



The TOWER

FEBRUARY 2020

WORDS FROM PASTOR VERONICA

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but
when the desire comes, it is a tree of life."

--Proverbs 13:12



On December 11, the session met with the Immigration Task Force to discuss the plight of three young men from Burkina Faso seeking political asylum, and their need for a host community. After impassioned deliberations, the following day, the session voted to approve the request from the ITF to welcome *Issoufou Lembane*, *Idrissa Kiema*, and *Emmanuel Sabo* as our resident guests while their case for asylum was pending in the courts.

The fulfillment of this dire need was met by a communal effort: the Immigration Task Force, Catholic Charities, immigration lawyers, AMIS, interpreters, and other churches, agencies and individuals, within and without FHC, who have worked selflessly to prepare the way for our much anticipated guests.

After much prayer, late Monday afternoon, January 13, our guests arrived to a warm and joyous reception, hosted by the ITF. Our guests were escorted to their new second floor apartment. A gracious French speaking interpreter enabled us to converse with our guests. When offered food, Emmanuel replied, "We're too excited to eat." When offered an apology for the treatment they received during detention, once again, Emmanuel spoke up, saying, "We

don't want to look back. We want to look forward." Issoufou and Idrissa nodded their heads affirmatively. And, when Pastor Lentz offered to arrange for two of the men, practicing Muslims, to attend a Mosque, Issoufou replied: "God is God." Words cannot capture their modesty and grace.

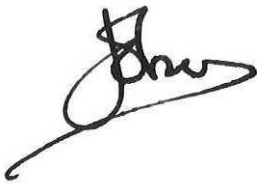
We could say that these past weeks have been a kind of advent, a season of anticipation and preparation, now come to fruition like a tree of life. All who have been involved in bringing this about have been agents of God's grace—the beloved community in action. I can't express the joy and blessing I felt during the informal welcome reception. Even with all that our guests have been through, these young men exude grace, humility, and love. They have much to teach us, and they are eager to learn from us.

I extend special thanks on behalf of Forest Hill Church to our Immigration Task Force, and their many partners who helped to bring about this yet unfolding story of Christ's beloved community opening beyond its comfort zone. We are no longer strangers. Let us welcome our guests: Emmanuel, Idrissa, and Issoufou, with the grace and humility they have shown us.

In this time of great transition, I also acknowledge our third-year elders, deacons, and elected leaders, who have served Forest Hill Church over the past three years, and who now prepare for a respite. Thank you for your faithful leadership. I pray that you will find other places to serve where your souls and spirits will be renewed and refreshed in the Lord. By God's grace, 2020 is off to a wonderful and joyous start.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Veronica

WORDS FROM PASTOR JOHN



Dear Friends,

It often happens that you stumble upon a real unexpected “ruby” of beauty while looking for a “diamond.” I was preparing for my sermon of January 19. I was giving glory to God for the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I had been reading his magnificent (*diamond*) “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” from a small paperback book. As an afterthought I read the added sermon of Dr. King’s, “The Three Dimensions of a Complete Life,” (*Ruby*) which was added to the little book. I had neither read nor heard of this sermon. Three points, based on Jesus’ greatest commandments: Love God, love your neighbor, love yourself! AMEN!

In the section about self-love, Dr. King encourages his listeners to live into their personal gifts. He reminds his listeners not to compare their lives with others, but just be themselves. He adds a little poem that might be a verse from a song that touched me. And so, I shall share it with you.

*If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill
Be a scrub in the valley – but be
The best little scrub on the side of the hill,
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.
If you can't be a highway just be a trail
If you can't be the sun be star;
It isn't by size that you win or fail –
Be the best of whatever you are.*

Sometimes simple truths are the most profound! Diamonds are brilliant, but I will take a ruby any day! Be who you are as a beloved Child of God!

~ John

Music Notes

Dear Forest Hill Friends,

February is Black History Month, and Forest Hill celebrates that with gusto! Our services will be enhanced with spirituals, gospel songs and global music. Special soloists will share songs with us during morning worship. Caleb Wright, bass, and Reginald Bowens, pianist, will be offering special music on February 23 in order to give us a foretaste of the Black History Month concert that same evening.



~Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org 216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)



Family, Youth, and Children Ministries

Saturday, February 8-Intergenerational Black History Movie Night

More details will come soon, but we plan to offer different developmentally appropriate movie and movie outing options for children, youth, and adults followed by a discussion. Movies will probably begin around 4 pm, but watch for details about specific movie options, age suggestions, and times coming soon.



FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN

BLACK HISTORY MOVIE NIGHT

Intergenerational Movie Night
with options for children, youth, and adults.

A Collaboration of the
Black History Education Team
& Family, Youth, and Children Ministries

SAT, FEB 8 | TIME TBD
WATCH FOR DETAILS

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 Monday afternoon. 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 will. 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, take the men to outside activities, or spend the night. We guarantee that any time you spend with Emanuel, Idrissa, and Issoufou will be most rewarding for all of you. God Bless You All!



Earth, Air, Fire, Water

With a bow to the ancients, mythology, and the similarly-named musical group----these crumbling pillars of environmental degradation are raging throughout God's realm!

- Earth: The soil ravaged by over cultivation, erosion, chemical pollution.
- Air, poisoned by smog caused by fossil fuel usage emission, methane gas generation, entrapped CO2 in the atmosphere leading to the greenhouse effect and attendant temperature increase.
- Fire: Should we mention Paradise, Australia's Southeast coast, and other areas in our own west? Wildfires as a result of irregular climate change, droughts, indiscriminate and irresponsible deforestation.
- Water: Water, water everywhere and not a drop (fit) to drink due to pollution, or too little water because of both man-made actions as well as climate change. Or too much water at too many somewheres----floods, soil erosion, destruction of buffering wetlands, accelerating glacial melts. Plastic poisoning pollution in our oceans.

Just five or ten years ago, many of us just chuckled at---if not outright denied the existence of man-made environmental disasters and climate change-- and thought of natural disasters in once-a-century terms. Not anymore! We have awakened! What to do? Join with memberships in and support of environmental groups and earth resource NGOs. Continue to contact and lobby our governmental representatives. Pray to our God for deliverance from environmental evils----but understand that God is saying back to us: What are YOU doing?

The next few weeks I will have the blue trifold board and contact information on representatives and NGO's in Fellowship Hall for everyone. Stop by! Also, there will be a special program on Solar Panel utilization in South Hall on Sunday, **March 8** at 12:30 pm right after service. New opportunity abounds to reduce energy usage relating to fossil fuel!

~Dave Neff, Earth Care Leader

It's a breeze...

There was a momentary disruption in our Breeze directory last month. Anyone who happened to look at their weekly church attendance from Christmas until mid-January would have seen they had not attended church since August 2017! Never fear—the “odd weather pattern” has been completely eliminated and everyone's attendance history is back in place. (I know, I know. All three of you who actually noticed the temporary disappearance just heaved a heavy sigh of relief.) Now that everything's back to normal, plans to finish providing Breeze access to all members of the congregation are full steam ahead. Thank you for your patience!

~ Peg Weissbrod

GCC Update

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 helping to level the judicial field for people of color. **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).** Carpools will be organized.

-Scott Lafferty, Core Team Leader



February- the Month of Love

When the Deacons meet each month, "Tower Article" is on the agenda. Together, we talk about the message we want to send to the congregation, or the care we want to extend through our words. The Deacon Ghost Writer, then gets to work...often submitting late, and thereby demonstrating the patience of Antoinette, who assembles The Tower. "What message do we want to send for February?" the Ghost Writer asked. "LOVE!" was the quick response. "February is the month for love!" That was followed by a quick "Love means never having to say you're sorry." That of course, is debatable, but gave each of us a moment of calm and self-forgiveness, for the many ways we felt badly for care not given to members of our congregation, or for flowers delivered wilted, or fewer meals provided than needed, or for submitting the article to Antoinette late. Please, forgive us.

But yes, February is a month we may associate with love, and that may uplift or hurt us. In today's "PC" society (that too, debatable), and in a time in which we are more sensitive to equality and honoring feelings, I suppose schools are not having children make Valentine boxes (a "competition" in and of itself...whose parents helped make the best box ever, and whose didn't???). "Back in my day," that was a "thing" and the public opening of our boxes to see an abundance of cards or lack thereof, could be further humiliation for a child. (Perhaps still, it was an early and gentler version of what our social media now does to children on a daily basis). But, this writer has digressed.

