

2012 Winter/Spring January—May Education Catalog



FAIRMOUNT
Presbyterian Church

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WELCOME

The Faith Formation Council is excited about the wonderful classes we have to offer during the Winter/Spring Semester of Christian Formation here at Fairmount. As our mission statement affirms our call is to promote closer relationships with God and one another by providing opportunities for lifelong Christian Education and spiritual nurture throughout our congregation. Fairmount's educational program is designed to provide a context in which people of all ages may find meaningful, challenging and exciting opportunities for continuing education that prepare us to live as faithful people in God's world.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

Fairmount's Faith Formation Hour provides opportunities for all generations to grow in faith.

Sunday mornings from 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

No matter your age, on Sunday morning you will find opportunities for conversation and faith exploration that cover a wide range of topics and styles. You will definitely find a place for you to grow in faith.

Please note: There are NO Church School classes on Easter Sunday (April 8th).

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

We offer two basic different types of classes each semester. Further information about particular classes offered this winter/spring for adults, youth and children can be found in this catalog.

ADULT ELECTIVE CLASSES

Adult learners' schedules have many demands. Keeping this in mind we offer shorter term classes that provide a level of flexibility for schedules. These shorter term classes also provide the opportunity for participants to partake in a lively mix of topics. During the course of a year the Faith Formation council seeks to provide a well balanced mix of the following topics:

- ◇ Bible
- ◇ Christian Living and Spiritual Practices
- ◇ Contemporary Issues and Action: The Church and the World
- ◇ Theology, History and Ethics
- ◇ Perspectives on Literature, Arts, Science and Faith
- ◇ Our Life in the World: parenting topics, bereavement groups, etc...

You are encouraged to choose classes that interest you, challenge you and provide you opportunities to grow in your faith and life.

ADULT ONGOING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

These classes (*Women of Spirit and Digging into Scripture*) meet together for the whole semester, a primary goal being to stay connected with one another in a learning and caring environment.

DIGGING INTO SCRIPTURE:

Teachers: Jeri Gype, Ulrich Hopher and Hedy Westra
Ganson Room

LIVING THE QUESTIONS

Using the dynamic DVD series, **Living the Questions 2.0**, this class will engage in meaningful theological conversation about where Christianity is headed in this post-modern world in which we live. Each session will make use of a 20-minute video segment that will include conversations with leading voices of faith, sermon and lecture clips, digital stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith, and concrete spiritual practices. The DVD clips are just the beginning of our learning. These will be used to peak our curiosity and invite us into deeper conversation with one another. We would love to have you join us. More information is available at the Fairmount Adult Bible study wiki. For access, please contact Ulrich Hopher <uhopher@sbcglobal.net>

Please note:

This class will take a three week break from this topic in order to participate in the Session II Elective class, Rediscovering Values, from March 18th - April 1st.

WOMEN OF SPIRIT

Leaders: Evelyn Hunt and Marilyn Eisele
Room: Chilcote North

Women of Spirit is a small, diverse group open to women of all ages. We use both book studies and videos for our discussions focused on building one's spiritual maturity. Women of Spirit share and explore our faith through reading, discussion, prayer and studying other Christian spiritual practices. Though originally started as a book study group, Women of Spirit continues to enjoy reading and sharing, but occasionally have expanded to other activities such as retreats, videos and discussions, contemplative prayer and fellowship dinners. As a group we will plan out our activities which may include participation in Faith Formation Class offerings as piques the interest of the collective group. All are welcome as we grow together in Christ. Please email Evelyn Hunt (bellfieldev@hotmail.com) or Marilyn Eisele (MarilynE@thepdigroup.com) with any questions.

WHO WE WERE, WHO WE ARE:

THE CHURCH FROM JUDEO-CHRISTIAN TIMES UNTIL THE REFORMATION

Teachers: Liz Lehfeldt and Nora Murphy

Room: Upper Room

Why do we have something called the Nicene Creed? How exactly did Martin Luther stir up so much trouble in the sixteenth century? Where do Methodists come from? Get answers to these questions and others while we explore the history and struggles of our Christian Ancestors. Discover how their faith journeys can guide our own in the present day.

