

*Discovering God's call, celebrating the Spirit's presence
Witnessing to Christ's transformative power!*



Forest Hill Church
presbyterian

The Tower

January 2019

Dear friends,

I am writing in Advent, and even though you will read this close to or after Christmas I am led to write about waiting.

Advent is a season of waiting for Jesus. But at Forest Hill Church THIS Advent, we wait not only for Christmas, but for the arrival of the Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Lentz".

We have, as a community of faith, been in “advent” for a long time; really, it began when Pastor Clover Beal moved to Denver over three years ago. During our waiting period we have been blessed beyond measure by Pastor Lois Annich and by Rachel McDonald (who is now a Pastor at her own church!) We have thrived under the leadership of Anne Wilson. Lynda Bernays has kept us together during this time of waiting. (Let us not forget that Lynda is also leaving us and so we await the coming of another office administrator with the new title Office Administrator and Director of Communications).

The time is upon us. As 2019 starts we will come to know Rev. Goines as our Co-Pastor. We will welcome Antoinette Richardson as the new Office Administrator and Director of Communications.

We know change is hard because change reminds us of what we are losing. Change is hard because saying goodbye is never easy. Change is hard because we have grown accustomed to how things are and we have to get used to the way things will become and be.

But “hellos” are pretty exciting too! God is always doing a new thing! God is always faithful. God is always generous in love and hope and power. God is always good! God is in our midst and so we can move ahead with confidence.

Of course, there will be a “learning curve” for all of us. Lots of new things are going to happen. But God has promised to straighten the curves and smooth the rough places.

So, let’s move ahead in joy. Reach out to Veronica and make sure she knows that she is welcome. Meet her for coffee, have her over to dinner with friends. Be open to her leadership! She is amazing and we, together, are ready to move into an exciting future with all of you.

Make sure to welcome Antoinette too. Her job is very important. She won’t be able to replace Lynda. However, Antoinette has the gifts and skills to make her mark as well. So let’s make sure not to compare her to Lynda but rather help her become Antoinette!

I cannot wait for this new year. I have been waiting for this for years! I believe that God is calling us to a bright future. Let’s step into 2019 with faith, hope and love!

Happy Advent, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!

God bless us all!

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastor

Music Notes



Dear Forest Hill Friends,

I wish you all a blessed New Year--full of happiness, love and a renewed generosity of spirit as we recover from the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

On January 6, we look forward to singing "We Three Kings" as our three FHC kings journey down the aisle, decked out in their stunning, flowing robes and bright headgear (given in memory of Bill Tapié) as they offer their glittering treasures to the Christ Child.

On Sunday, January 13, at 3 pm, we will be presenting a benefit concert for *HOLA OHIO*, a grassroots Latino organization, based in NE Ohio, that focuses on community organizing, leadership development, and civic engagement (<http://holatoday.org>). Called *Unified Voices: Songs for Social Justice*, the concert will celebrate our diverse cultures through song. FHC's Chancel Choir will participate and several well-known folk singers (Charlie Mosbrook, Afi Scruggs, Tamara Gray and others) from the Cleveland metropolitan area will sing (and encourage you to sing along!). I hope you will consider attending this concert.

During January, the choirs will be preparing music for Black History Month, a Compline service during Lent, a Bach Sunday and more. Details will be forthcoming when dates are finalized. I'm so grateful for all the support that the FHC congregation gives to the music program!

New choir members are welcome at any time, but January is a particularly good starting time, since we're learning all new music. Come give it a try! We all need artistic outlets that help us block out the stresses of our world. Singing music, particularly sacred music, is a gift to your soul.

Soli Deo Gloria~~

Anne Wilson
216-870-2729
annew@fhcpresb.org



Forest Hill Church
presbyterian



CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILY MINISTRIES

Pathways

At the December 9 Pathways Family Meeting, we decided to continue with the 10:10-10:50 timeslot for the Pathways program for the remainder of this program year. Overall, we have been happy with the experience of having the children worship in the sanctuary, and grateful for the many people who have made a real effort to get the children more involved in worship. Thank you to everyone for making the sanctuary a welcoming space for children!

