



Forest Hill Church
presbyterian

The Tower

March 2019

Dear Friends,

Rev. Goines and I meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. This is sacred time for us as we deepen our relationship, discern God's direction for the church, and enjoy our collegiality. Truly, God is doing a new thing! Hallelujah.

Several Tuesdays ago, we began our time together by reading this passage from Jeremiah (17:5-8)

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

We both were attentive to the underlined portion of the text. In this time of transition and change, THE most important work is not starting new programs. Rather, THE most important work is to let the roots of faith dig deep into the rich soil of God's love, grace and power. We have to cultivate the ground and make sure we are preparing for the new fruit that will come. We do this in prayer and in bible study, and in honest reflection about what God is doing in our lives and what we are feeling and thinking. We are confident

that when the “heat” comes we be fine; “the leaves will stay green.” We know that when tension and anxiety arise, this church will “not cease to bear fruit!”

As we enter the season of Lent, preparing ourselves for the great joy of Easter, take time to let the roots of your faith go deep. Practice prayer. Slow down. Say the “Lord’s Prayer” every night before going to sleep. Meditate on the passage from Jeremiah. Let your imagination run with the images in the text. As you look at your life now do you feel like the “shrub in the desert?” or the “tree planted by water?” Open yourself in some way so that you may bear new fruit!

God bless you all!

Pastor John Lentz, Co-Pastor



We’re excited to host internationally-acclaimed soprano Chanée Curtis on **Saturday, March 2nd at 7 PM** in our sanctuary. Chanée sang in our Chancel Choir when she was in high school and just beginning to believe that she had extraordinary talent. (Members of the choir

knew it the first time they heard her! 😊) Now, she sings all over the world. You can check out her website here: <http://www.chanaecurtis.com/>. Joining Chanée on this program of art songs, operatic arias, and musical theatre songs will be the Chancel Choir, bass Caleb Wright and tenor Brian Skoog.



Please mark your calendars for the ancient, monastic service of **Compline** on **Sunday, March 3rd at 7:00 PM** in the candlelit sanctuary of Plymouth Church, Shaker Hts. (2860 Coventry Rd., Shaker Hts.) Our FHC Chancel Choir will join with the Plymouth Choir as we sing our prayers and chants. This peaceful, 30-minute service will calm your heart and spirit.

You can find out more and listen to her amazing voice on her website:

<http://www.chanaecurtis.com/>



Please note that **Daylight Savings Time** begins on Sunday, March 10, so remember to set your clocks ahead one hour and go to bed early the night before!

Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson
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From the Deacons Desk

At the end of February the Deacons had a retreat to plan the year ahead, not only the “duties assigned “ in the role of a Deacon but to grow in deeper faith and understanding of the call we’ve accepted. We have discovered, “See, we are doing a new thing!” for ourselves.

In the coming year, look forward to active participation in your own CARE Group, Christ like Attention Reaching Everyone with Empathy. As Deacons and Care Group members, we meet the needs of the congregation, not only by actively serving on Sunday mornings, but caring for the sick and those in

need. We welcome new babies into growing families, providing a baby blanket and offering Meal Train when needed. Other members may need Meal Train for a limited time after being hospitalized or recovering from illness. Meal Train is a method to organize meals on line by date and food preferences for church members to provide dinners. The request for meals is sent out to the assigned CARE Group for the month, the Deacons, and sometimes Session members. If you would like to participate in the Meal Train ministry even if it is not your CARE Group month, let me know and your name will be added to the list.

In addition to the baby blankets, Deacons provide prayer shawls for church members generally with a long recovery time, as a reminder of our prayerful love and support. Baby blankets and prayer shawls are knitted by talented women and men of the church. You may have seen people knitting during Sunday services while listening to the sermon. If you are a knitter and would like to contribute your own creation, please turn your blanket or prayer shawl into your Deacon leader or the church administrator, Antionette, and it will be safely stored until needed. Know of someone who needs a prayer shawl or baby blanket? We need to know that too!

Wondering what CARE Group you're in? Every month the current CARE Group names are posted on the Deacon bulletin board. When in doubt, ask one of the Deacons whose pictures are posted in the hall outside the sanctuary.