A TIME TO HEAL: FAIRMOUNT'S BEREAVEMENT GROUP (6 weeks)

Teachers: Pastor Missy Shiverick and John Vitkus, Ph.D

Room: Chilcote North

Have you experienced a significant loss this past year? **"A Time to Heal"** is a bereavement group which will provide sharing and support with others who are also grieving. Individuals who have participated in this group in the past have found it helpful to talk with others about what they are experiencing. Through discussion, listening, tears, laughter, and prayers individuals found a road to healing. Please contact Missy (mshiverick@fairmountchurch.org) if you would like to be included in the group.

Please note:

This group will meet from 9-10:45am on Sunday mornings.

This class ends on Feb. 12th

The Lenten Journey

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Teacher: Rev. Logan Skelly
Room: Upper Room

As we begin this Lenten journey we are going to dive into Mark, the shortest of the four Gospels and the first to be written. What are its distinctive features and how does Mark's style and portrayal of Jesus shape our understandings of Jesus and our call to follow him. Among other resources we will be using a commentary written by Rev. Matt Wooster, the husband of our very own Betsy Wooster, as a conversation tool for this class.

WHEN YOUR AGING PARENT NEEDS YOU

Teacher: Rev. Missy Shiverick
Room: Chilcote North

Aging is an interesting process, one that causes all of your relationships to change, but change is not a bad thing. When Your Aging Parent Needs You is a group designed for those whose relationship with your parent(s) has changed. Caring for an aging parent can be an all-encompassing experience that affects every aspect of life. It brings changes and challenges that are difficult emotionally and physically. We will gather together to discuss these changes and ways we can make this process be more than an experience that is merely survived, but rather an opportunity for personal growth and fulfillment.

PRAYING IN COLOR (Feb. 26th – March 11th - 3 weeks)

Teacher: Rev. Eric Dillenbeck
Room: Dining Room

Maybe you love color. Maybe you are a distractible or impatient soul, or a word-weary pray-er in search of a different way to approach God and pray for others. This will be a class where we pray with the right side of our brains. You do NOT have to be an artist and you do not need the best art supplies. Come and experience a way of praying that invites you to doodle and color in ways that wrap you up in God's presence.

REDISCOVERING VALUES (March 18th – April 1st - 3 weeks)

Teachers: Karen Dakin and Liz Lehfeldt
Room: Ganson Room

Jim Wallis, the Editor in Chief of Sojourners magazine, best selling author, renowned speaker, public theologian and international commentator, will be coming to Fairmount to speak on April 25, 2012. He will be discussing his most recent book, Rediscovering Values, On Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street. A Moral Compass for the New Economy. Jim Wallis regards the financial crisis as a moral crisis. He reminds us that the saying, "There is never enough," must be replaced by the dictum of God's economy; namely, there is enough, if we share it." He lays out principles for the new economy that will bring us back to our Christian principles including caring for the poor as a moral duty that is critical to the common good. The series will culminate with Twenty Moral Exercises to help us focus our energies and get started on making choices that make changes. It would be helpful to have purchased Rediscovering Values and to have read the first three chapters for the first class.

Adult Elective Classes - Session III (April 15th – May 20th)

HIDDEN HEROES OF SCRIPTURE (April 15th – May 20th)

Teacher: Rev. Eric Dillenbeck

Upper Room

The stories of scripture are filled with the easily recognizable ancestors of our faith: Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Miriam, Mary, Elizabeth, and Paul to name just a few. But the story of God's grace is embodied in so many other lesser known heroes of scripture. In this class we will take a look at six or more of these hidden heroes and discover how their stories help us to better understand God's grace in our lives.

Youth Ministry

CHURCH SCHOOL

We have separate classes for our Junior and Senior High students each Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:45.

Breakfast Club - for youth in 7th and 8th grades

Room 207, down the hall from the Youth Room

Teachers: Bo Shiverick and Peter Scheid

We'll be continuing our study through the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum. It will often focus on the same selections from the Bible that week's sermon is on, helping each to provide a better understanding of the other. *Feasting on the Word* makes frequent use of songs and movies that youth are likely familiar with, and aims to help relate common lessons and themes found in the Bible, pop culture, and our daily lives.

SHiFT - for youth in 9th through 12th grades

Youth Room

Teachers: LeAnn Davis and Anthony Sorace

Last semester, our Senior High students also worked with a version of the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum. This semester we'll be continuing with that but also mixing in materials from a few other sources we've been looking at. The result will be a more varied, engaging Sunday morning lesson. As with last semester, we'll still often be discussing the same Bible passage used in that morning's sermon, which helps students understand both better.