Confirmation Class

There will be a Confirmation Class for 7th-10th graders starting this January. As of the writing of this article, we have eight potential confirmands signed up! We are excited for this time of spiritual discernment and hope that it will be a worthwhile and edifying venture for our youth. The class will begin on Sunday, January 20 and will run every other week for the remainder of the program year. We will hold a recognition service on Pentecost Sunday (June 9) for all who participate in the class.

Youth Education

The youth in January will be exploring letters faith leaders wrote from jail. We will be comparing Paul's "Letter to the Ephesians" to Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (a document that PCUSA has is exploring for possible inclusion in our Book of Confessions).

Christian Ed Google Calendar

To stay up-to-date on all Children, Youth, and Family events, please check out the CE Calendar: bit.ly/ceCalendar

Rev. David Wigger

Interim Director, Ministry of Children, Youth and Families

From the Labre Team:

I want to express deep thanks to all who donated money, prepared and cooked food, and served at Our Family Home Center to make the Labre Thanksgiving meal such a success. Many of our friends in East Cleveland remarked how delicious everything was and how very much they appreciate your generosity and fellowship. On Thanksgiving Day we provided 225 meals and the following Thursday we used up all the leftovers at the weekly Thursday lunch. A special thank you goes to Betsy Andrews and Kathryn Eloff for donating all the turkeys.

Jeff Smith

The following are responsible for making the meal so special:

Melanie Alban	Ellen McChesney
Cheryl Anderson	Robin Mervine
Betsy Andrews	Sandy Moran
Joan Bacon	Jeanette Nemcek
Emily Berkey & Family	Elsbeth Peterjohn
Jack and Mary Ann Bresich	Linda Rainey
Ben Breisch	Jim Roosa
Kathy Carr	Katie and Matt Russo & Family
Patty Console	Sandy Schultz
Kay Dunlap	Stephen Sedam and Virginia Weiss
Kathryn Eloff	Joyce Sellers
Mary Hosier	Nonie Stack
Sarah Iammarino	Debbie Smith
Martha and John Janssen & Family	Jenny Smith
Sue and Scott Lafferty	Lara Troyer
Deanne and John Lentz	Peg Weissbrod
Karen Loughridge	Ann Williams
Gary and Julie Lustic	Diana Woodbridge
Sue McCauley	

Greater Cleveland Congregations Report

Greater Cleveland Congregation's Criminal Justice work is a vital part of the power-building campaign. In light of recent reporting about the **Cuyahoga County Jail**, GCC's Criminal Justice Project Organizer Donna Weinberger, at the November Delegate Assembly, expressed what many of us are feeling—that the conditions at the jail are deplorable; that we are appalled; that GCC must act to build the power to interrupt the political machine in Cuyahoga County that has allowed this injustice to fester; that GCC is a truly unique organization, one with the capability to move beyond advocacy and protest to make lasting change. GCC can build more power now by recruiting congregations and organizing money in order to remain independently funded.

Many of the assembly participants set up a date to converse with a member of a different congregation. We will continue to listen to you! Are you equally appalled by the conditions of the county jail? **We'd love to talk to you** on this and other concerns that disturb your sense of Jesus' call to justice.

The GCC Strategy Team, including Pastor John Lentz, is working on many fronts, including the successful **Clergy Breakfasts**. The recent one included many non-member clergy from around the county. Pastor Lentz and Pastor Jawanza Colvin from Olivet stirringly shared personal stories with their fellow clergy about how GCC has been the only organization of its kind in Cleveland taking on and winning social justice issues. We hope the participants will be stirred to join and build GCC.

GCC core team:

Ron Register, Charity Stock, Scott Lafferty, Diana Woodbridge, Kathy Hannah Stauffer, Eileen Vizcaino, Barb Cloud, Jennifer Blakeney

People and money are what it takes to build power. If you haven't donated to the 2018 Friends of GCC Campaign, please do so now by going to **www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org** or by mailing a check to Greater Cleveland Congregations, 6114 Francis Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44127.



So many things have happened in our neighborhoods, our city, our state, country and world through the year 2018. Often it has been difficult to focus on positive news, news that brings a feeling of warmth and smiles to faces especially for news junkies such as me. It is a routine for me to watch the evening news and more often than not the experience gives birth to fear and frustration.