Deacon Elder Jeanette Nemcek

Helping the Kingdom Come About

[Stewardship] is a very concrete way to help the kingdom of God come about. What is the kingdom? Jesus is clear that if we make the kingdom our first priority, “All these other things will be given you as well” (Matt. 6:33,NJB). The kingdom is where God provides for all that we need. It is the realm of sufficiency where we are no longer pulled here and there by anxiety about having enough. Jesus also compares the kingdom to a mustard seed, “Which, at the time of its sowing, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth. Yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade” (Mark 4:31-32, NJB). Even a seemingly small act of generosity can grow into something far beyond what we could ever ask or imagine (see Eph. 3:20)-- the creation of a community of love in this world, and beyond this world, because wherever love grows, it is stronger than death (1 Cor. 13:8).

An excerpt from *A Spirituality of Fundraising* by Henri J. M. Nouwen.

The Ministry of Stewardship

Elders: Leslie Pendleton, Mark Gerteis, Consuelo Heineman

Elected leaders: Sandy Moran, Peter Williams



Wildlife and Wild Places



Forest Hill Church is one of three leading member churches for the Earth Stewardship Action Network, sanctioned by our Western Reserve Presbytery. A meeting was recently held to discuss and elaborate the objectives of this network, with representatives of many churches throughout the Presbytery in attendance.

*The following document summarizes the main focal policy points promoted by our parent Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), in the **CALL TO RESTORE THE CREATION.***

Please give this summary your very best attention, including going to the hyperlinks for further information if you so wish.

It is time to ask ourselves what more can we do regarding climate change and the despoiling of the environment? What actions/activities do **YOU** wish the FHC Green Team to take the lead in? With your active participation, of course!

Please email me with any comments, suggestions, ideas you may have. All ideas welcomed no matter how radical!

Dave Neff
Earth Care Leader

Our Earth Stewardship Action Network has been given missions by the Presbytery of earth care and earth justice. All in our Presbytery are invited to participate in this ministry in some way. Our intention as the Children of God in addressing these missions is to be faithful honoring the sanctity of life, and to be practical.

A foundational Presbyterian earth stewardship policy is 1990's "Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice" http://pma.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/environment/pdf/restoring-creation-for-ecology&justice.pdf as subsequent Presbyterian environmental policies build upon it. The opening statement outlines our situation even more so 29 years later, and cries out for a response from the Children of God:

CALL TO RESTORE THE CREATION

Creation cries out in this time of ecological crisis.

- Abuse of nature and injustice to people place the future in grave jeopardy.
 - Population triples in this century.
- Biological systems suffer diminished capacity to renew themselves.
 - Finite minerals are mined and pumped as if inexhaustible.
 - Peasants are forced onto marginal lands, and soil erodes.
 - The rich-poor gap grows wider.
- Wastes and poisons exceed nature's capacity to absorb them.
 - Greenhouse gases pose threat of global warming.

Another foundational Presbyterian document on earth stewardship is 1995's "**HAZARDOUS WASTE, RACE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**" that explores toxicity and justice; life and health. These issues have expanded over time to include damage to children's health from exposure to lead, to health effects seen in America from unsafe drinking water, and health impacts seen from exposure to air pollution in and outside our cities. We also wish that all Americans have ready access to wholesome, nutritious foods free of pesticides and other chemicals, to support the health of all Americans.

http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/racialjustice/hazardouswasteraceandenvironment.pdf

*The PCUSA Earth Care Congregations program helps increase a congregation's focus on earth stewardship in worship, education, facilities and outreach. Four congregations in our Presbytery are Earth Care Congregations. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>

*A key program of Earth Care Congregations tracks and reduces energy use and the carbon footprint of church buildings. A 2018 Earth Stewardship Network initiative awarded energy efficiency grants to three NE Ohio congregations. Several Presbytery congregations have taken steps on their own to reduce energy use; such as by installing LED lighting.

*An area of increasing concern is plastics and other wastes that make their way into the environment, as China recently restricted their imports of plastics and other "recyclable materials". In addition to recycling, waste minimization takes on an increasing importance. We are partnering with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District to help educate us.

*Caring for our local watersheds is a key NE Ohio focus of earth care as these waters flow into Lake Erie and become our drinking water. We are partnering with Metro Park watershed experts to help educate us on how we can more fully participate in restoring and sustaining our local watersheds; collecting litter, planting trees, collecting rain water, etc.

