

Fairview Reformed Church

The Mission of Fairview Reformed Church is to minister to the total life of this community by preaching, teaching, witnessing, and proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Fairview Reformed Church is seeking a pastor who will embrace our long-established and multi-generational congregation and help us to be transformed for greater kingdom impact in our community.

175 Church Street
Fairview, IL 61432



Church History

Situated in the beautiful agricultural heartland of Illinois is the rural community of Fairview, which is the site of the Fairview Reformed Church. Rich in history, this church is the oldest Reformed church west of the Allegheny Mountains with continued service since 1837. The sanctuary is awe-inspiring, with its solid walnut balcony wrapping around three sides of the church and the beautiful 1910 Hinners organ with its pipes reaching

heavenward. In 1995, the interior of the church was completely restored and updated, while being careful to preserve the original beauty of the edifice. This stately, historic church built to glorify God, is a lasting memorial to the spirit of the Dutch pioneers whose ancestors still worship there today.

The church is located on a shady, one block area in the center of Fairview. Also located on this block is the Fellowship Hall, which was built in 1981 to replace the original hall. Architecturally and functionally, the Fellowship Hall complements the church by providing a modern facility for Sunday School, Red Apple Preschool, and other community and church-related activities. Across the street from the church and Fellowship Hall is the parsonage, built in 1999 for use by the pastor. This spacious, two-story, modern home features a central staircase, four bedrooms, and a beautiful yard.



Our Congregation



The congregation of the church is comprised of people with various backgrounds and ages. Some are farmers, business professionals, teachers and retirees. Age range for our congregation is from ninety-something to one year old. Hard-working, friendly, and conservative (yet open to new ideas) are just a few of the adjectives which could be used to describe the people of this area who are predominantly of German and Dutch ancestry. The church is blessed to have a growing group of young children and families which excites us about our future, while we also cherish our beloved older members.

Some of the ways we presently serve our community are by packing Valentine's baskets with sweet treats and a personal note for shut-ins and nursing home residents, providing frozen prepared meals to people in acute need, serving funeral dinners, hosting a community soup supper, and donating money to support community projects which will benefit the town or schools.

We have many opportunities to gather as a church family. Family game nights, bowling outings, Operation Christmas Child shoebox project, rummage sales, summer cookouts, monthly donuts and coffee, and potlucks after church are just a few of the other activities we enjoy outside of Bible studies and Sunday School. Visiting our nursing home residents and shut-ins with copies of the weekly services and monthly newsletters are a way we connect with those special people.

Children in our church bless us with their participation in many activities during Holy Week, including marching into church while waving their palm branches, singing songs of praise, and hunting for hundreds of Easter eggs hidden on the church lawn. In the summer, as the only church in the community, we are blessed to minister to children by hosting exciting Vacation Bible School. Fall brings the opportunity to benefit the school children of our area who are in need of school supplies as the congregation generously donates supplies requested by the school. Our third graders are presented a study Bible each fall as a part of their faith journey. Halloween Trunk or Treat is a popular church and community event.



One of the most thrilling events for young and old alike is the Christmas Eve service. The tradition of the children recreating the nativity scene and special decorations in the Sanctuary set the stage for a beautiful candlelight closing.



In July of 2022, the missions committee hosted an ice cream social for all of Fairview with yummy ice cream and cobbler for refreshment and a talented live band performing Christian music for entertainment. Proceeds from the ice cream social went toward funding a July 2023 mission trip to Alaska where we support missionaries at Victory Bible Camp and Kingdom Air Corps. The group from Fairview enjoyed the trip so much that the missions committee is already planning to save up for another mission trip!

Our Community

Fairview can be proud of the many services and opportunities it provides its residents and rural neighbors. Businesses and organizations include a bank, gas station and convenience store, a farm production supplier, beauty and gift shop, grain elevator, insurance office, electrical business, café, ice cream center, greenhouse, post office, American Legion, livestock sale barn, headquarters for a regional phone and internet provider, and library. Two larger communities located near Fairview are Canton and Galesburg. They both allow access to physicians, hospitals, grocery stores, and other services.

Recreational activities center around the well-maintained Township Park which features two baseball diamonds, a tennis court, basketball court, and playground equipment. The Fairview Park District sponsors swimming lessons and baseball leagues for children five years and older. In July, Fairview hosts an annual community Fourth of July party and fireworks display, as well as a three-day Homecoming, featuring a parade, livestock show, entertainment, and carnival rides. In October, when the countryside is beautiful with its colorful fall foliage, the entire Fulton County area hosts the Spoon River Scenic Drive which allows visitors to enjoy arts and crafts, delicious foods, historical sites, and picturesque scenery.



Educational Opportunities

Fairview residents are fortunate to have access to many fine schools in the area. The Fellowship Hall is home to the popular Red Apple Preschool for three and four-year-old children. Approximately five miles north of Fairview is Spoon River Valley School which provides grades K-12 for four area

towns and the surrounding rural area. This consolidated school system built its present facilities in 1973. Through the support of parents and faculty, students are able to obtain a solid education utilizing the latest methods of instruction and specialized classes. Spoon River Valley consistently receives high scores on Illinois Assessment Testing and is financially stable. Smaller class sizes of 18-20, great staff, strong intervention programs, and opportunities for high school students to take dual credit college courses are just a few benefits afforded the students. Music, speech, drama, and sports of all types are also offered for the students to enjoy. The school district is large enough to provide modern facilities and equipment, yet small enough to give each student the individualized attention and encouragement needed to prepare them for success beyond high school.

