 **January 4th:** Epiphany Breaking Bread Sunday (11:00 a.m., Sanctuary)
- 🌟 **January 14th:** Second Genesis Group Study continues (1:30 p.m., Ganson Room)
- 🌟 **February 17th:** Mardi Gras Community Celebration (in Andersen Hall)
- 🌟 **February 22nd:** Joint Worship Service (10:30 a.m., Shiloh Baptist Church of Cleveland)
- 🌟 **February 25th:** Ecumenical Lent begins (Wednesday evenings, rotating host churches)