

## A NEWS RELEASE from FAIRMOUNT PREBYTERIAN CHURCH

▪ A Faithful Presence in the community for 198 YEARS ▪

2535 Fairmount Church Rd., Sewickley, Pa. 15143 – [fairmountarpc@gmail.com](mailto:fairmountarpc@gmail.com) – 412-364-7880

=====

April, 2020

The Fairmount Church cemetery holds a very curious mystery that no living member or local historian has been able to explain.

Located in the cemetery is an open area approximately 35 ft. x 65 ft. with no grave markers of any type. One local resident remembers his grandmother telling him that no one should ever dig in that area because there are people buried there that had a terrible disease... causing some to think that maybe this area is actually a mass, unmarked grave from some long ago pandemic.

Unfortunately, searches of area historical records, as well as church minutes dating back to that time have not uncovered any mention of what might have happened in this open area. The church congregation has never had the excess funds to investigate the area with ground penetrating radar or other technology, so at least for now the Fairmount Church cemetery holds on to its very intriguing mystery.

Being almost 200 years old (founded in 1822), the Fairmount Church leaders and congregation most certainly have had to deal with the effects of many disease pandemics. Although there is very little written in church records or on grave markers about it, Fairmount has been active during the major US disease pandemics, starting with Cholera and Scarlet Fever in the mid to late 1800s, to Typhoid, Influenza, Diptheria, and Polio in the early to mid 1900s. Many thousands of people died in the country during each of these outbreaks. Therefore, it is easy to surmise that members of the congregation needed, and pastors provided comfort to those stricken with, or lost family members to those diseases.

Up to the task of providing comfort during the current Covid-19 pandemic which has quarantined everyone in the country to their homes, church Pastor Nathan Beard and his wife Kelly, have utilized current social media technology to continue to bring comfort and the spoken word to the Fairmount parishioners. Using the Facebook platform, Pastor Nathan provides a normal Sunday service, as well as Easter week services to anyone wishing to find comfort during these trying times. Being an accomplished guitarist with a pleasant singing voice, he also sings and plays hymns as part of his recorded services.



Mystery area in cemetery



Pastor Nathan Beard delivering the 2020 Easter service via Facebook



Fairmount Church today

This is the second in an ongoing *Series of Newsletters* celebrating the families and the rich history of the church as it has served the North Hills community for almost 200 years. Fairmount Church will hold several commemorative events during 2022, culminating in a festive celebration in September 2022.

You can read more about Fairmount Church at [www.fairmountarpcchurch.com](http://www.fairmountarpcchurch.com)