We can all choose to embrace February as a month of love, if we turn to the Bible and its many reminders of the gift of God's love, and the emulation of that love that we can give back to our world. Maybe we can each choose one of these as a mantra or centering point for meditation during the "Month of Love."

Romans 13:8: "Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."

1 Corinthians 13:4-5: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs."

1 John 4:16: "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

1 Peter 4:8: "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

John 15:12: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

Psalms 36:7: "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings."

Romans 8:28: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." *And do know, you are loved by the Deacons. It is the center point of our ministry.*

-With thanks from The Deacons

Black Caucus Updates



National Black Presbyterian Caucus Comes to FHC! This picture of the members the FHC Black Caucus was taken at the conclusion of our meeting on January 12, where Sister Doris Evans, Vice President, National Black Presbyterian Caucus, addressed us. Sister Evan's gave an overview of the National organization and explained how our affiliation with National would be mutually beneficial. This idea of affiliating with National will be the subject of future discussions.

Come read with us

The Black Caucus of FHC is pleased to announce the formation of its book club. It is open to all people of good will. Our first book is "*Strength to Love*" a collection of sermons by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The book's message is timeless, thought provoking and moving. One reviewer wrote, "Despite nearly 50 years since its publication, '*Strength to Love*' reads as pertinently to our situation as it did in the midst of the civil rights movement. Yet '*Strength to Love*' is more than a blueprint of a movement; it is a template for personal authenticity in an age when vast social and economic change

demand and depend on personal integrity. As King averred, "Only through an inner spiritual transformation do we gain the strength to fight vigorously the evils of the world in a humble and loving spirit."

This book was chosen as our initial book club reading for a number of reasons; foremost among them is that the book is founded on Christian principles and written by one of the 20th century's greatest social justice activists. Thus, the book reflects our faith and provides insight and a road map to bettering oneself and society.

We hope to read 4 books a year and discuss each on a Saturday morning each quarter. Thus, "Strength to Love" will be discussed Saturday morning, **March 21**, from 10-12 in Bodwell Hall. We would love for you to join us. The Caucus has access to a few copies of the book 'Strength to Love. **If you wish to borrow a copy please see Nicole Lawrence or email her at nalawrence3@gmail.com.**

Although the book is not in the Cleveland Heights library, they can get copies from the ClevNet consortium and have a copy delivered to one of their branches for you. Alternatively, one can order the book via EBAY or Amazon.

The Black Caucus Book Club Committee

Rayba Johnson, Sonji Kenyatta, Nicole Lawrence, and Quentin Smith

RACIAL EQUITY BUDDIES VISIT 'UNDESIGN THE REDLINE' EXHIBIT

On Wednesday evening, December 5, a group of more than 20 Racial Equity Buddies travelled downtown to Trinity Cathedral to see the exhibit entitled 'Undesign the Redline'. The exhibit documented structural racism in our nation's residential development from the 1934 National Housing Act which financially assisted some privileged people to own homes and pass on wealth to future generations while denying non-white people that same opportunity. That government policy resulted in racial, wealth and opportunity inequities perpetuated to this day throughout American society, including the Cleveland area.

'Undesign' showed how maps were designed to implement the 1934 National Housing Act and used to turn Jim Crow era segregation policies into explicit government endorsed racial segregation. Those maps "redlined" neighborhoods deemed to be undesirable for lending to homebuyers whose race or culture were incompatible with the dominant white culture and social values. Redlining racial and cultural diversity not only led to increased segregation and a wealth gap, it also led to disparities in health, education and life fulfilling opportunities. The 'Undesign' exhibit included subsequent maps documenting how segregation was designed into the growth of most cities during and since World War II. It also provided evidence of how racial segregation was perpetuated here in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. Current maps of the residential and life conditions here mirror the racial segregation mandated by residential redlining eighty years ago. Those discriminatory policies and practices remain alive in virtually all the social and institutional structures we live in today. While the Civil Rights Movement did bring about important change, it did not remove the results of redlining that still persists in the social and institutional structures in American.

Our guide through the exhibit was Rev. Richard Israel (husband of Rev. Lois Annich, a recent interim associate pastor at FHC), who came to Cleveland in the late '60s to work with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries to "undesign" racism and inequality. He, along with some in our group, added their personal experiences with housing discrimination, blockbusting, racial steering, scare tactics and various other abusive practices that persisted even after civil rights and fair housing laws were enacted. The epicenter of resistance to racial discrimination in residential sales and financing was right where Forest Hill Church stands in the Heights. Even as a predominantly white congregation, the church engaged early in the 1960s in active and controversial resistance to designed segregation. Even so, the design illustrated by those old redlining maps persists in metropolitan Cleveland.

