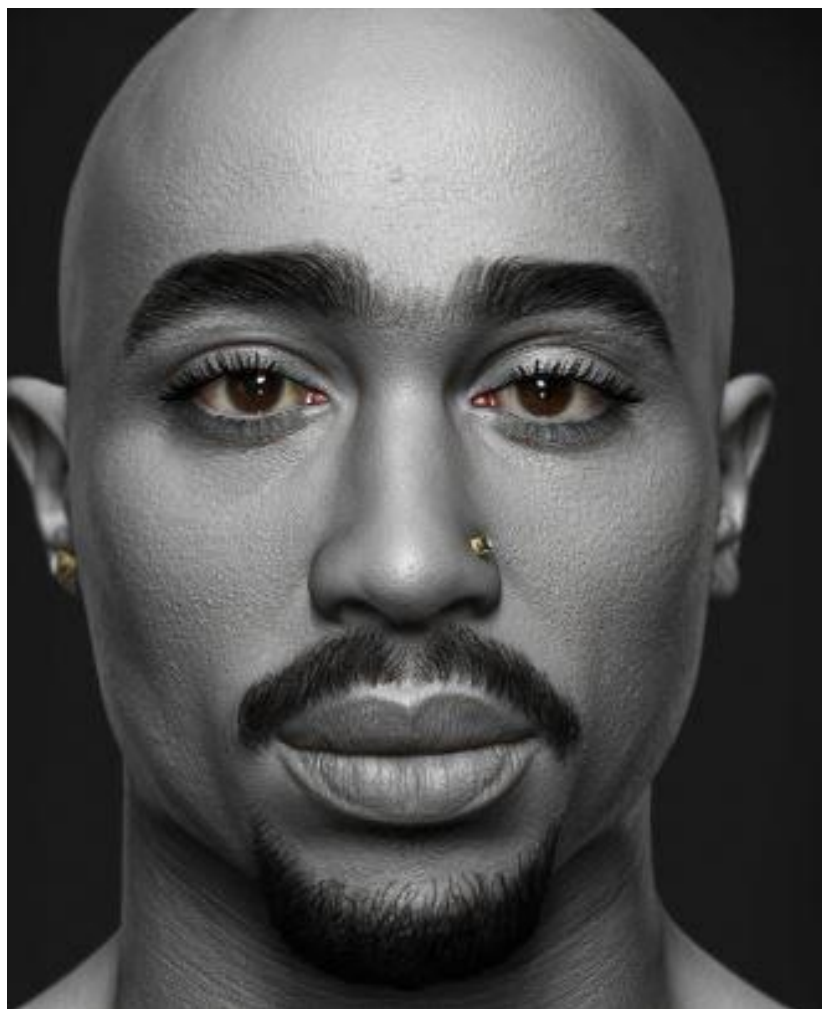
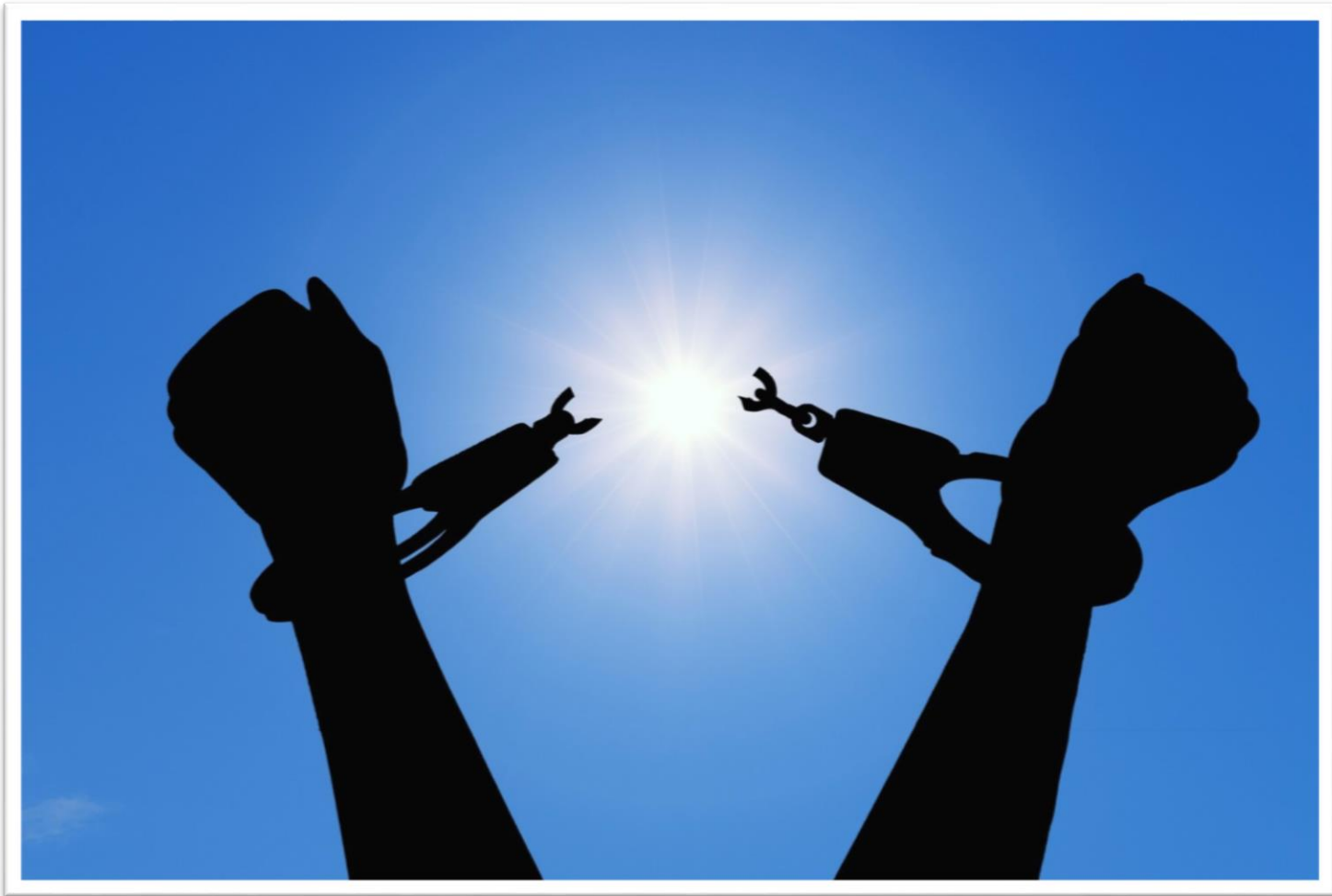


