

FAIRGREEN NEWSLETTER

January 2021

Hello All Fairgreen Members! This is a newsletter that we have thrown together in order to work on getting our communication back up to speed at Fairgreen. I have included any notes that were sent in to me for the newsletter and also the notes from our various informal, online conversations. My intention for these conversations was to speak and listen to other members of Fairgreen as if we were in the Commons having coffee. As an elder on Session, I need to find out what your thoughts are on various Fairgreen budget issues. Because some members are not able to get in on the online conversations, I have taken notes and have asked others to give me their notes on any of the conversations. You are invited to call in to Fairgreen or to me or to write me with any suggestions or questions that you may have. You will find the conversation notes beginning on page three. **The next newsletter deadline for information to be included will be February 15th, 2021**
julieraemurray@accountingbyJRM.com

Sincerely, Julie Murray

As requested by Maumee Valley Presbytery we have completed the review of our membership rolls. We graciously and gratefully thank each of you for responding to our request as you prayerfully marked and returned your response card. The return response was wonderful, nearly 100 percent. We are thrilled! As a Christian family, we all partner willingly and cheerfully offering to God our time, talent and treasure. Even with the challenges presented by the pandemic, we know that God has great plans for Fairgreen. Thank you again for your responses.

In Christ's love,

The Membership Committee and the Session

Fairgreen Women's Retreat

Because of the rise in COVID-19 cases since the holidays and because of the logistics of social distancing, the danger of singing in a closed space even as we wear a mask, etc., the decision has been made to cancel our women's retreat scheduled for February of this year.

The Lial Renewal Center, where our retreat is held, was gracious and understanding by setting a new time for our retreat in 2022: Friday, February 11 at 7pm through Saturday, February 12 at 3pm. The planned theme for this year: Hope: Because of Christ will remain the same.

I pray you find some place, some space where you will be able to pull away from the world to have your own personal quiet, Sabbath time.

Pat Gibson

Dear Fairgreen Family,

Thank you so much for remembering me with the 2 Christmas ornaments: the whimsical manger scene and the beautiful gold cross decorated with Christmas greens.

Your uplifting message helped me through this 1st Christmas without Kevin, which was difficult.

Best wishes to all for a healthy 2021.

Most appreciatively and with God's Blessings,

Jackie Campbell

Food Pantry Info for Newsletter:

Dec 11th Food Pantry was a big success

112 cars served in 2 hours time as a Drive-Thru

New fleece blanket given as a surprise gift to each family.

21 volunteers were involved in the food pantry preparation and distribution.

7 of those were young people ages 7 to 17.

Six Long Tables were outside filled with...Donations of Household goods, Clothing, coats, hats and gloves. Also: Toys, 7 artificial Christmas trees, loads of stringed lights, Christmas tree and household Christmas decorations.

Donations:

\$200 from Fort Industry Masonic Lodge toward purchase of Christmas blankets

Monetary donations from congregational members

\$500 from outside from different people in the community

January Information:

The Drive Thru pantry is closed for January and February due to the concern of the prevalence and surge of Covid.

However, we are connected to our clients by the outdoor LED sign, the Fairgreen Food Pantry Facebook Page (founded and managed by a volunteer, Tammy Rober), and the messages on the telephone. Also clients were given Fairgreen's phone number to leave messages and to ask for prayer. All messages are answered.

Any awareness of food needed by someone is met:

as of mid- January, 7 boxes of food have been distributed by appointment and 2 boxes were delivered to families in dire circumstances>

Carol's Cupboard continues to be known in the community, and in 2021, we have received the following food donations:

1. Extra food items from the daily community food distribution at the Public Library
2. Extra food from the Washington Local Schools distribution
3. . Donations from neighbors who hear about us. Some neighbors live on Fairgreen Drive. Some are from the Hiawatha, Monac School neighborhoods.
4. Donation from a family who knew about us from the Fairgreen Facebook page
5. Donation from Heather Allen's and Alyssa Pope's father and step-mother
6. Donation from Corpus Christie Parish
7. Monetary donations and support from St. Clements parish
8. Girl Scout troop
9. Anonymous and surprise donations that "appear" in the Commons!!!! (Sometimes food and sometimes hygiene products)

Dick Schroeder, who was born on February 2, will be celebrating his birthday with a drive-by hosted by his family. You are cordially invited. The drive-by will take place on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 2221 Plum Leaf Lane, Toledo between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. If you Have questions, please call Dick at 419-893-8441

Greetings from the personnel committee,
2020 was an interesting year!!!! I want to give a big THANK YOU to my committee, Marilyn McAfee, Karen Herren, and Dick Schroeder for all their help. We managed to update the job descriptions and the employee handbook...Enter the COVID virus...we lost our custodian and our secretary of many years retired, also got a new Pastor!
That was my time to retire. I turned the reins over to Julie Murray. I wish her the best of LUCK and a better year.

Charlene Ravenscraft

Informal, Round Table Conversations on 12.22.2020

Without the Round Table, due to Covid!

Online Present Were:

Pastor Bill Julie Rae Murray Pat Gibson Fred and Patty Nordoff
Mary Beth Henning Peg Winslow Mike Roadruck Marilyn McAfee Linda Hoover
Jan Anderson Charlene Ravenscraft Kay Amendola Christine Roebuck

Discussions/ideas/notes came up as follows:

Could we potentially have volunteer workers for the paid positions?

Should we Sell the Preschool?

Perhaps temporarily rent out school rooms to Washington Local Elementary Schools?

Discussion on the various ways the Spirit works through Fairgreen –

Food Pantry

Worship

Bible Studies

Shut Ins

Neighborhood

Preschool

Could we potentially get a grant through the “Mathew 25” program...

Should we plan to Close the Church?

Discussion and reflection on Jesus’ use of his “left hand” versus his “right Hand”

Hi Julie, I will try to keep this factual and to the point.

1. Fairgreen congregation now numbers around 80
2. Our donation income is around \$82,000
3. Our projected budget is \$140,000 plus, obviously not sustainable.
4. From our budgeted income we can cover church operation and services pre full time pastor and building maintenance. These are necessary for the continuation of Fairgreen church.

5. Expenses we cannot meet are funding a fulltime pastor and adding two new unfunded positions.

I know that Peg says we don't have a church without a pastor, I disagree. For me, Fairgreen church is the body of the church, the congregation, friendships, social activities and missions. To justify this I look back to the last ten years when so many times Fairgreen did not have a pastor. Fairgreen survived, the membership still attended.

This morning I heard a doctor on President Biden's team say it will be June of 2021 before we get back to any kind of normal. Other churches accepting that are trimming back, conserving their funds. The reality for us is we will not be able to use the church building for six months. Instead of accepting this, Fairgreen is going ahead as if we were a fully functioning and open church with a fulltime pastor, an administrative assistant and a new technology hire, none of which we can afford. I personally could not vote for nor accept a budget of \$140,000 plus. Such a move would see Fairgreen closing in one and a half years possibly...

This issue will be very divisive and could lead to us losing members so I think we need to prayerfully consider it. A possible solution could be a three month, bare budget. After that, we can revisit it, looking at when the building can be open again and what we can afford. It may take a second a three month budget. For me what is most important is keeping our Fairgreen family and church. New challenges call for new approaches.....Chris Roebuck

This is what I heard!

Quote from Pastor Bill's friend: "If everything is equal then nothing is important."

As we talk about monetary needs, we must first establish our priorities and our goals.

Broad mission statements don't help. Specific priorities do help.

Where do we see God's Spirit at work in Fairgreen right now?

><>God is touching people through our food pantry

What are the ways to get Fairgreen people even more involved ?

><>God's Spirit is working in us and through us in worship, Bible Study, Hearts and Hands outreach to church members, the Preschool and our immediate neighborhood.

If we recognize the above as our priorities, what do we need, as a church building, facilities, congregation to meet these priorities?

We touched on the possibility of working with other churches in the Presbytery in the Matthew 25 "program" plus working with WLS by renting out building space to them or to someone(s) else.

Sometimes it takes someone who we respect, but is more on the outside looking in, to reveal the obvious. The time was right for Mary Beth to speak and for ears to hear. That made me conscious of the Spirit being with us.

What can we do, as a congregation, to bring in the needed \$141,000 to balance the budget? What can we let go of? Who/what can we bring in and/or keep?