So why not just stop watching the news?

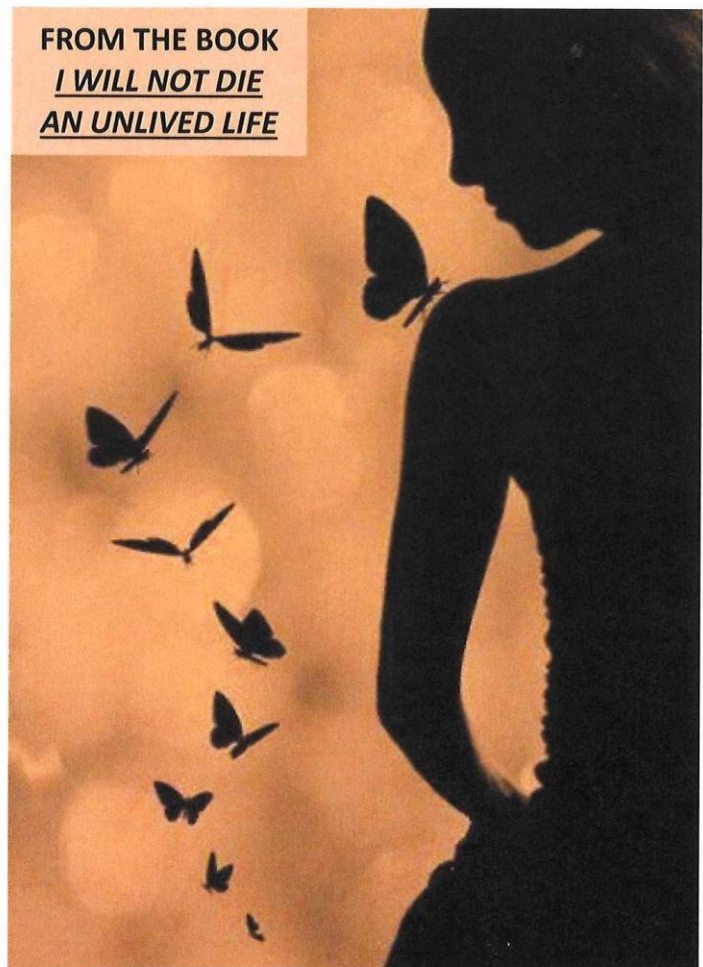
That is a fair solution but is it wise not to be informed?

Recently a former Associate Pastor of Forest Hill Church shared a poem on Facebook that truly resonated with me. It was like a balm from the abrasions of knowing the reality of the world in which we live. I felt compelled to share it and I hope it soothes someone in the manner in which it did for me.

“Fully Alive”

I will not die an unlived life.
I will not live in fear
of falling or catching fire.
I choose to inhabit my days,
To allow my living to open me,
to make me less afraid,
more accessible,
to loosen my heart
until it becomes a wing,
a torch, a promise.
I choose to risk my significance;
To live so that which
came to me as seed
goes to the next as blossom
and that which
came to me as blossom,
goes on as fruit.

—Dawna Markova



FROM THE BOOK
I WILL NOT DIE
AN UNLIVED LIFE

Stewardship Update...

“See, I am doing a new thing; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

The new year has begun, and the community of Forest Hill Church continues its work of transforming lives. The work is made possible by your involvement and financial commitment to the vision and mission of the church.

As we move forward into 2019, the Ministry of Stewardship would like to express its gratitude to the many people who contributed to the annual campaign “See, I Am Doing a New Thing!”

- Narrative Budget: Session Ministries and Staff for content input; in-house photographers whose pictures sharpened our story;
- Notes in campaign packets: Grace Uhle, Dorothy Herd, Charity and Ahren Stock, Adam Majot and Kylie Evans, and Sydney Gerteis whose personal notes were a campaign highlight;
- Minute for Mission: Vikki Nowak and Todd Webster, Angela and Bader Boland, and Leslie Clement for sharing their inspirational stories during worship;
- Staff: Lynda Bernays and Delilah Dervic who went above and beyond to support our efforts.