*Advocacy is a key aspect of earth care and earth justice. PCUSA has adopted carbon fee and dividend as a response to climate change, and supports federal legislation to provide economic incentives to reduce carbon emissions. Our youth have become more active in responding to climate change, as they will be more affected than older generations. The *Plain Dealer* and others have highlighted lead poisoning of inner city children as a long time issue. We, the Children of God can educate ourselves on local actions to address it, and see how we can contribute to solutions.

News of Our Church Family

Births

Jacob Thomas Wadsworth Wigger, son of David Wigger and Amy Wadsworth, was born February 2, 2019.

Care Group

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

Prayers are requested this week for the following: Laura Bell, Mark Davidson, Dan Fuller, Grace Glaros, David Hunter, Darla Character-Johnson, Dick and Elspeth Peterjohn, Jim Seeders, Elizabeth Shaw, Jimmy Strong, Wesley Washington, and Ollie.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Marge Drollinger, Iris and Al Gilbert, Carol Himmelsteib (mom of Kathryn Himmelsteib), Florence and Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Judy Sieck, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, and Beryl and Henrietta Williams

Thank You to all office volunteers!

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. Thank you all!

An Update from the Worship Ministry: Lay Readers

Most of you have observed that each Sunday a different lay person leads the Call to Worship and reads the scripture lessons. You may wonder, why is that person there? Can I serve as a Lay Reader too?

All are welcome to join the Lay Reader roster. Contact me (see below) whether you have been a Lay Reader and wish to continue or would like to try it for the first time. We can arrange to answer your questions and go over the readings with you until you feel comfortable reading in front of the congregation.

Contact me by email (martin3386@ameritech.net) or phone (216-280-4049) to let me know of your interest, or with any questions.

Linda Martin, Elder, Ministry of Worship

Abundance Pantry News:

On February 19, the pantry provided an average of 50 pounds of groceries for 190 families. Monetary donations to the pantry ministry may be made to Forest Hill Church; in the memo line, please write Abundance Pantry or to Abundance Lunch.

- Abundance Pantry is open every Tuesday from 12-3 pm. Volunteers are needed to transport and sort food, register guests, and help with distribution. Email Paul Jennings (or call 440-570-6736) for more info.
- **Abundance Lunch** is served on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of each month. The next pantry lunch will be served next Tuesday, March 5.

Social Groups and Circles

Dinner with the Pacesetters

When: Sunday, February 24th at 5 pm
Where: Frederick's Wine and Dine (216) 581-5299
22005 Emery RD, Warrensville Heights

Each person must order an entree and vegetarian options are available. See the menu at <http://www.fredericksdine.com/>.

We would love to see you there.

Questions or directions, call Bill or Sandy Ladebue 440-630-9011 or email blloggix@gmail.com.

Attention Hilltoppers: Save the date!

March 24th we are planning a concert. Details will follow later. Please contact Nancy Grube (216-245-6290) if you have any questions.

Iris Circle (all women of the church): Potluck

Iris Circle invites all women of Forest Hill Church to join us on Tuesday, March 19 at noon for a potluck luncheon in Bodwell Hall. Our guest will be Humera Kahn, an interfaith bridge builder from the Cleveland Chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations.

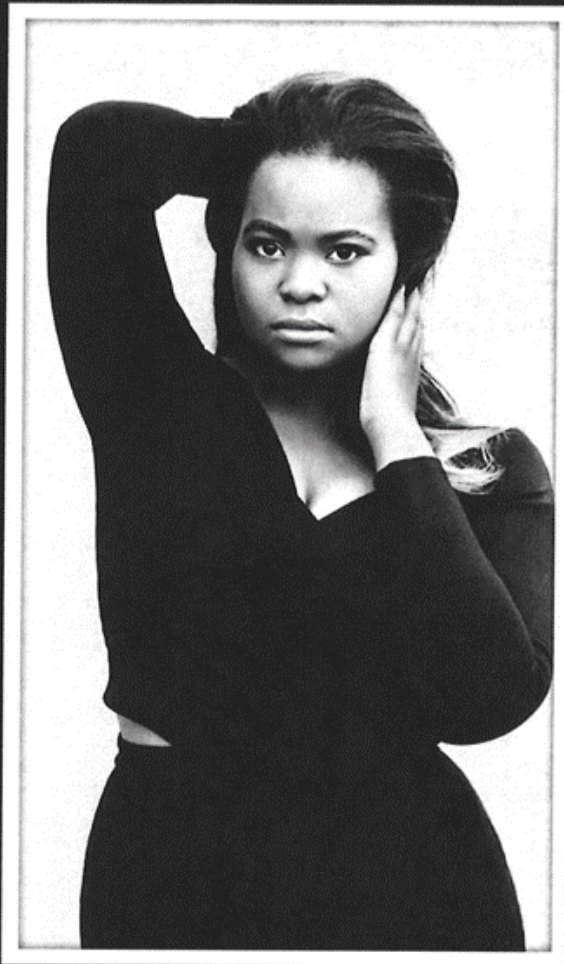
Some of us may be engaging in conversation for the first time with a Muslim neighbor. As women of faith, committed to celebrating God's gift of diversity, we welcome Humera and the opportunity to learn together. She will help us focus on the things that connect us and encourage us to become catalysts for peace.