*Forest Hill Church  
Service of Worship  
February 9, 2020 at 11:00 am*

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.  
Please sign in and join us in wearing a name tag so that we might greet you.



*Centering Words:*

*"As long as some suffer, The River Flows Forever  
As long as there is pain, The River Flows Forever  
As strong as a smile can be, The River Flows Forever  
And as long as u R with me, we'll ride the River Together.*

*-Tupac Shakur*

**Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming**

# Welcome

# Prelude

arr. Bill Ingram

## “Sunday School Tune Medley”

# Voices in Bronze

## *Greeting Our God with Joy*

## Call to Worship:

# Quentin Smith

*(Adapted from the African American Lectionary; based on Isaiah 40 and "Over My Head")*

Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.

I am here for mothers and sisters bound in pain;

I am here for fathers and brothers stripped of dignity;

I am here for children captive from birth.

**Over my head, I see trouble in the air,**

**There must be a God somewhere.**

Every valley shall be lifted up,

Every mountain and hill made to climb,

And the rough places made smooth.

**Over my head, I see music in the air,**

## There must be a God somewhere

Get up to a high mountain,

Lift up your voice with strength,

Do not fear, our God is here!

**Over my head, I see glory in the air,**

**There must be a God somewhere.**

## \* Processional Hymn

## “Over My Head”

*refrain:*

Ov-er my head, \_\_\_\_\_ I hear mu-sic in the air;\_\_ ov-er my head,  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ I hear mu-sic in the air;\_\_ ov-er my head, \_\_\_\_\_ I hear  
6 mu-sic in the air; \_\_\_\_\_ There must be a God some-where.

*\*please stand as able*

## *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

### Prayer of Confession:

*Based on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail"*

**God of love, we confess we have ignored the interrelatedness of all communities and have sat idly by while injustice elsewhere has threatened justice everywhere. Open our eyes to see the inescapable network of mutuality, and our piece in a single garment of destiny. Guide us to walk like we know whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## Time of Silent Confession

**Kyrie Eleison** (*Lord, have mercy*)

Craig Phillips

*Congregation sings refrain*

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

mer - cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ mer - cy.