Most of all, we thank you, members and friends of Forest Hill Church, for your ongoing commitment to the church’s programs and mission projects. While the official campaign has ended, it is not too late to renew your pledge or to make a financial commitment for the first time as we appreciate our past, celebrate our present, and look forward to the future.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Ministry of Stewardship:

Melanie Alban, Leslie Pendleton, Mark Gerteis (Elders)
David Burleigh, Bill Ladebue, Peter Williams.

Registration Underway for “Reconnecting to God’s Creation”

If you are interested in being part of a community at Forest Hill Church that finds healing and hope through God’s gift of creation, you are encouraged to register for the course “Reconnecting to God’s Creation in the 21st Century.”

Classes will be held 4 – 6 pm every Sunday from March 17 – May 19 except for Easter Sunday and Mother’s Day. If interested, please register before March 1 by contacting the course facilitators, Kemp Jaycox (Kempjaycox@yahoo.com) or Stephen Sedam (Goldens101@aol.com).

Through readings, field trips, and small group discussions, you will grow in your spiritual relationship with the natural world, more clearly understand the deep connections between humans and nature, and discover how you can act on your responsibility as a Christian for stewardship of the natural world.

Stephen Sedam

News of Our Church Family

Births

Mary Elizabeth Allen, daughter of Megan (Keefe) and Jamie Allen, was born on December 4 (and debuted as the baby Jesus on December 23).

Baptisms

Rebecca Dawn Miller, daughter of Lauren and Sam Miller and sister of Evelyn, was baptized on December 9, 2018. Charity Stock was the attending Elder.

In Memoriam We Remember

Joyce Peters, who died December 8, 2018.

New Contact Information

Carline Paul-Blanc

10915 Lake Ave
Lakewood, OH 44102
(440) 600-8017

Paul Jennings

3315 Lansmere
Shaker Hts, OH 44122

Ron Register (ronregister5@gmail.com)

19101 Euclid Ave #A 125
Euclid, OH 44147

Care Group The Mt. Sinai CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during January. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Mt. Sinai CARE Group are:

Jeanette Nemcek, Deacon leader

Joanne Bielek

Guy Cameron & family

Betty Clark

Barb Cloud

Eric & Amy Dillenbeck & family

Jane Frederick & family

Sue Gifford

Al & Iris Gilbert

Mike & Margie Glaros

Julie Gran

Nancy Grube

Chuck & Jane Ishler

Janet Kickel

Julie & Gary Lustic

Nancy Lyon-Stadler & family

Brooke Marcy & family

David Murray

Dave & Jane Olson & family

Carline Paul-Blanc

Graham & Roz Peters

Matt & Katie Russo & family

Gary Sampson

Sara & Randy Shaner

Anona Stack

Kathy Hanna-Stauffer & Derry Stauffer

Beverly & Harold Thomas

Lorian, Ralph & Fran Thomas

Eileen Vizcaino

Ann & Peter Williams

Warren Young

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Judy Sieck, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Beryl and Henrietta Williams

Ushers Thanks to head ushers Deb Erwin and Robyn Hales and the weekly usher teams.

Volunteer Hours in November

The office volunteers and TOWER assembly team– Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, Pat Jenkins, and Betty Clark –worked a total of 73 hours in November. Thank you all!

Merry Christmas from the GROUP! The Group had a wonderful Christmas party at the home of Diana Woodbridge with lots of good cheer, good food and fellowship. This year the Group again provided gifts for a family (a single mother with four school-age children) from Boulevard School. We were happy to provide clothes and toys for the children, gifts for the mom, a Christmas tree with lots of ornaments, family games, books, and gift cards for Payless Shoes and Dave's Supermarket. We are truly grateful for our own blessings and glad we could share them with a family from Boulevard School.
Cathy Ghiandoni

An Introduction

I'd like to introduce you to Antoinette Richardson. She is young and talented and just the person to step into the office administrator's chair as the Office Administrator and Director of Communications. She will answer your calls and listen to your requests and ask for your help. She will redesign the bulletin, update the TOWER, and streamline the calendar. She may even keep her desk clear! She has skills that were not even a glimmer when I (and many of you) were her age. She has a great sense of humor.