This was the first gathering of congregational input as we look to the future: being honest, having listening ears, and trying to be unafraid in letting God lead, living out our belief in birth—death—resurrection/new life.

Pat Gibson

First Qtr. 2021 Projection

Administration (cont.)

Total Administration

2,110.00

Properties

5500	Custodial Projects	3,825.00	→ actual; \$1,275/mo
5501	Custodian Reimburseme...	(1,800.00)	→ \$600/mo. increased from \$383 (in/out)
5505	Insurance	2,031.00	→ actual; \$677/mo. Increases in July.
5510	Property Tax Assessments	885.00	→ actual; paid in Jan.
5515	Telephone	200.00	→ \$65/mo.
5520	Gas	1,824.00	→ \$608 actual per mo (budget)
5525	Electricity	1,959.00	
5530	Water	2,000.00	→ higher in Jan (sewer?)
5535	Custodial Supplies	200.00	→ most supplies already here
5540	Snow Removal	2,500.00	
5545	Maintenance	1,000.00	→ never know. Goal is \$4,000/yr.
5546	Fixed Contract Services	310.00	→ garbage \$70/mo.; floor mats \$33/mo.
5551	Other Property Expenses	0.00	

Total Properties

14,934.00

PS Operating Expenses

PS Admin. Expense

7001	Wages - Director & Bookkeeper	10,036.00	
7010	Employer Portion - FICA ...	2,138.00	→ 7.65% of wages
7015	Medical Expense	2,700.00	
7025	Advertising	0.00	
7030	Bank NSF Fees	52.00	
7060	Allocation Paid to Church	2,550.00	→ in/out
7070	Dues & Subscriptions	0.00	
7081	Employer 403b - Admin.	750.00	
7098	T-Shirt & Sweatshirt Exp...	0.00	
7100	Field Trip Tickets	0.00	
7120	Workers Comp. Expense	0.00	
7130	Licenses & Permits	0.00	
7145	Misc. Admin. Expense	0.00	
7160	Postage	0.00	
7170	Floor Mats	138.00	
7175	Custodian Reimbursement to ch.	1,800.00	\$600/mo. (in/out)
7200	Copies & Office Supplies	0.00	
7210	First Aid, CPR & Fingerpr...	0.00	
7220	Telephone	60.00	

Total PS Admin. Expense

20,224.00

PS Teaching Expense

7000	Wages - Teachers & Aides	17,916.00	
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Carole Burnworth joined the meeting as requested by Matt Meinke (higher up - from the Presbytery.)

Carole brought with her personally, the experiences that East Minister Church has been going through with its' decline over time...and continues to go through...and her point of view on this.

Her church has been doing a study over the last year to feel where the Lord is leading East Minister.

She strongly recommends that Fairgreen do the same.

Could we share resources by Combining Churches?

Shared Ministry – Yoked Pastor -- Common Calling with other ministries

As Chris Roebuck continued to research, she found this at Seniorpastorcentral.com on facing massive budget cuts...

1. Budget to last year's income
2. Never go below a baseline of one month's reserves
3. GAAP accounting principles ensures financial protocols
4. Leadership does something stupid by taking too big a risk.
5. Look for two to three large cuts rather than small ones.
6. Create a cash flow to determine a monthly estimate of income in a given month

This all made sense to me, I think it is something we need to do if we want Fairgreen to continue.....You can check it out and see what you think

Website with tips for budgeting on

SeniorPastorCentral.com

Need new approaches to involve more members, like phone tree or train; paper letters; conference calls

Informal, Round Table Conversations on 1.5.2021

Without the Round Table, due to Covid!

Online Present Were:

Pastor Bill	Julie Rae Murray	Jim Eaton	Isabella Wu	Terri Turner	
Pat Gibson	Fred & Patty Nordoff	Peg Winslow	Charlene Ravenscraft	Kay Amendola	
Alyssa Pope	Sharon Durrant	Heather Allen	Joyce Kobach	Linda Hoover	Ken & Nan Bennett
Marilyn McAfee	Mike Roadruck	Karen & Gary Herren	Sheila Ortmann		

Discussions/ideas/notes came up as follows:

Wonderful feed from Linda and Heather on the Fairgreen neighborhood and the food pantry.