YOUTH IN MISSION

In addition to the classes available during the Christian Education hour, our youth participate in a number of monthly and yearly service opportunities. We help run a community meal every month, and have a large, week-long summer mission trip every year.

Youth Ministry

BETHANY COMMUNITY MEAL

Second Friday of each month, 4:45pm

Each month we take Junior and Senior High youth to Bethany Presbyterian Church on the west side of Cleveland to serve in Christ's name. At Bethany we help host a community meal for those in need. We meet at church at 4:45pm to take the church van to Bethany. When we arrive we help with last-minute meal prep (most of the food is prepared by another group before we arrive), serve, and clean up. We're typically back to Fairmount by 7:45.

Friday Night Fun

After serving at Bethany we get dinner (youth are asked to bring \$5-10 for food) and have a variety of fun activities until about 10pm.

SUMMER MISSION OPPORTUNITY

La Romana, Dominican Republic

July 17th to 23rd

From June 17th to 23rd, our youth group will travel to the Dominican Republic to work with our friends at the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana and the surrounding areas. This is a long-running trip for Fairmount, watching the hospital be built up bit by bit year after year. From our last trip two years ago, there's a whole third floor that's been added!

At the hospital itself, there's a variety of light to medium construction work that always needs doing. In addition to the work done at the hospital itself, we will be heading out into the bateyes - small villages, located in isolated parts of the sugar cane fields where the workers live. These really are "the least among us," many living in tin shacks with poor quality water and sanitation and very little access to education or health care. We do more construction work in the bateyes, and also help run all aspects of a roaming medical clinic, working with doctors and nurses from the Dominican Republic. For many of the people we're working with, this is the only medical care they have any access to. IF you would like to attend this or help support this trip please speak with Anthony Sorace (anthony@fairmountchurch.org)

HELP MY FRIEND IS...

Growing up can be hard. More and more, youth are confronted with a whole bunch of issues that are stressful and confusing. When that happens, they will often talk to their peers before talking to authority figures like parents or teachers. We've all heard about how bad "peer pressure" can be, but that works both ways. We want to give youth the tools to help their friends deal with important issues in their lives - and recognize and deal with their own. Fairmount's Youth Ministry will be hosting a series of discussions, each focusing on a different problem, collectively called "*Help My Friend Is...*".

Help My Friend is using drugs!

January 29, 1-3 pm

For this session, Russ Goodwin, a trained adolescent counselor, will be coming in to lead a discussion on what to do when a friend has a problem with drugs. Russ has a lot of experience talking with youth and their parents about addiction and related issues. This event is for both our High School youth and their parents. There will be a large group presentation and time for peer group discussions about more sensitive issues.

Spread the word and plan to attend!

Children's Ministries

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Mark 10:14

FAIRMOUNT CHURCH NURSERY

Infant & Toddler Room

All children are gifts from God, who from their first day live fully in God's grace and are already blessed, chosen and beloved! Loving adults, and hands-on play define our church nursery, planned just for babies and toddlers.

Care is provided for children from birth up to age 3, from 8:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. each Sunday. Two professional nursery caregivers, supported by church member volunteers, care for the children. They greet your children by name, helping them to experience the love and grace of God as they hear Bible stories, watch, rest and play in the context of a faith community.

Please help our Nursery staff and volunteers better care for your child by filling out the Nursery registration form at the link provided and bring it to Elisha and/or Magella on Sunday morning or ask for a copy when you get to the Nursery on Sunday morning:

<http://www.fairmountchurch.org/PDFs/CE/NurseryRegistrationCard2010.pdf>

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOL – SIXTH GRADE

All church school classes meet from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Three Year Old Children – Room 1, Education Wing, Lower Level

Preschool/Kindergarten Class – Room 2, Education Wing, Lower Level

First/Second Grade Class – Kent Organ Room, Education Wing, Lower Level

Third/Fourth Grade Class – Room 5, Education Wing, Lower Level

Fifth/Sixth Grade Class – Rom 105, on main church floor, just off Andersen Hall

Our classes are enriched by Bible stories, music and the arts, and are designed to help children know they belong and to help them make meaning in their lives. Classes are taught by volunteer teachers from the Fairmount Congregation.