Our previous impressions of Islam may only be from frightening news stories. If we come together as curious women seeking the truth, we can begin to dispel stereotypes and myths and counter terrorist narratives. Please come and invite a friend to join us in expanding our loving community of sisterhood.

Pacesetters – 2019 Schedule of Events

	Event	Hosts
March	Western Reserve Chorale Performance – Maltz Performing Arts Center Auditorium on Sunday, March 24 th at 3:30 pm Cleveland Institute of Music Concert Saturday March 29 th - featuring Remembrances – an original composition by FHC composer Margaret Brouwer	David Bell Margaret Brouwer
April	Lakeview Cemetery – Lolly the Trolley Tour	Sheryl Dugard and Debra Erwin
May	THOC Service Project (Transplant House of CLE) – Clean up Day and Lunch for Guests	Clean Up -Gary Lustic and Scott Lafferty Lunch -Sue Lafferty and Debra Erwin
June	Cain Park Performance - Ragtime	Peg Weissbrod and Steve Marunowski
July –August	Wade Oval Wednesdays	Jeff and Anne Smith
September	Metropark Hike and Picnic	Carol and Mark Wedell
October	Movie Night	Leslie Clement Carol and Mark Wedell
November	Karaoke Night	John Dugard Roger and Consuelo Heineman
December	Christmas Party	Dave and Chris Bell
January 2020	Planning Party	Scott and Sue Lafferty

An Evening of Music



With
Chanée Curtis,
Soprano

Featuring:
Caleb A. Wright,
Bass-Baritone
&
The Forest Hill Church
Chancel Choir

Saturday March 2nd
7:00 PM

Forest Hill Church Presbyterian
3031 Monticello Blvd.
Cleveland Heights, OH
44118



Sundays in March

- 9:15** Childcare begins
9:30 Adult education
 Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
 Youth education (gr. 6-12) and Confirmation (March 3, 6, 17, 22, 31)
10:10 Pathways (gr. 1-5)
10:30 Continental Breakfast
 Chancel Choir
11:00 **WORSHIP**
 Children's Worship class (pre-K, K)
12:00 Sine Nomine Choir Rehearsal (every other Sunday)
12:15 Coffee & conversation

March 3 11:00 WORSHIP: Communion Service	Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3: 4:2 Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43)
March 10 12:00 Meet & Greet 12:30 Black Caucus Meeting 3:30 Labre Ministry Meeting	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 97:1-2, 9-19 Romans 10: 8b-13 Luke 4: 1-13
March 17 12:30 Blood Pressure check Exploring New Membership Course 4:00 Reconnecting God's Creation Course	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35
March 24 10:30 Cherub Choir 11:00 WORSHIP: Baptism 12:30 Exploring New Membership Course 4:00 Reconnecting God's Creation Course	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Luke 13: 1-9
March 31 12:30 Exploring New Membership Course 4:00 Reconnecting God's Creation Course	Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Announcements! Announcements!

<p><i>Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6.</i></p> <p>Watch for information about Lenten themes, programs and activities.</p>		<p>Easter is April 21</p>
<p>Interested in the “Reconnecting with God’s Creation” class? Contact Kemp Jaycox, 216-785-5375 kempjaycox@yahoo.com or Steve Sedam, 614-783-4467 goldens101@aol.com</p>		<p><i>TOWER</i> deadlines: 7 am on March 14, April 11</p>

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

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Emails for the staff are as follows:

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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
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Peg Weissbrod	<i>Database</i>	pegw@fhcpresb.org
Rev. David Wigger	<i>Family, Youth & Children</i>	CE@fhcpresb.org
Anne Wilson	<i>Music</i>	annew@fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257