“Undesign the Redline” is a project initiated by Enterprise Community Partners, a national community development nonprofit organization with partners and affiliates in cities around the country, including Cleveland. The exhibit has appeared in several other cities with a legacy of redlining. The Cleveland version was shown during this year at different locations besides Trinity Cathedral. The purpose of this large project was to stimulate discussions and workshops around the country on how to undo the results of redlining.

For those in our congregation making the journey toward racial inclusion, the knowledge provided so vividly by “Undesign the Redline” is an opportunity to see clearly how implicit and structural forces in our social and civic order have perpetuated the racial divisions--divisions that deny the justice and equality we promise in the words of our constitutions, laws and creeds. Building a beloved community requires that we remove the designed divisions that preserve undeniable racial injustice and inequity where we worship and witness. For those who are in deep conversation with a racial buddy, this experience invites an exploration of how the designed structure of segregation still affects our lives. If you are interested in learning more about the Racial Equity Buddies Program at FHC you may speak with any member of the organizing committee (Barb Cloud, Kermit Lind, Vikki Nowak, Elizabeth Shaw, Quentin Smith and Lisa Vahey, Or email us at blackcaucus@fhcpresb.org.



Update From Our Ron Register Scholarship Recipients

Below are messages from Treasure Eiland and Trevion Johnson, our Ron Register Scholars, about their first semester college experience. Both are off to a great start! Treasure, as you may recall, is the first in her family to attend college and Trevion was basically self-supporting since his junior year in high



school. Both received scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 for 2019/20 academic year. Both expressed heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Black Caucus, the Ron Register Scholarship Committee and the many donors who invested in their future.

Treasure's message

In regards to the fall semester, I had an amazing time at The Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. Chemistry gave me some trouble but besides that I finished the semester with a 3.23 GPA. I received an A in Composition, A- in Calculus I, B in Civil Rights Thru Film, A in New Student Orientation, A- in Chemistry Lab, C- in Chemistry. I truly enjoyed my first semester college experience. As always, I am thankful for the kindness and generosity of the scholarship committee for giving me the opportunity to go to school without any financial hardships.

Treasure's spring semester schedule includes, Calculus II, Composition, and Introduction to Computing, Harlem Renaissance, and Critical Thinking, interesting and challenging courses. Clearly this young woman is on her way!

Trevion's message

My first semester at Loyola went well. I finished my first semester with a 3.4 GPA. Besides that, I have had a relatively easy time transitioning into college life. I play soccer for the club soccer team and I am a member of the stand-up comedy club. I am really enjoying my time at Loyola. Again, thank you so much for your support. It means a lot to me. Please let me know if you'd like to hear more about my time at Loyola.

In speaking with Trevion about the difficulty of the transition from high school to college he remarked, "I had been raising myself for more than a year and thus it wasn't that difficult for me. In a sense it was easier because I didn't have to worry about how I was going to feed myself".

Trevion's candid response touched me. We take so many things for granted. Having a stable environment; parents and loved ones to look after us, to ensure that we are safe, secure and have our basic human needs met. Trevion, God bless him, innocently said he didn't have those safeguards and amazingly he did well in high school, enough so to be admitted to Loyola University. His intellect continues to serve him well – his 3.4 GPA in his first semester shows that! It is heartwarming to know that we have played a small but productive part in promoting the lives and careers of these two promising young adults. We deserve a collective pat on the back for initiating the Scholarship and selecting such outstanding recipients, but most important is, as one of our committee put it, we are nurturing outstanding students and future leaders.

Last year we raised \$19,000. Thus far this year we have raised slightly over \$14,500, which is \$5,000 less (or the equivalent of two scholarships) than last year. It is not too late to contribute to this effort. Simply make out a check to Forest Hill Church and, in the memo line, indicate the donation is for the Ron Register Scholarship. Your contribution is 100% tax deductible. Significantly, all administrative costs are borne by FHC. Thus, every penny raised goes to a deserving student.