I haven't met her, but I (and you) will soon. I know you will treat her with the same warmth and respect you have extended to all FHC staff for many years. You will have a great time together!

Lynda Bernays



What can YOU do about Climate Change?

Do you *believe* in climate change? ... I hope not.... because *belief* implies only *faith*. But climate change is *real*, and most assuredly founded on scientific *facts*! Now that perhaps I have rattled your chain, and you've settled down, indeed you probably really do believe that climate change is real – and with it increased fires, hurricanes, floods, and droughts.

In the Plain Dealer Forum on December 7, Dr. Katharine Hayhoe of Texas Tech University, a well-known climate-scientist theologian, presented a strong case confronting the myths surrounding global warming and climate science. She says of herself:

I'm an atmospheric scientist. I study climate change, one of the most pressing issues we face today.

I don't accept global warming on faith: I crunch the data, I analyze the models, I help engineers and city managers and ecologists quantify the impacts.

The data tells us the planet is warming; the science is clear that humans are responsible; the impacts we're seeing today are already serious; and our future is in our hands

So if global warming and climate change are real, what can we as individuals do about it? We have opportunity to work towards a solution: **HB 7173 – Energy Innovation and Dividend Act of 2018**. This bill was recently introduced into the House of Representatives, and will be undertaken by the 115th Congress in 2019. It has bipartisan support, and is very similar to an initiative discussed at the PCUSA General Assembly this past summer. The bill is supported strongly by the Citizens Climate Lobby, a national grass-roots organization. Two of the bill's principle tenants are a carbon fee (paid by producers) and a dividend distributed equitably among all users—those of us who consume energy and contribute to greenhouse gases. Market forces will drive further investment in lesser-polluting alternative energy sources. This is a win-win possibility for all, gain but not without some pain.

More information may be found at
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/7173>
and www.citizensclimatelobby.org

We can be sure there will be tremendous opposition to this bill by oil companies, other energy producers, and electric utilities. The bill may not even make it out of committee, and Congress has many other priorities. For this program to work, all of us will be paying higher prices for gasoline and oil, transportation, and electricity – just like folks in other modern societies. That is what we must bear if we are to actually do something about combating climate change with economic and market incentives rather than by government regulations. But consideration of this bill allows us to let our legislators know our concerns, even if the bill fails to pass.

Sometime in March, we will hold an after-worship discussion on this topic in South Hall. In the meantime, study up on the issue by visiting the above websites and looking for more information as it arises in the media.

Dave Neff
Earth Care Leader

Small Plate Class
“God, in My Eyes” – February 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2019
5:30-7:00 pm at Forest Hill Church in the library

Explore your creative side as well as your spiritual side by joining this Small Plate at Forest Hill Church!

For the first session, please bring in your three favorite recently-taken pictures. We will discuss what you saw at the time you took them, and what you see now. The following three sessions will focus on images you take in and outside of church, including photos taken during your daily activities. The group will share ‘Where is God in this image?’ We will focus our images on a variety of themes such as nature and peace.

If this piques your interest, please join us!

Must be available Tuesdays in February from 5:30-7:00 pm at Forest Hill Church.

All participants:

- Must commit to all four sessions and bring a digital camera or smartphone with camera to all sessions
- have a willingness to take images outside of class and share them
- Sign up for the class by emailing Megan Ullom (meganullom@outlook.com)
- Minimum of 4 people in order to run the class (maximum of 10)

Announcements! Announcements!

February is Black History Month!

