

Faith Formation 4/1/26

Present: Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Nancy Gillombardo, Kate McFadden, Oona Moorhead, Lisa Nester, Jerry Parker, Katie Wetherbee, Susan Wherley

- Katie offered an opening prayer
- **Women's Retreat**
 - **Saturday May 16th at Fairmount - 9 AM to 3/4 PM**
 - Nancy, Lindsay, and Oona met to discuss hopes and plans
 - Loosely themed around wisdom stories, women of wisdom, and women of yesteryear at Fairmount
 - Did you know that Fairmount was built because of women who wanted their kids to have Sunday school?
 - Lunch and AM/PM snacks
 - Recipes from the Fairmount cookbook!
 - Non-Fairmount speaker
 - Craft project with weaving
 - Nancy has experience with basket weavers from Laurel and will look into finding someone
 - Cost \$30? with opportunities for ticket donation and scholarships available
 - Kate suggested having both a "suggested donation" and a "suggested generosity donation" to help cover the cost of others
 - Lisa shared that "sliding scale" can be associated with socioeconomic stress and feelings about what one should pay/negative feelings if unable to pay in full
 - **MOTION:** Allocate \$1200 from FF adult education budget to Women's Retreat.
 - We expect to recoup some/most of this from donations
 - Proposed by Oona, seconded by Nancy, passed unanimously
- **Silent Saturday Recap**
 - Third Silent Saturday was held on March 28th
 - Third retreat in four years (wasn't held in 2025 when Kate was completing her chaplaincy training)
 - Oona and Kate felt that this year's event went very well: no major headaches/frustrations
 - Didn't lose any momentum despite skipping a year
 - Roughly same number of participants (28 registrants, some additional who registered in person or served as volunteers)
 - Felt smooth
 - Volunteers knew what to do
 - New practitioners for yoga and sound bath
 - Final accounting forthcoming, but Kate expects us to be in the green
 - More feedback from attendees forthcoming, but some things we've heard:
 - "Worth the money"
 - Song circle was uncomfortable/awkward
 - Would have liked more connection at the beginning between attendees (prior to the silence portion)
 - Talk about what the day is going to be like, expectations, what might come up, goals, what people might want to do with the day
 - Bookend to debriefing time at the end of the day

- Recommend making it clear on flier/in advertising what percentage of the day is silent (i.e. 12 hour event, only 9.5 hours of silence)
 - Some people had concerns about going straight from breakfast/opening circle into free time, but Lisa enjoyed this because it forced her to have some time with her thoughts before jumping into activities
 - Good balance between structured activities and unstructured free time
 - Would like it to be more than once per year! Possibly adding a shorter event (8-2 or 9-3) that would allow more participants who have other commitments and can't do a full day (like parents)
 - At least one college-age participant came to Fairmount the next day for worship!
- **FF Annual Report**
 - Draft read aloud to committee for any suggestions/changes; none proposed
 - Gratitude expressed by all for Ben Sperry's leadership and summary of FF's 2025 work
- **Heights Tiger 5K**
 - Benefits the PTAs of the CHUH schools
 - We have at least 13 kids in the CHUH schools who attend Fairmount
 - 9 in elementary, 3 in middle, 1 in high school
 - We have sponsored for the past two years
 - Lindsay has brought a very popular button maker for the sponsor table
 - **Saturday May 16th - 9 AM to 12 PM**
 - Unfortunately the same day as the Women's Retreat so Lindsay is not able to sit at the sponsor table → would like to find someone else to do so
 - **MOTION:** Allocate \$500 from FF children's ministry budget for Fairmount to serve as a sponsor for the Heights Tiger 5K.
 - Proposed by Jerry, seconded by Nancy, passed unanimously
- **UPCaM (United Protestant Campus Ministries)**
 - Kate attending a board meeting soon; no present updates or requests
 - Kate invited CWRU Silent Saturday participant to UPCaM, will follow up via email
 - Jerry proposed that UPCaM students might want to participate in North Church ministry and that Kate could discuss at upcoming board meeting
 - Goal remains for Fairmount to sponsor Dinner Church once per semester: this involves cooking dinner and being present for worship and dinner
 - Next date would be fall semester 2026
- **Kids Update**
 - Lisa has completed proposal draft for "Prayground" space in the chapel and "neurosparkly" sensory support display area in the sanctuary; working on some modifications and plans to have it ready for presentation at next month's meeting
 - Lisa is hosting a Maundy Thursday Chipotle supper for kids and families around the subject of Holy Week
 - What's going on between Palm Sunday and Easter anyway?
 - Meeting at 5:45 PM prior to 7 PM worship service
 - All are welcome!
- **Youth Update**
 - Middle School summer update
 - Plan for middle school youth to attend the Montreat Middle School Conference in Tennessee
 - Maryville College - July 15-19
 - Currently we have 5 youth signed up
 - High School summer update

- High school youth to attend an Appalachian immersion trip with a church with a service project element based on real-time needs in the community
 - Kentucky - July 27-August 3 (dates work well for most families)
 - Currently we have 7 youth signed up, expecting more
 - Easter egg hunt and Easter trivia night planned for this weekend
 - **Sunday May 3rd** is Senior Sunday to celebrate graduates
 - Junior High Retreat will be the same weekend
- **Discovering the Spiritual Wisdom of Trees**
 - Book by Leah Rampy and Beth Norcross
 - William Birkett Williams lecture scheduled for **Wednesday May 13th** by Leah Rampy
 - Alycia Ashburn is planning a book study in the 6 weeks leading up to the lecture
 - First meeting **Monday April 13th 6:30-8 PM**
 - Participants are asked to attend at least 4 out of 6 weeks
 - Started selling books this past Sunday (3/29)
 - Jerry, Caleb, and Nancy all planning to participate in the study
 - Lindsay shared that this ties well into the Eastertide liturgical season, which will be centered around Earth care, the environment, “eco everything”
 - Pollinator exhibit being set up soon in the chapel hallway/room 114
- Jerry offered a closing prayer