We are going to look at 3 month projections - forecasting the income and reflecting on expenses...by the next informal, round table conversation on budgeting. We will continue to financially look out quarterly, to aid us all by getting rid of some of the unknown...with the COVID and all..

We will be putting together a newsletter, of sorts, to reflect on the discussions that we have had and also as a compilation of the thoughts that all/any of us want to share with Fairgreen.

People can email me at

julieraemurray@accountingbyJRM.com

The due date to get the email to me is 1/18/2021. **The next newsletter deadline for information to be included will be February 15th, 2021**

Pat Gibson, and all that have access to the written up results of the "New Beginnings" project (that we had done in the past,) will need to bring to the next meeting any thoughts on the results of this prior study. Also, Pastor Bill would like to have volunteers to form a committee to do a current study without spending any more money.

Pastor Bill stated that he will be addressing stewardship with the congregation in the month of February 2021.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1/19/2021 - we have a session meeting on 1/12/2021

There was a strong movement to begin to have live worship for those people that wish to come in to the building while continuing with the online service for those who do not wish to go to church in person.

Last week, the Presbytery sent a representative to participate in the conversations. She may not be with us tomorrow due to travel but shall remain as the Presbytery representative along with an ordained clergyperson. The senior Presbytery executive has asked me to keep him fully informed of our progress as well.

Her recommendation last week was that we should spend 12 months in a disciplined study of all aspects of (1) the history of fiscal matters that have contributed to our current situations and (2) a careful and well thought out approach to the future. She cautioned against short-term or quick decisions not informed by that kind of thoughtful study. She described the kind of study she is proposing based on experiences in her home church.

Pastor Bill

FAIRGREEN CHURCH MEANS TO ME

This pandemic has robbed my sister Agnes and myself of two main facets of our lives, our physical contact with our family and our interaction with our church family. For a while, I found myself chatting with my family in the driveway of our home after they had dropped off toilet paper and sanitizer. That has changed a little.

Our weekly service loss happened more slowly because of decent weather and parking lot services which now has become participation in zoom church which, although I appreciate to effort it takes to produce, depresses me slightly, every week a big empty sanctuary. So what is Fairgreen church to me today. It is Wednesday zoom Bible study with Mike where I can connect with some of my church friends, read and study the scriptures and learn a lot. It is interaction on the phone and in writing with my church friends. I realize I am blessed because many members, long standing members do not or have not had contact with the church in many months.

When I saw the projected 2021 budget with massive overspending and expansion, I had a strong negative reaction to that. I asked myself why, after all nobody loves a dog in the manger. So I talked to God which I do so often these days. Here is what I learned, Fairgreen church for me has always been about the body of the church, the congregation. I looked forward to worshipping with them, greeting them, coffee hours, committee meetings, garage sales and even funeral dinners where we could honor ,in death ,our long time members. It is important to me that we sustain that Fairgreen church.

When all the country's experts are telling us we need to hang in and hang on for the next 3 tom 6 months, I felt like we were hearing them but we were still trying to play that Friday night football game without the audience. We don't want to lose the audience, our church members, so we need to keep them in the loop.

It is my position that for the next three months we go with a short term budget maintaining what Fairgreen church has. I am happy that others are looking at that too. I believe that and the grace of God is what Fairgreen needs to survive this pandemic.

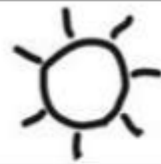
Chris Roebuck

I am thinking of submitting something for the children for the Newsletter since there has not been any Kids for Christ since March/2020. I am including some papers for the youth of Fairgreen to work on.

Blessings,

Sharon Durrant

Children's Worship Bulletin™



Ages 3+

Matthew 6:25-34

God Cares for Us

Jesus said, "Look at the birds in the air.
God provides everything they need."

Count the birds in the picture.
Trace the correct number.



or



or



?



"DO TO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO TO YOU." LUKE 6:31

KEYS TO KINDNESS



WAYS YOU CAN BE KIND...

- SHARE
- WRITE A NICE NOTE
- GIVE A HUG
- SAY NICE THINGS
- HELP OTHERS
- SMILE
- PRAY FOR OTHERS



LIST SOME WAYS JESUS WAS KIND



WHAT DOES KINDNESS MEAN TO ME?



WAYS I CAN BE KIND TO OTHERS...



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12