Classes are assigned on the first Sunday of the Program year by age or grade and remain stable through the next 12 months. For children age three years and older, please download this form and return it to your child's Church School teacher on Sunday morning:

<http://www.fairmountchurch.org/PDFs/CE/fpcCEregForm.pdf>

WHAT CURRICULUM DO WE USE?

Spark

Spark is a faith formation program that introduces children age three through Kindergarten to an ever deepening exploration of God's stories. Spark lessons bring to life stories from the Old and New Testaments through games, art, music and science, to accommodate all the different ways that children learn.

Feasting on the Word

Feasting on the Word is an innovative, lectionary-based curriculum used in our 1st-6th grade classes. It provides intentional connections between education and worship. It utilizes a common Bible passage for all learners, and each lesson explores the weekly focus story in these four ways:

What? (Basic information about background and meanings of biblical passages.)

Where? (Where is God in this passage?)

So What? (What does this passage mean to me?)

Now What? (Prompting students to live out what the passage is saying.)

Children's Ministries

GODLY PLAY

Care for our Preschool/Kindergarten During 11:00 Worship

Room 5 (Age Three) and Room 7 (Ages Four through Kindergarten), Education Wing

Godly Play worship is offered each Sunday during the 11 o'clock worship service for children age three through Kindergarten during the school year. Godly Play teaches children the art of using Christian language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action, through the Montessori method of Christian Education. Using three dimensional, hand-carved Bibles story figures, Godly Play prepares children to eventually join in the worship life of the congregation as they develop a deeper understanding of stories, symbols and rites. Parent pick-up is immediately following the close of the 11:00 worship hour.

M&Ms, MUSIC & MINISTRY PROGRAM

Children's Choirs and Worship Arts Weekly Ministry

Thursdays from 5:15pm - 6:30 pm

Our children's choirs and worship arts leadership program for K – 6th graders **resumes on Thursday, January 12, at 5:15 p.m.** Bob Moncrief will be recuperating from surgery in the early weeks of the new year, and Director of Children and Family Ministries, Betsy Wooster, and Angel Choir director, Maribeth Crawford, will be lead both choirs until Bob's return in February. We will let everyone know when auditions for individual speaking and singing parts in this year's Spring Musical, *Moses and the Freedom Fanatics*, will take place.

Interested in joining M&MS? We welcome all interested children in K-6th grade!

Contact Betsy Wooster, bwooster@fairmountchurch.org, with questions.

CLUB 426

CLUB 426 is a "Youth Group" type experience for our 4th to 6th graders. This is an opportunity for our "Tweens" to gather together for fun, fellowship and Bible Study.

Club 426 is usually the 2nd Sunday of the month

(after worship) 12:15 - 2:00

Upcoming Dates are:

January 8th

February 12th

March 11th

April 8th

May 20th (This is a change from our regular 2nd Sunday due to Mother's Day)

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Saturday, January 28, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. - Games & Movie Night for Ages Preschool and Higher at the Church! Reserve your child's spot by January 25, bwooster@fairmountchurch.org

Saturday, April 7 – Easter Egg Hunt on the Church Lawn (or inside if inclement weather)

Saturday, May 12 – Church School Children walk the Cleveland Hunger Walk

Sunday, May 20 – M&Ms Spring Musical in 11:00 Worship, *Moses and the Freedom Fanatics!*

Sunday, June 3 – Fairmount Church Strawberry Festival

Other Faith Formation Options

Wednesday Night Lenten Series

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22nd at 7:00 P.M.

Join us for Ash Wednesday worship in the sanctuary with the imposition of ashes.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS (Feb. 29th, March 7th and 14th)

LENTEN DISCUSSION SERIES - "TALKING THE WALK"

Ganson Room at 7:00 p.m.

