

Sunday, April 19th

8:30am Worship with Communion in the Chapel

9:30am FPC Youth: Jr. High Group

10:15am Intergenerational Pop Up Choir Warm Up in Sanctuary

11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary and Online

12:15pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal in Choir Room

12:30pm Elder's Association luncheon at Cleveland Skating Club

3:00pm Spirituality in Nature Walk at Acacia Reservation



Alpha and Omega: The Beginning and the End of Creation

The Big Bang Theory reveals that the universe as we know it came into existence 13.7 billion years ago from a singularity. And evolutionary theory has proven that humans are descended from ancestors that we can trace back more than 3 billion years to single-celled organisms. Over the last two centuries, advances in modern science and technology have inspired Christians to read our sacred creation stories in new ways.

Through Pentecost, we will hold our book of scripture alongside the “book of nature” as we hold creation’s past and its future in tension. Each Sunday, we’ll consider what different features of nature can teach us about God’s will for creation, and how humans fit into God’s cosmos. We’ll even dare to ask: What is the “end” of the universe and what will it look like?

This afternoon from 3:00pm to 4:30pm, FPC children, youth, and their adults are invited to a “Meeting God in Nature Walk” at Acacia Reservation in Beachwood led by Nikkie Monah and Alycia Ashburn. Please meet in the grassy picnic area near the white shelter/parking lot, and wear clothes for exploration/getting dirty! Email ashburnlrc@gmail.com to RSVP. The rain date is Sunday, April 26th, 3:00-3:30pm.

Following the **11:00am service on April 26th**, we will hold our **Annual Congregational Meeting**. You will hear reports from various councils and the congregation will have a chance to ask questions. There will also be a report from the Nominating Committee and a congregational vote to elect Gary Sampson to fill an unexpired term on Session (Class of 2027). You will find a digital version of the report on our website late next week, and we will have limited print copies available on April 26th.

Gary Sampson joined Fairmount in Spring 2025. He was born and raised in an interfaith household in the San Fernando Valley in Southern California. As a young artist uncertain about his faith, he took some time off from college to travel, first in Mexico, then in Europe, where he spent several months at a Christian community in the Swiss Alps to study theology and philosophy. He spent most of the '80s in Santa Barbara, where he received his MA and PhD in art history from the University of California. Gary came to Cleveland with his wife Anne in 1999 to teach at the Cleveland Institute of Art, after a couple of sojourns elsewhere as a college professor. He retired from CIA three years ago. He was a member and an Elder at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church before coming to Fairmount, following a period of discernment and studies under Fr. Richard Rohr and affiliates of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Music Notes and Fairmount Music Ministries

The final Rush Hour Concert of this season is Tuesday, April 21, 5:30pm with Jackson Naglick in a program of works for the piano.

The Spirituals Project--Fairmount has launched a year-long project, following in the steps of other churches, of collecting reparations for spirituals used by composers in modern day arrangements for sale to schools, churches, and community groups. Funds raised will support local black musicians. See the bulletin board outside the sanctuary for details on Quarter 1 donations raised. Quarter 2 funds raised support the **Karamu House**. Founded in 1915, it is the oldest producing African-American theater in the United States. Scanning the QR code enables you to make a donation.



Fairmount Happenings

Book Study: "Discovering the Spiritual Wisdom of Trees" by Beth Norcross and Leah Rampy

The book discussions will take place weekly at Fairmount Presbyterian Church (and virtually on Zoom) - Monday evenings 6:30 - 8:00pm on April 20, 27, and May 4, 11, and 18. To get the most from this experience, participants are asked to attend at least 3 of the sessions. Books are available in the church welcome center office for \$20.00 (cash, check or online Realm payment). Books are also available to purchase online. If you are interested in participating, email Alycia Ashburn at ashburnlrc@gmail.com. On Wednesday, May 13th Fairmount Presbyterian will welcome author Leah Rampy as the William Birkett Williams lecturer.

Women's Retreat at Fairmount on May 16th

Join us on Saturday May 16th for our Women's Retreat. We will gather at Fairmount from 9:00am-4:00pm for learning, conversation, brunch, and more. There is a suggested donation of \$25, with scholarships available. Scan the QR code if you are interested in attending or would like more information. Questions - email Pastor Lindsay, lindsay@fpccl.org. Note: Suggested donation of \$25 can be made to the church office by cash or check (made out to Fairmount Presbyterian Church, with "Women's Retreat" in the memo line), or online through Realm, our secure online giving platform - <https://onrealm.org/FairmountPresby/give/womensretreat>.



Honor Brunch on Sunday, May 3rd

After 11:00am worship, the annual Honor Brunch for our octogenarians, nonagenarians, and centenarians will take place in Andersen Hall with a formal sit-down brunch. Please make sure to RSVP to the church office.

Bees, Bugs & Butterflies Photography Exhibit

Throughout April and May, celebrate Earth Month by visiting *Bees, Bugs & Butterflies: How Pollinators Help the Cuyahoga Region Bloom*, a photography exhibit featuring six local photographers. During various stages of life, our native insects and caterpillars are hard at work supporting our local biome. Get a fascinating look at nature's essential pollinators! View this special exhibit in our Chapel hallway and room 114.

Collaborative Art Project

Stop by Andersen Hall to see the collaborative art project that was featured on Easter, and created by folks from Christ Episcopal, Fairmount Presbyterian, First Baptist, Shiloh Baptist, and St. Mark's Presbyterian. Thank you to all who participated!

Greater Cleveland Congregations Court Watch Program Education Sessions

For the past 2 and one-half years, the Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) Court Watch Team has been observing Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court hearings. The effort was directed at gaining a better understanding of juvenile court and why Cuyahoga County sends more youth to adult court and adult prison than any other large urban county in Ohio when we know that children sent to adult prison are significantly more likely to reoffend than those rehabilitated in the juvenile system. They are also much more likely to be physically abused. GCC is about to release its report on this situation.

Please join us at one of the remaining four workshops to learn about our experience attending juvenile court hearings. Get a preview of our Youth Bindover final report while you learn the facts and hear stories about the children in these situations. See how we can make positive change for this county's children.

- Saturday, April 25th, 10:00am to 12:00pm, Affinity Missionary Baptist Church, 4411 E 175th St, Cleveland
- Tuesday, April 28th, 6:30pm-8:30pm, West Shore Unitarian Universalist, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River
- Wednesday, April 29th, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Congregation Mishkan Or, 26000 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood
- Saturday, May 2nd, 10:00am-12:00pm, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, 8712 Quincy Ave, Cleveland

Scan the QR code to register for one of these four education sessions.

Contact Tim Cuff (cufft@westminster.edu or 319-594-4374) for questions or assistance.