## *Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

## The Assurance of Forgiveness

## Gloria

## Taizé

*All sing first time. Second time: low voices, begin; high voices enter two measures later; children and youth enter two measures after that.*

5

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

Today we have the honor of baptizing Graham Edward Baldwin, son of Lane and Nathan Baldwin (elder Lisa Koops).

# Baptismal Prayer

**Ever-living God, in your mercy, you promised to be not only our God, but also the God of our children. We thank you for receiving Graham by baptism. Keep him always in your love. Guide him as he grows in stature and faith. Protect him in all the dangers and temptations of life. Bring him to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and to be Christ's faithful disciple throughout his life; in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

*Children are welcome to stay up front for a quiet activity during the sermon*

## Scripture Passages

Isaiah 58:6-12a (page 601); Exodus 24:12-18 (page 62)

Quentin Smith

### *After the readings*

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Rev. David Wigger

## *“Climbing in Community”*

Prayers of the People /The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Ritual of Friendship/ Offering

Offertory

Richard Smallwood

“Total Praise”

\*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

\* Prayer of Dedication

Ordination and Installation of Officers

Deacons being ordained and installed

Kathryn Himmelsteib, Deanne Lentz,  
Kitty McWilliams

Elders being ordained and/or installed

Justice and Mission: **Joan Bacon**  
Church Growth: **Angela Boland**  
Deacons: **Sheryl Dugard**  
Family, Youth and Children: **Molly Keefe**  
Trustees: **Robin Mervine and Nick Baumgartner**  
Stewardship: **Peter Williams**

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

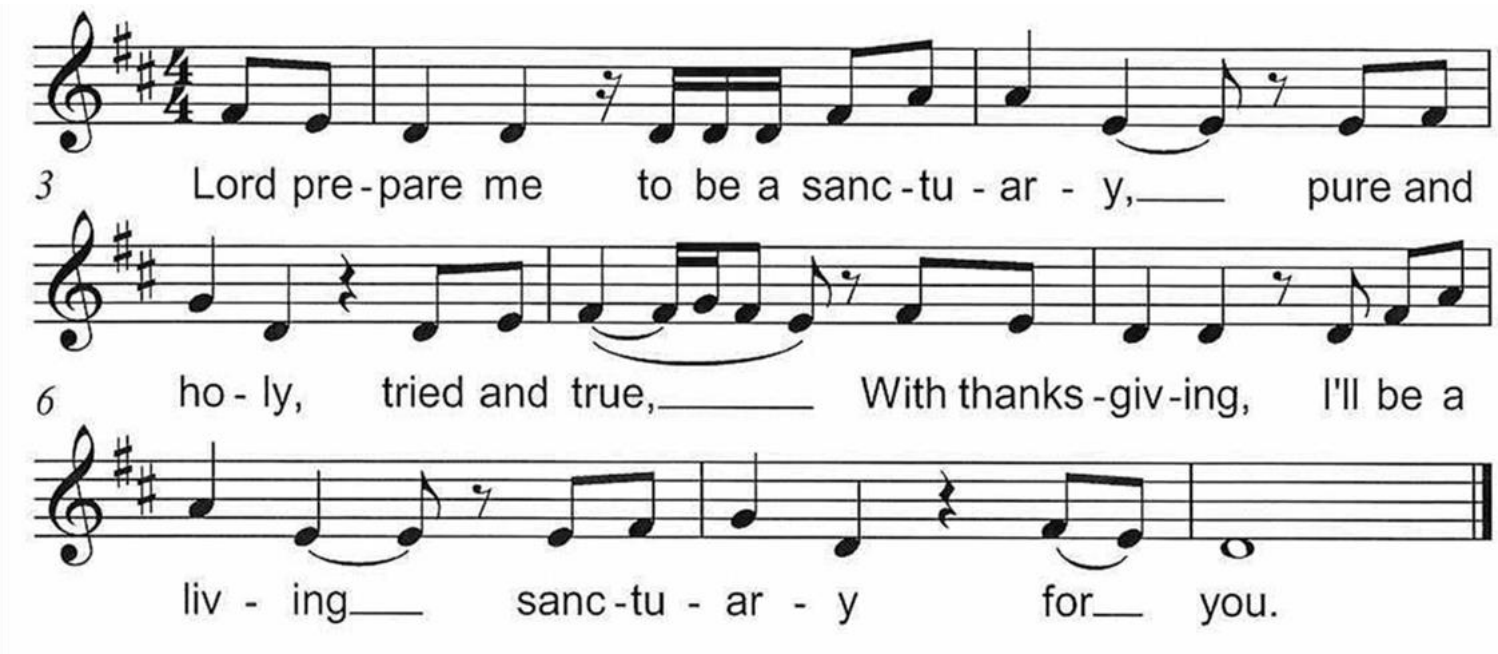
\*Closing Hymn No. 66

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

\*Commission and Blessing

\*Choral Benediction No. 701

“Sanctuary”