~Quentin Smith



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

Unless otherwise stated, all events will be held at:

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian

A note about “Stone Soup Payments”

The Black History Education Team believes that part of being in community with each other is having each other's backs when we can. *** Events marked with this string of asterisks have a cost for admission. We want to make these available to our whole congregation regardless of ability to pay. For each of these events, we list the per-person cost to us for providing the event.

We encourage those who can pay the full amount to do so. If you can afford to pay for 1 ½, 2, or 3 admissions, please do! If you can pay only part of the cost, or cannot pay anything at all, that's OK. Just sign up and pay whatever you can. *We trust that the extra money from those who can pay more will cover participation for those who can pay less or not at all.*

Sunday, Feb 2: 12:30-1:30 pm, Base Camp Basics.

There will be a choice of follow-up meetings, times to be announced. This is a quick, large group meeting where we will prepare for the month ahead. We will read Martin Luther King's last speech, “I've been to the mountaintop” and discuss what we need to reach that mountaintop as a community. The Black History Education Team has prepared educational modules to help congregation members build their skills and stamina for the climb. The modules are based on major ideas about racial reconciliation work that has been developed over the last 50 years.

Fridays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28: 7:00-9:00 pm, Netflix and Church:
When They See Us: Guided discussion of Ava DuVernay's hit miniseries, *When They See Us*, a chilling docudrama about the Central Park Five case. Study guide will be required.

Saturday, Feb. 8: 3:30-7:30 pm, Family Movie Night
Join the Black History Education team and the Ministry of Family, Youth and Children for a family night out. Meet at the church at 3:30 to carpool or drop off children for their movie experience. Dinner will be provided. Child care available.

*****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 to 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. Signups are requested.

*****Saturday, Feb. 22: Cooking Class with Chef Eric Wells (Time TBA)**
Chef Eric Wells, of Sky 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. Chef Wells is a Cleveland native and a graduate of Loretta Paganini's International Culinary Arts and Sciences Institute. Cost (not yet finalized) will be about \$50/person. The event will be at FHC. Signups are requested.

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. Signups are requested.

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 and more. 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.

After our primary BHM events are over, GCC will be convening a 1000-person public meeting at Olivet Baptist, to address and hopefully announce progress in our efforts to have the County commit to the creation of Mental Health and Addiction Crisis Centers in Cuyahoga County. The Black History Education Team encourages all who participate in our events to attend. For more information see the [web GCC site](#).

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

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

News of Our Church Family

Care Group (Group Leader-Mary Hosier): The **Calvary** 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 leaders.

Thank You to all office volunteers!

The office volunteers and TOWER assembly team– Lynda Bernays, Betty Clark, Ellen McChesney, Cathy Ghiandoni, and Anne Smith.

Flower donations are needed! Are you interested in donating a flower arrangement in honor or in memory of someone? The arrangements are \$45 each and you may donate the flowers (the deacons will find a recipient) or you may take them home. Please email office@fhcpresb.org if you would like to take this opportunity to help beautify the sanctuary.

Are you interested in becoming part of our Forest Hill Church Community? If so, please email churchgrowth@fhcpresb.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

The following are ways in which you can help Leonor and her family as needed:

1. Picking up Leonor and/or the boys when they need to come to Cleveland from Akron
2. Taking Leonor and the boys back to Akron
3. Providing meals when the family is in Cleveland
4. Providing activities for Luis Mario (8) and Adan (6) during the day and evenings when they are in Cleveland
5. Overnight stays with the family at the church
6. Food preparation with Leonor for special events (she is trying to earn money by cooking and selling her food and by catering events)
7. Transport of food from our food pantry to Leonor every week

If you are interested in becoming a part of this effort, please contact Charity Stock at charityrmcdonald@gmail.com. Your name will be added to the Sign up Genius list and you will be contacted as needed. Thank you for your continued support! - FHC Immigration Task Force

“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. Through the course, you will more clearly understand the deep connections between humans and nature and explore how you can act on your responsibility as a Christian for stewardship of the natural world. The 10 classes are focused around 4 themes: preservation and protection, stewardship, wonder and magic, and restoration. Environmental justice and climate change will be emphasized throughout the course. By the end of the course, 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).**

Social Groups and Circles

Iris Circle

Women of FHC! Read any good books lately? We love to share stories about a great read. Come and join us Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Bodwell Hall. We will have coffee and dessert while we talk about our books. The program is - bring your book or the information, title and author, and be ready to talk about your book for 2-3 minutes. Each person will share and then we will compile all the "good reads" together and send it out to all (or printed copies). Come join us for a delightful afternoon of good books.