Save time for special programs

**The Annual Meeting is
Jan. 27
after worship**

TOWER deadlines: **7 am** on Feb. 14,
March 14, April 11

Ordination and Installation
of Officers will be held on
February 3

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is
www.fhcpresb.org

Emails for the staff are as follows:

Delilah Dervic	<i>Finance</i>	finance@fhcpresb.org
Ann Donkin	<i>Building mgr.</i>	adonkin@fhcpresb.org
Stavros Gazis	<i>Custodial</i>	office@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines	<i>Co-Pastor</i>	pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.	<i>Co-Pastor</i>	pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org
Antoinette Richardson	<i>Communications</i>	office@fhcpresb.org
Peg Weissbrod	<i>Outreach</i>	pegw@fhcpresb.org
Rev. David Wigger	<i>Family, Youth and Children</i>	CE@fhcpresb.org
Anne Wilson	<i>Music</i>	annew@fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

Sundays in January

9:15	Child care begins
9:30	Adult education Descant Choir (gr. 1-5) Youth Donut Time
10:10	Youth education (gr. 6-12) and Confirmation (beg. Jan 20) Pathways (gr. 1-5)
10:30	Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir
11:00	WORSHIP Children's Worship class (preK, K)
12:15	Coffee & conversation

January 6	Epiphany of the Lord 12:00 Sine Nomine Choir	Isaiah 60: 106 Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12
January 13	Baptism of the Lord 3:00 Concert: "Unified Voices – Songs for Social Justice"	Isaiah 43: 1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
January 20	2 Epiphany 9:30 Confirmation class 12:00 Sine Nomine Choir 12:15 Blood Pressure check	Isaiah 62: 1-5 Psalm 36: 5-10 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11
January 27	3 Epiphany 12:00 Annual Meeting of the Congregation (lunch served)	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Luke 4: 14-21

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 AA: Progress not Perfection 7:00 Al Anon: Now There's Hope 7:30 AA: Borton Group Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class Not on Jan. 1	7:30am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA: Wednesday Women's Group	4:00 ICE Vigils 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30am Al Anon: Hand in Hand	9:00 CEIRS class (begins Jan. 12)
January 2019		1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 1:00 Abundance Pantry opens	3	4	5 8:00am Men's Group
6 Epiphany See "Sundays in January"	7	8 12:00 Abundance Pantry Lunch 7:00 Black History Team mtg GCC Housing mtg	9 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	10 7:30 FH Swim Club	11	12 9:00 New Leader retreat
13	14	15	16 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East 7:00 Session meeting	17 7:00am TOWER deadline 7:00 pm Black History Team mtg	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Day	22 7:00 Black History Team mtg	23 10:00am TOWER Assembly	24	25	26
27 Annual Meeting of the Congregation	28 5:00 PWR at Church of the Covenant	29	30	31 7:00 Black History Team mtg	FEBRUARY 1 2	

January 2019

Welcome Co-Pastor Veronica Goines!

Welcome Office Administrator and Director of Communications Antoinette Richardson!

EPIPHANY PARTY!



Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019

5:00 - 7:00 PM

hosted by

Carolyn S. Smith

and her students and musical guests

held this year at

Gates Mills Club

Senior Living

6759 Mayfield Road,

Gates Mills, OH 44124

**In the
dining
room**

Since 2004, the Smith family has celebrated the tradition of hosting an Epiphany Party near the the 12th Day of Christmas. A good time is had by all, and more friends join in the fun each year.

Therefore, in the spirit of giving, we ask people to bring appetizers, salads, favorite dishes, desserts or drinks for the food table. I'll brew coffee and make punch. There will be a box for collecting cash (or check) donations for the Abundance Pantry at Forest Hills Church, which serves more than 300 families a month in Cleveland Heights and surrounding communities.

A Jam Session and Singalong always an annual bonus to our party, so feel free to bring your instruments and voices!

We hope that our Jewish friends have a blessed Chanukah, that those celebrating Christmas find Joy, that Kwanzaa is filled with good cheer and that the Winter Solstice will be cold and snowy! We also hope and pray once again that the New Year brings all of us closer to Peace in our troubled world.

Call 216-509-3928 for more information or questions.

Table of Contents

From the Pastor	1
Music	3
Children, Youth and Families Ministries	4
From the Labre Team	5
Greater Cleveland Congregations update	6
Deacon's Desk	7
Stewardship Update	8
Reconnecting to God's Creation	9
News of Our Church Family	9
Earth Care	12
Small Plate Photography Class	13
Announcements! Announcements!	14
Sundays in January	15
January Calendar	16

**The office will close at noon
on Dec. 24
and reopen on Dec 27.
We will also be closed
Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.**