3 Lord pre-pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, pure and

6 ho - ly, tried and true, With thanks -giv-ing, I'll be a

liv - ing sanc-tu - ar - y for you.

\* Passing of the Peace

Postlude

spiritual, arr. Joe Utterback

“Standin’ in the Need of Prayer”



We look forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. **Welcome bags are available in the foyers and the narthex. Take one home with you!** Be sure to visit our website, [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org), for a list of upcoming events, education programs for all ages, and past sermon texts and audio.

## *Notes & Announcements*

### **Chancel Flowers:**

- Carol Gifford in celebration of Tim Gifford's birthday!
- Robin Mervine in loving memory of Mel Mervine.
- Cameron Family in loving memory of Mary Margaret Cameron.

### **Two types of Prayer Requests:**

- **If you would like to request prayers** for a personal concern, please use one of the slips of paper in the pew rack. Ushers will collect the requests during the middle hymn and pastors will include them in the congregational prayer.
- **Guests who attend the monthly Abundance Pantry Luncheon** are offered prayer request forms which they turn in if they would like a member of the congregation to pray for them. The following Sunday a member of the church will stand at each exit from the sanctuary after worship to distribute those requests to people who would like to connect with the guests in prayer.

**Prayers are requested this week for the following:** Doris Brandt, Breisch family, Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Rita Grube, David Hunter, Joanna Klingenstein, and the Loughridge family, Derrick Matthews (custodian), Elspeth Peterjohn, Bill Proudfit, and Dean Sieck.

**Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:** Marge Drollinger, Iris and Al Gilbert, Florence and Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, and Beryl and Henrietta Williams.

The Deacons encourage you to stop by the Greeting Card Table in Fellowship Hall before or after worship to sign a card for one or more of our homebound members. We will address and mail the card for you.

**Care Group: *The Eden Care Group*** will assist our pastors in meeting members' needs during **February**. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will then be passed on to the **Care Group leader, Deanne Lentz**.

**Thank you,** Deborah Erwin and Robyn Hales (**head ushers**), along with the rest of today's usher team; **all office volunteers:** Ellen McChesney, Cathy Ghiandoni, Lynda Bernays and Anne Smith; **and the sound board team:** David Bell, Bader Boland and Steve Marunowski.

**The deadline for the bulletin or weekly email** is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **2/13/19 at 8:00 am**. You may submit your written request to [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org).

**To stay up to date on family programming,** please subscribe to the Christian Education Newsletter: [bit.ly/ceNewsletter](http://bit.ly/ceNewsletter).

## *Coming Up*

### **TODAY**

**The Immigration Task Force** is seeking volunteers to assist with welcoming our guests from Burkina Faso. Current volunteer needs include: daytime hospitality volunteers and meal drop-off. Future needs may include English tutoring and transportation. **Please email the Immigration Task Force at [ITF@fhcpresb.org](mailto:ITF@fhcpresb.org)** if you are interested in becoming involved.

**The Forest Hill Church Safety Core Team** is reviewing our Safety Protocols. If you are a Forest Hill Church member with a background in the fields of medicine, emergency management, insurance, security, law enforcement or communications, we encourage you to become involved with this process. If you would like to volunteer your expertise toward developing action plans to prepare the Beloved Community to respond swiftly in case of emergencies, **please contact Sandy Moran at 216.990.1046**. Watch for future announcements of member presentations, open comment and training events in the weekly bulletin and TOWER publications.

**THIS WEEK**

**Bible and Bagels (Bible Study)** discusses next Sunday’s texts on Wednesday mornings from 7:30 am to 8:30 am. The lessons for this week are: **Deut. 30: 15-20; Ps. 119: 1-8; 1 Cor. 3:1-9; and Matt. 5:21-37.**

**NEXT WEEK**

**The Adult Education classes** will continue their study of 1st Samuel (until Feb. 23). Join us at 9:30 am in South Hall and Bodwell Hall. Everyone is welcome!

**The Adult Education class** with Pastor Lentz, titled “Questions of Faith,” will continue in the chapel at 9:30 am.

**Please join our knitting, sewing and crocheting group, "Fiber and Fellowship."** Next meetings are: **February 11 at 10 am (in the Faith Leader Room) and February 25 at 10 am (in the Faith Leader Room).** Please contact **Carol (216-598-9730) or Chris (chris3040@aol.com)** for more details.

**"BE COUNTED FOR WHAT COUNTS - GCC Public Meeting, Thursday, February 27, 7 pm,** Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, 8712 Quincy Ave, Cleveland. WE NEED YOU to be part of Forest Hill's commitment to bring 101 people to support GCC's action to secure one or more off-site, pre-booking Mental Health and Addiction Crisis Centers in Cuyahoga County, so police will have an alternative to jail for persons suffering such a crisis. Greater Cleveland Congregations has been pushing for the creation of these centers for the past two years because we know they work; they will save lives and public money – and they will reduce the overcrowding in our County jail that unduly burdens people of color. If you have not already let us know, sign-up and commit to attend on Feb. 27. Carpools will be organized. **We will have signups in Fellowship Hall on Sundays following worship or signup by email to Diana Woodbridge (diana@ninthrung.com) or Scott Lafferty (swlaff@sbcglobal.net)."**

**The theme for Lent this year at Forest Hill is *Into the Wilderness*.** Tom Zych will be leading a program entitled *Reimagining the Eucharist: Discerning God’s Call in Sacrament*. The Lord’s Supper is a sacrament common to substantially all Christian churches, the celebration of the Eucharist has divided the body of Christ instead of uniting us. We will study the biblical and traditional origins of Communion, dive into different ways Christians believe about the meaning of the meal and consider new and imaginative ways to encounter the body and blood of Jesus. Come prepared to open up to the mystery of Christ’s sacrificial gift. **Classes will be on March 1, 8, and 15 at 9:30 am in South Hall.**

**In memoriam we remember**  
Judy K. Sieck  
June 27, 1943-February 4, 2020  
*“I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.”*

**Black Caucus Book Club:** On Saturday morning, **March 21**, in Bodwell Hall beginning at 10 am. We will discuss the book ***Strength to Love***, a compilation of sermons given by MLK, Jr. All people of good will are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Caucus has access to a few copies of the book “Strength to Love.” **If you wish to borrow a copy please see or email Nicole Lawrence at nalawrence3@gmail.com.** You can also get copies from the ClevNet consortium or you can order the book via EBAY or Amazon. -Black Caucus Book Club

**“Reconnecting with God’s Creation”** is back for a third year! The course is one of several “small plates” offerings by the Ministry of Education and Spiritual Formation. Classes consist of readings, mixed media presentations, small group discussion, adoption of a place for nature observation, and field trips. Environmental justice and climate change will be emphasized. You will draw closer to, learn from, and be empowered to serve God’s creation. A suggested \$10 donation by participants would be appreciated to offset the cost of class materials and facility rental fee at one of the field trip locations. Please sign up soon as the course is limited to 12 people. **Classes will take place on Sundays from 4-6 pm March 15 to June 7, 2020 excluding Easter (April 12), Mother’s Day (May 10) and Memorial Day (May 24).** They will be held at FHC in South Hall or will include field trips to nearby parks/nature preserves. **If you have any questions and/or are interested in participating please contact Kemp Jaycox (kempjaycox@yahoo.com; 216-785-5375) or Steve Sedam (Goldens101@aol.com; 614-783-4467).**

Dear Congregants,

I would appreciate it if you would consider sending letters and cards to Jonas Nsongu Mouna, who has been detained since August 2018. Jonas is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He was a political objector and was persecuted for fighting for more honest politicians.

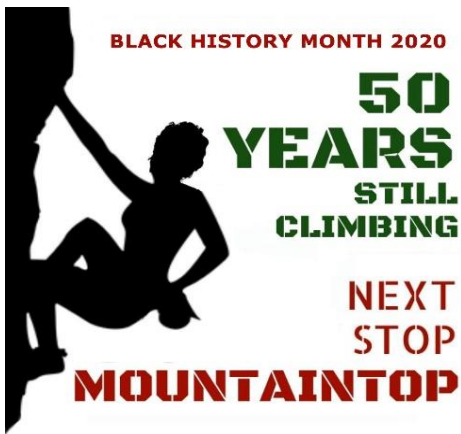
Jonas was in the Youngstown prison with Issoufou, Emmanuel, and Idrissa (the men who are now freed and living at Forest Hill Church), selflessly asking Maureen DeVito and Brian Hoffman from Catholic Charities to take on the men’s cases, because no one was fighting for them. They did. Jonas was denied asylum by a judge, so now it's nearly impossible for him to get bond. At one point, Catholic Charities identified a place Jonas could live and got release approval by three different levels in the ICE organization, but when it reached the Detroit ICE office it was cold - heartedly denied.

I met Jonas when I visited Issoufou, Idrissa, and Emmanuel in Youngstown prior to their bond hearing and ultimate release. He is a warm and caring man. He acted as an interpreter for me and the Catholic Charities lawyer, since a Mooré interpreter couldn't be reached on the phone. Jonas is fluent in French and Spanish and knows some English as well. His spirits would be greatly lifted if he received cards and letters of encouragement on a regular basis. This would help him know that he isn’t alone and others care about him. Since he may be soon transferred to either Geauga or Detroit, cards and letters for now should be sent to:

Jonas Nsongu Mouna  
c/o Maureen DeVito  
Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services  
7800 Detroit Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Thanks so much!  
Jeff Smith





## Schedule for Black History Month at Forest Hill Church February, 2020

### \*\*\*Saturday, Feb. 15: 2:00 PM or 7:00 PM, *MA'AFA*

A play written & directed by Terrence Spivey and performed at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, 8712 Quincy Avenue. The drama, in song and dance, takes the audience on a mystical journey from present day to witnessing the torturous transatlantic slave trade to the antebellum, in order for a ten-year old girl may learn her family tree and save an African burial ground in the South. We have reserved blocks of tickets for both the 2 PM and 7 PM shows. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children 18 and under. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/BHMa-afa>.

### \*\*\*Saturday, Feb. 22: Cooking Class with Chef Eric Wells, 4:00 PM-7:00 pm

Chef Eric Wells, of Skye LaRae's Culinary Services, will offer a hands-on interactive program where we will cook a gourmet four-course meal! After preparation, we will all sit and eat communally. We have some funding that is allowing us to drop the price. **It is now only \$25.00!** And we want all who are interested to be able to attend, so if this lower fee is still a problem for you, please let us know, and we can provide you with a scholarship. You can sign up here: [tinyurl.com/BHcooking2020](https://tinyurl.com/BHcooking2020).

### Sunday, Feb. 23: 5:00-6:30 pm Soul Food Pot Luck, Theme: Soul Fusion

Our traditional Soul Food Pot Luck with emphasis on that cuisine blends elements from traditional Southern cooking with different regional American southern states or other very different cultures (such as Asian, or Mexican). In recent times, innovative African American Chefs have drawn from multiple traditions to create new delicious combinations. Sign up and tell us what you plan to bring here: <https://tinyurl.com/BHpotluck2020>.

### Sunday, Feb. 23: 6:30-8:00 pm- Ascension: An Evening of African-American Music

The seventh annual Black History Month Concert, organized by musical director Caleb A. Wright will be an evening of African American sacred music and jazz focusing on the last 50 years. Dear friend of our church and seminarian Shannon Garrett Headon will serve as host for the evening. Theron Brown, a national jazz recording artist & pianist, will direct a collective of creative local musicians, including Michael Hives, Reginald Bowens, Malika Turner, Adrianna Miller, Sierra Delaine, Toyia Wright-Reynolds. Local artist Eris Dyson will serve as our Poet Laureate. This is an evening of phenomenal music that you do not want to miss!

**February 27, Greater Cleveland Congregations ACTION. See page 6 for GCC details.**

### Sunday, March 1: 12:30-1:30, Mountaintop Summit

A large group debriefing where we look back on our climb and assess where we have grown and where we have opportunities for more growth.



Calendar: February 9-16

<p><b>Sunday, February 9: Baldwin Baptism</b></p> <p>9:15 am Childcare begins</p> <p>9:30 am Adult Education</p> <p>          Youth Education</p> <p>          Descant Choir</p> <p>10:00 am Special Session Meeting</p> <p>10:10 am Pathways</p> <p>10:30 pm Continental Breakfast</p> <p>          Chancel Choir</p> <p>11:00 am Worship and Children’s</p> <p>          Worship</p> <p>12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation</p> <p>12:30 pm Base Camp Basics</p> <p>5:30 pm AA: Promises on Sunday</p> <p><b>Monday, February 10:</b></p> <p>2:30 pm Special Session Meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm AA: Progress not Perfection</p> <p>7:00 pm Al Anon: Now There’s Hope</p> <p>          OA Big Book Meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm AA: Borton Group</p> <p>          Boy Scout Troop #403</p> <p><b>Tuesday February 11:</b></p> <p>10:00 am Fiber and Fellowship</p> <p>          GCC Strategy Group</p> <p>12:00 pm Abundance Pantry</p> <p>          Registration and Distribution</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise</p> <p>          Bulletin and Email Deadline</p> <p>6:30 pm Nominating Committee</p> <p><b>Wednesday, February 12:</b></p> <p>7:30 am Bible and Bagels</p> <p>12:00 pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:30 pm Wednesday Women's Group</p> <p>6:00 pm Special Trustees Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Ministry Meeting</p> <p>          Guest Group: Speak Life</p> <p>                  Ministries</p>	<p><b>Thursday, February 13:</b></p> <p>8:00 am TOWER deadline</p> <p>1:30 pm English Country Dance</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise</p> <p>6:20 pm Voices in Bronze</p> <p>7:00 pm GCC Movie Night</p> <p>7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p> <p><b>Friday, February 14:</b></p> <p>10:00 am Al Anon: Hand in Hand</p> <p>6:00 pm Netflix and Church</p> <p><b>Saturday, February 15:</b></p> <p>8:30 am CEIRS Class</p> <p>9:00 am Tax Prep</p> <p>          Leadership Training</p> <p>          <del>Fiber and Fellowship</del></p> <p>11:30 am Food not Lawns Seed Swap</p> <p>2:00 pm Ma’afa Play</p> <p>7:00 pm Pacesetter Outing</p> <p>          Ma’afa Play</p> <p><b>Sunday, February 16: Caminiti Baptism</b></p> <p>9:15 am Childcare begins</p> <p>9:30 am Adult Education</p> <p>          Youth Education</p> <p>          Descant Choir</p> <p>10:10 am Pathways</p> <p>10:30 pm Continental Breakfast</p> <p>          Chancel Choir</p> <p>11:00 am Worship and Children’s</p> <p>          Worship</p> <p>12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation</p> <p>          Baptism Reception</p> <p>          Sine Nomine Rehearsal</p> <p>          Blood Pressure Check</p> <p>5:30 pm AA: Promises on Sunday</p>
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### **Our Three New Guests Have Arrived!**

The FHC Immigration Task Force is pleased to announce that Issoufou Lembane, Idrissa Kiema, and Emmanuel Sabo arrived at the church's sanctuary apartment. The three men are savoring freedom after being locked up in a maximum security prison in Youngstown for eight months. Their only "crime" being asking for asylum in the United States after the horrific massacre of their families in their village in Burkina Faso. Their release was secured after Forest Hill Church and many community organizations (Catholic Charities, Heights Friends of Immigrants, American Making Immigrants Safe, Jobs with Justice) worked together to raise the \$15,000 bond set for each man. This was done in just eight days! Idrissa, Issoufou, and Emanuel have expressed many times how grateful they are for the generosity, care, and protection so many are providing them. These sweet, gentle men are eager to learn English and to learn our customs. They are eager to teach us as well. They also have expressed how they want to help out whenever they can, saying we all are their new families. The Immigration Task Force wishes to thank everyone for their generous donations of clothes and money. We have everything we need at this time. **Go to the "Sign up Genius" web site if you would like to volunteer to spend some hospitality time with the men, cook a meal, or take the men to outside activities. We guarantee that any time you spend with Emanuel, Idrissa, and Issoufou will be most rewarding for all of you. God Bless You All!**



**3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts. OH 44118**

**Office: 216-321-2660      Fax: 216-320-1214**

**Pastoral Care Emergencies: 216-319-3596**

**Email: [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org)      Website: [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)**

**Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines, Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastors  
Rev. David Wigger, Interim Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries**

**Tara Beverly, Youth Leader  
Anne Wilson, Director of Music**