Three junior colleges in the area which offer associate degrees in many fields as well as occupational certificate programs are Spoon River College in Canton, Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, and Illinois Central College in East Peoria. Located an hour or less from Fairview are six colleges and universities offering bachelor's and graduate degrees. These are Knox College in Galesburg, Western Illinois University in Macomb, Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan in Bloomington-Normal, and Bradley University in Peoria.

Area Culture

Fairview is ideally located midway between Chicago and St. Louis, Missouri. A short three-hour interstate drive northeast or southwest on interstate roads allows residents of our area to take advantage of the culture, entertainment, sporting events, shopping and sightseeing these bustling cities offer.

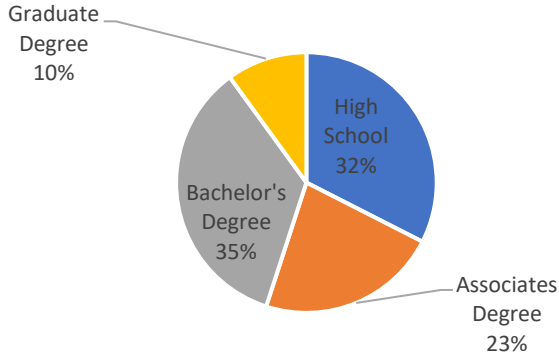
Peoria, which is thirty-five miles east of Fairview, is the largest metropolitan city in the immediate area. Located in Peoria is an international airport, Caterpillar tractor company manufacturing facilities, shopping centers, a zoo, centers for the performing arts and theater, lovely parks, a riverfront museum and planetarium, trendy warehouse district with unique restaurants and shops, and many historical points of interest. Situated along the Illinois River, Peoria offers many water-related activities for citizens to enjoy. Peoria has a St. Louis Cardinal minor league affiliate. Wildlife Prairie Park is a popular attraction near Peoria which consists of a 1,850-acre park where animals native to Illinois roam free. The Peoria Civic Center is the largest downstate entertainment and convention complex in Illinois. The Rivermen hockey team and the Bradley University basketball team play in the arena. Concerts and trade shows are also held in the arena. An elegant theater and exhibit hall complete this complex and they host many plays and conventions.

Peoria is also home to excellent medical facilities and The University of Illinois College of Medicine. This school of medicine and the three modern medical centers it serves have made Peoria an innovative center for medical education, research, and advanced treatments. OSF (Order of St. Francis) Saint Francis Medical Center, one of the major hospitals in Peoria, has just opened a new Cancer Institute which offers cancer patients in the Midwest access to cutting-edge early detection, immunotherapies, cell and gene therapies and 1 of only 40 proton beam therapy centers in the United States. OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois is another valuable asset serving the children and families in our area and beyond.

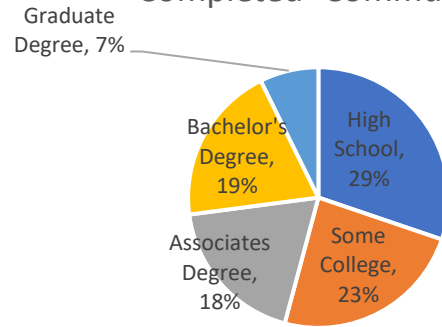
The village of Fairview is quiet, clean, well-kept, and loved by the people who live there. The pioneers from the east who forged across the mountains and prairies to settle this rich agricultural area would surely be proud. The Fairview Reformed Church founders would also be proud of the way their church has persevered and grown through the years. During the first organizational meeting held in a log school house on August 19, 1837, the committee of founding forefathers stated that, "we consider the Church of Christ one of the greatest blessings bestowed on man." It is in this spirit that the Fairview Reformed Church continues to serve God and His people today.



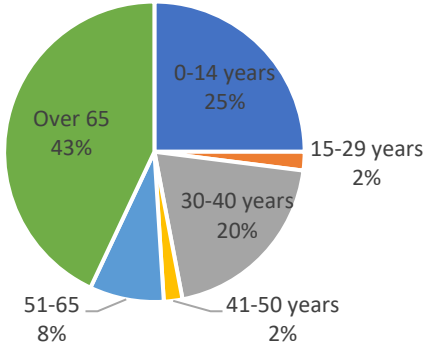
Highest Level of Education Completed- FRC



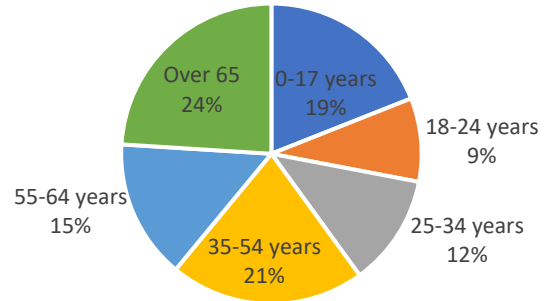
Highest Level of Education Completed- Community



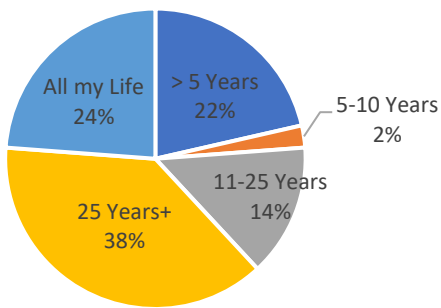
Age of FRC Members



Age of Community



Length of Attendance- FRC



Location Demographics- FRC