Group/Hilltoppers and anyone who wants to party.

We will have a Super Bowl party at the home of Kathryn and Peter Eloff, 1243 Oakridge Dr., CH on Sunday, February 2, 2020, starting at 6:00 p.m. We will enjoy chili during the half time provided by our hosts. Bring an appetizer or dessert and BYOB. RSVP to Cathy Ghiandoni at 216 691-1905 or Ghiandoni.c@gmail.com so we know how many chairs to set up for our TV viewing. It's always a fun time and a little side betting helps us enjoy the game more. Bring your quarters.

Sundays in February

9:15 am Childcare begins
9:30 am Adult Education/Youth Education
Descant Choir
10:10 am Pathways
10:30 pm Continental Breakfast
Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship and Children's Worship
12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation
Sine Nomine Rehearsal (every other Sunday)
7:00 pm AA: Promises on Sunday

Staff Emails

Antoinette Richardson	Administration	office@fhcpresb.org
Genetha Clark	Finance	finance@fhcpresb.org
Ann Donkin	Building Mgr.	adonkin@fhcpresb.org
Stavros Gazis	Head Custodian	custodian@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines	Co-Pastor	pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.	Co-Pastor	pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org
Peg Weissbrod	Outreach/Breeze	pegw@fhcpresb.org
Rev. David Wigger	Family, Youth, Children	CE@fhcpresb.org
Anne Wilson	Music	annew@fhcpresb.org
Tara Beverly	Youth Leader	youthleader@fhcpresb.org



3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts. OH 44118

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

Pastoral Care Emergencies: 216-319-3596

Email: office@fhcpresb.org Website: 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

Anne Wilson, Director of Music

TOWER deadline: **8 am** on February 13

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 pm AA: Progress not Perfection 7:00 pm AI Anon: Now There's Hope 7:30 pm AA: Borton Group Boy Scout Trp. #403 OA Big Book	1:00 pm Abundance Pantry 5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:00 pm Staff Meeting AA: Wednesday Women's 7:00 pm Guest Group: Speak Life Bible Study	1:30 pm English Dance 5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 pm Voices in Bronze 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	9:30 am AI Anon: Hand in Hand	
January 26 12:30 pm -Annual meeting -Racial Equity Buddies	January 27	January 28 10:00 am -Fiber and Fellowship 7:00 pm Black History Meeting	January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1 8:00 am -Men's Group -CEIRS Class -Tax Prep
February 2 12:30 pm -Base Camp 6:00 pm - Group/Hilltopper 7:00 pm -CAC Rehearsal	February 3	February 4 6:00 pm -Adult Education	February 5 7:00 pm -Safety Protocol Team	February 6	February 7 7:00 pm -Netflix and Church	February 8 8:30 am -CEIRS Class 9:00 am -Fiber and Fellowship -Tax Prep 4:00 pm -Youth Movie Night
February 9 11:00 am -Baldwin Baptism 7:00 pm -CAC Rehearsal	February 10	February 11 10:00 am -Fiber and Fellowship 6:30 pm -Nominating Committee	February 12 7:00 pm -Ministry Meeting	February 13 8:00 am -TOWER Deadline	February 14 7:00 pm -Netflix and Church	February 15 8:30 am -CEIRS Class 9:00 am -Tax Prep -Leadership Training
February 16 11:00 am -Caminiti Baptism 7:00 pm -CAC Rehearsal	February 17	February 18 11:00 am -Iris Circle 6:00 pm -HCC Board Meeting	February 19 1:00 pm -Hilltop Garden Club 7:00 pm -Session -Transfamily East -Jung Workshop	February 20	February 21 7:00 pm -Netflix and Church	February 22 8:30 am -CEIRS Class 9:00 am -Tax Prep
February 23 5:00 pm -Soul Food Potluck 6:30 pm -Ascension 7:00 pm -CAC Rehearsal	February 24	February 25 10:00 am -Fiber and Fellowship	February 26	February 27 7:00 pm -GCC Public Meeting	February 28 7:00 pm -Netflix and Church	February 29 8:30 am -CEIRS Class 9:00 am -Tax Prep

February 2020