Since the beginning the church has tried to practice what we preach, to "walk the walk" if you will. But when Jesus commissioned the disciples there was a clear call to teach, to share the faith they held, to "talk the walk." But talking about our faith makes most mainline Christians nervous. What we forget is that we are good at talking. From the time we wake up in the morning until we turn out the lights at night, we are talking. We talk on the phone, in classrooms, across the office, and over meals. We talk to ourselves, to friends, and to strangers. But what are we talking about? Join us this Lenten season as we practice "Talking the Walk," sharing our faith by sharing our stories of God's presence in our life. Using [Testimony: Talking Ourselves into Being Christian](#) as our guide we will explore this ancient practice and how it can help us bring our faith to speech in the everyday occurrences of life.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

The 2012 William Birkett Williams Lecture

Jim Wallis, of Sojourners

and author of

Rediscovering Values, On Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street

will speak at

FAIRMOUNT Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, APRIL 25, 2012

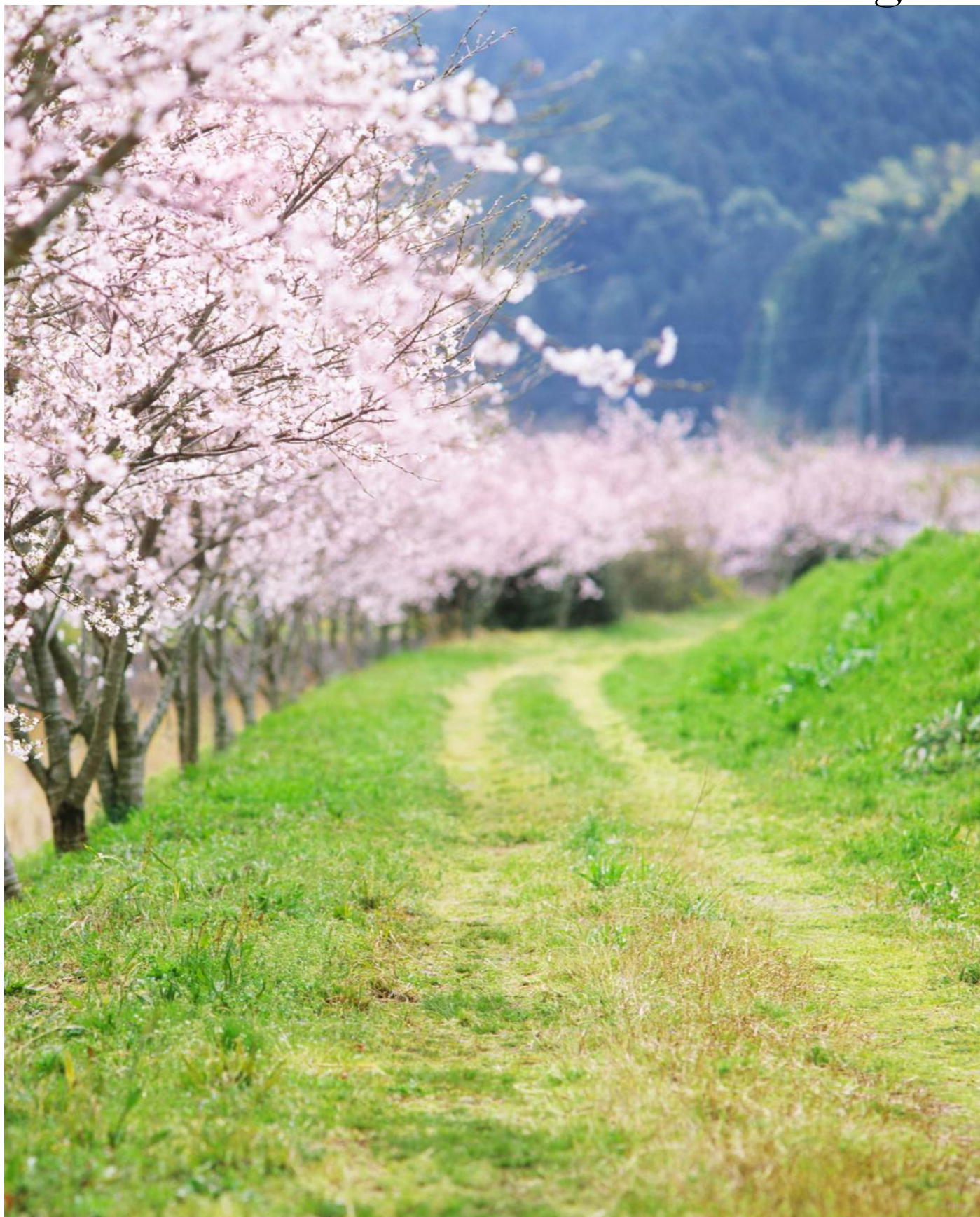
7:30pm

Reception and book signing to follow talk.

This event is free and open to the public.

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Fairmount Presbyterian Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA).