

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines, Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Co-Pastors
*Discovering God's call, celebrating the Spirit's presence
Witnessing to Christ's transformative power!*



Forest Hill Church
presbyterian

The TOWER

MAY 2021



WORDS FROM PASTOR VERONICA

In her memoir, *Mary Karr* (Lit: A Memoir), writes:



If you live in the dark a long time and the sun comes out, you do not cross into it whistling.

There's an initial up-rush of relief at first, then—for me, anyway—a profound dislocation. My old assumptions about how the world works are buried, yet my new ones aren't yet operational. There's been a death of sorts, but without a few days in hell, no resurrection is possible.

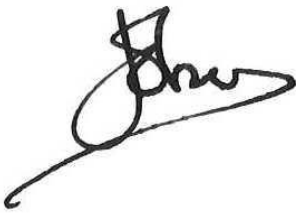
In this recent Easter season, I have resonated with Karr's words, especially as we begin to perceive a hint of light as we near the end of this long, dark season of COVID-19. While we feel an up-rush of relief as vaccines are being administered, we are also aware that, for two years now, Easter has been accompanied by an unrelenting pandemic. So, we're not yet whistling in the light, but we are beginning to feel the promise of its warmth on our faces, even if in our temporary dislocation. We slowly but surely embrace the promise and hope of resurrection.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (June 27, 1944, *Testament to Freedom*, Geoffrey Kelly and F. Burton Nelson, eds., NY: Harper SF, 1990, p. 532) writes *"The difference between the Christian hope of resurrection and the mythological hope is that the former sends a person back to his/her life on earth in a wholly new way."* This is the promise of Easter: death, burial, and resurrection—new life.

As the Easter season passes, we are now on the threshold of Pentecost, when we celebrate the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. So, how will the hope of the resurrection and the power of Pentecost become manifest in our church's ministries, as they contemplate with new and renewing vision their ministry to both congregation and community? With certainty, many will envisage re-opening for corporate worship, while others will anticipate continued use of new technology to enable our worship. To this end, let us all pray.

Grace and Peace, Veronica

WORDS FROM PASTOR JOHN



Dear Friends,

Sometimes, from what I've heard, it can feel a bit daunting to find an initial way to get involved in the life of this church. Here, for example, there are so many outreach, music and study groups, committees (which we call ministries) and fellowship opportunities available that, sometimes, it's not always easy to know how to get connected.

One way to do that, though, is to serve on the church's Session.

Each year the Nominating Committee contacts active members and friends, asking them to consider taking positions of church leadership. In particular, *active members* of the church can be called to ordained positions of Elder and Deacon of each of the nine ministries of the church, or they may serve as Elected Leaders.

If you are not an active member (yet!) but worship with us and want to be involved more deeply in the life of the church, you too can become an Elected Leader. The ministries and what they do are listed on **page 5**.

If you or someone else you know might be interested in the work of any of the ministries, please let a member of the Nominating Committee know. Those members include:

Ron Register, Chair
Barb Hansen, Vice-Chair
Kate Burleigh
Kemp Jaycox
Pat Jenkins
Leslie Clement
Jennifer Blakeney
Zelma Sharp
Deedee Pim

As the Nominating Committee seeks to match the gifts and skills of the people suggested to them with opportunities to serve, they take great care in discerning prayerfully where you might best serve. They also commit to presenting a diverse and inclusive slate of nominations to the Congregational Meeting in January 2022.

So, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members or the office or pastors, to let them know of your interest. Using your talents to help reach out to our congregation, our community and beyond with examples of God's love is one of the kindest, most loving things you can do. And I thank you and welcome your gifts with open arms.

God bless you,
John



CHURCH MINISTRIES

Consider these opportunities to use your talents in the life of Forest Hill Church:

DEACONS care for our congregation, provide fellowship and hospitality, reach out to absent members, and maintain our membership rolls. Deacons generally have a heart for the well-being of others, and are welcoming, caring, organized, and/or creative.

ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL FORMATION includes helping to run the Sunday morning Bible Study program and other adult education programs, coaching members to discover and develop their gifts and discover their calling, and facilitating the formation of small groups.

FAMILY, YOUTH & CHILDREN supports the FY&C Director and is organized by age groups--from infants through high school and their parents or guardians-- so you can choose the age group you prefer. Gifts, Skills and Passions can include being imaginative or creative; passionate about the spiritual and intellectual development of children and/or youth, teaching, playing games, and planning activities.

JUSTICE AND MISSION serves local and global missions, serves and advocates for marginalized persons, and distributes community grants. This can be a good fit for those with a passion for social justice and prophetic action; a heart for the poor, the outcast, and those in need.

STEWARDSHIP conducts the annual stewardship campaign and supports sustainable living and earth stewardship. Creativity, knowledge of budgeting and money, marketing, goal setting, relationship building, and/or environmental awareness are useful in this ministry.

TRUSTEES are responsible for church administration; building, equipment and grounds; budget and finances; and the business of the church as a corporation. A variety of different skills can be helpful: knowledge of finances and spreadsheets, personnel management, understanding of buildings and grounds and maintenance needs, organizational skills, ability to oversee projects to completion, shared vision for enhancing the beauty and functionality of the church, ability to work well as a team, dependable, and committed to our mission.

WORSHIP is responsible for communion set-up, sanctuary upkeep, flowers, ushers, lay readers, dynamic leadership for liturgical seasons, worship styles, and envisioning aesthetic components in our worship space. Gifts, Skills and Passions can include love of worship, creativity or imagination, or artistic skill.

CHURCH GROWTH includes publicizing the work of our church to the greater community, welcoming visitors, offering Exploring Membership classes, and welcoming and affirming new members. Those open to meeting new people; possessing advertising, marketing, or technical skills; the ability to relate to different age groups; and/or a desire to make others feel welcome are good candidates for this ministry.

NOMINATING discerns and nominates Elders and Elected Leaders. Gifts, Skills and Passions can include spiritual gift discernment, ability to ask others to accept calls to leadership, patient, compassionate, dedicated to finding the right person for the right position.



Family, Youth, and Children Ministries

Family, Youth, and Children is growing and coming up with ways to get together as the weather gets warmer. You may receive a text or email from Amy . . . so stay tuned!



If your family is not receiving communication from our FYC program and would like to be informed about our programming, please contact Amy Wheatley, Director of Family, Youth and Children's Ministry at ce@fhcpresb.org. We'd love to add you to our list!



Looking for a way to “sing your heart out” in praise of God?

You're in luck!

Thanks to a year of pandemic separation, Forest Hill Chancel Choir members have had to maintain more than social distancing as they find a way to share their music with the congregation.

With the advent of Zoom meetings, however, singers “old and new” are now able to gather “on screen” and be grouped together virtually to share a singing experience that will enrich worship services in the weeks and months ahead.

You may have seen one or more of these offerings in the past few months. It's actually really fun, and director Ying awaits your email at music@fhcpresb.org to get information on how to access the Zoom “rehearsals” and download music. Join us! You'll be glad you did.

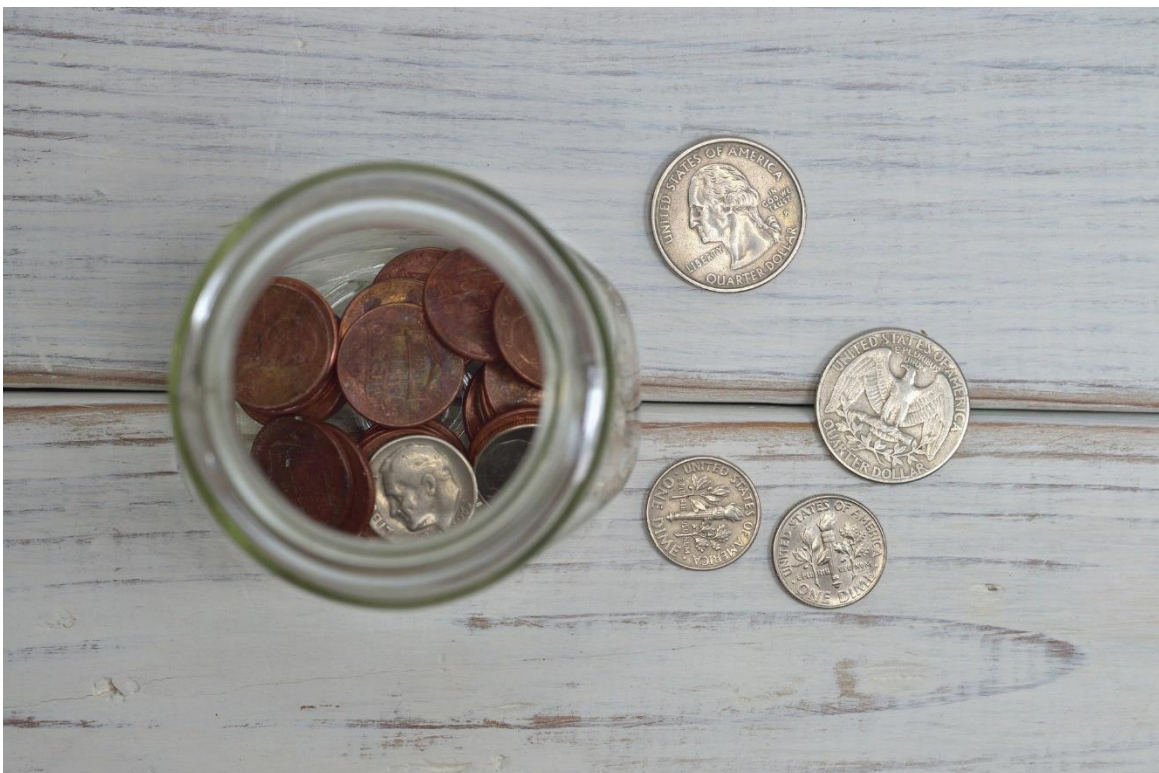
FOREST HILL CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

In early March, Forest Hill Church was awarded a \$112,000 Payroll Protection Program (PPP1) Loan by the Small Business Administration. This funding will be used to offset payroll, benefits and utilities costs incurred during the first half of 2021. Once the funding has been used, we will apply for forgiveness of the loan; most if not all PPP loans are forgiven in full if the funding is used for allowed expenses.

While this loan will help Forest Hill move into the post-COVID era with confidence, we should remember that PPP1 loans are, in finance-speak, "extraordinary income" that won't be available again in 2022.

Regards,
Mary McMillan
Treasurer

PS – Just a reminder that Forest Hill accepts gifts of stock. Please email Finance@FHCPresb.org if you would like to know more about the stock transfer process.





CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY, AND US

In many areas of the developing or even under-developed world, the ever-increasing effects of climate change are creating a clashing intersection of biodiversity and human activity.

In particular, natural disasters, such as wildfires, droughts, and floods resulting in land degradation, loss of wildlife habitat through deforestation and a growing populations' need for more and more suitable agricultural land, are creating possible and actual conflict between humans and wildlife. These conflicts could mean more instances of transmittable zoonotic disease such as has led to the current pandemic.

Fortunately, World Wildlife Fund has been and is employing modern technology to mitigate the effects of undesirable wildlife/human contact.

Here are a few of the good-news activities:

- Solar-powered flickering LED lights surround pastoral corrals in Africa to keep lions and other predators from attacking livestock – the main economic and food-protein source for many people
- Thermal imaging cameras are used in many national park areas throughout Africa to alert rangers to unwanted human activity that can lead to wildlife poaching. Not only does wildlife suffer from poaching and a demand for “bush” meat, but the loss of tourism threatens the livelihood of locals who depend on the tourists.
- Drones used to monitor the landscape for security purposes can also provide alerts to emerging problems such as nascent fires, erosion, erosion, vegetation die-off which might be caused by insect infestation, etc.

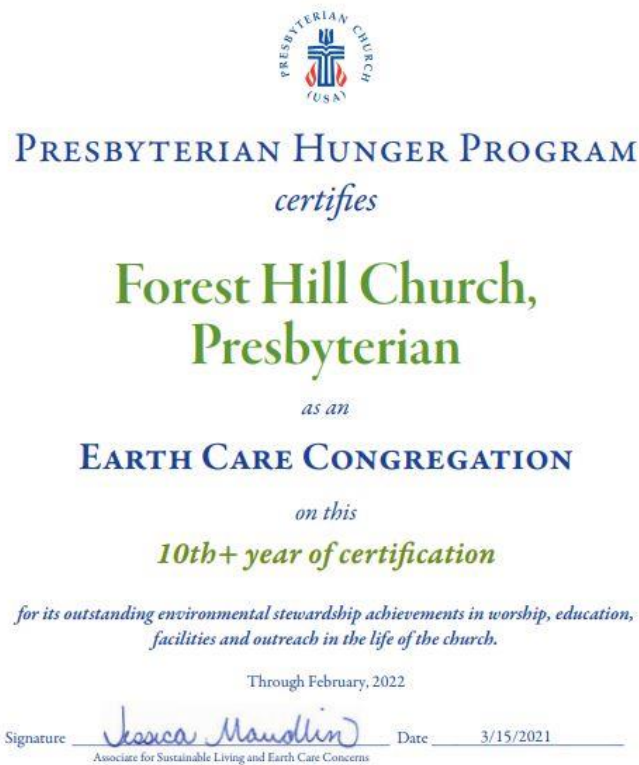
Additionally, US drone technology used in this country to deliver

vaccine-baited edible pellets to treat prairie dog towns suffering from disease provides a good hope to protect and save isolated, endangered or diseased animal populations in *other* countries.

- Telemetry – the grandfather of electronic technology – has been in use for monitoring wildlife for several decades. Keeping track of individuals or groups of a species better enables researchers to analyze data, including DNA, to learn more about animal behaviors and develop ways to protect God's creatures in the animal kingdom.

Finally, let us not forget that the well-being of all living things – animals, plants and humans – is intertwined in this special place called Earth that God created for us all.

Dave Neff
Earth Care Leader



FHC BLACK CAUCUS

RACIAL INEQUALITY/REPARATIONS SERIES CONTINUES

Saturday morning, May 8, from 10:30 to noon, the Black Caucus series on racial inequality/reparations continues to meet online via Zoom. We are pleased with the support this programming has received and encourage those who are intrigued but may have missed one or more of the previous discussions to attend on May 8.

We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who have joined and participated in our series to this point. In particular, we acknowledge the facilitators, Danielle Cosgrove, Cate Monahan, Vikki Nowak, and Mark Wedell. Their willingness to volunteer their time, review materials, help develop format, and lead the group discussions has enabled the series to be as productive as it has.

Thus far, we have had two presentations with group discussions focused on the origins of America's present racial inequality gap. We are pleased to report that the presentations have been well received and have provided all of us with new and meaningful information.

In our view, however, the heartbeat of the series has been the post-presentation discussions. These conversations have been lively and productive, demonstrating participant willingness to listen, share and respect differing points of view. This openness is evidence that the format has provided a safe space for growth and the exchange of ideas on this vitally important topic.

We hope to see many “new and not so” faces on May 8.



Disparities in the lives of African Americans and White Americans, by every metric (e.g., wealth, income, medical care, policing, housing, education, etc.), are evident and dramatic. As, in this moment, we as a nation are confronted with the harsh

realities of their manifestation, at least two essential questions arise: 1) What is the genesis of this inequality? and 2) What paths can we take to resolve it? As our federal legislature renews efforts to explore reparations through the reintroduction of H.B. 40, we also ask: Are reparations part of the answer?

The Black Caucus of Forest Hill Church is planning a five-part series* of ZOOM discussion groups to dissect and untangle this continuing dilemma. Using the Darrty/Mullen model of Acknowledgement, Redress, and Closure (ARC), we dive into the historical origins of racial inequality, asking: To what extent have our historic government policies contributed to this inequality gap? Using our responses, we can then address the second question: Are reparations part of the solution?

We began on March 27 by discussing aspects of slavery in America during the Antebellum period. We examined the development of our Constitution and how it managed the issue of slavery, slavery's economic threads in the foundation and perpetuation of our country's wealth, the impact of the abolition movement, and the dawn of the Civil War.

On April 10, we turned to the Civil War as a conflict over the maintenance and control of the vast wealth accrued through slavery, then discussed Reconstruction and its unsuccessful attempt to reunite the country while integrating the formerly enslaved into American life.

On May 8, we move on to examine the historical arc of American policies affecting the lives of African Americans, beginning with the development, impact, and ramifications of the Jim Crow ideology and ending in the New Deal.

On May 22, we continue by reviewing the policies of the 60's Great Society and present-day issues

**All events are scheduled on a Saturday morning beginning at 10:30 a.m. and ending at noon.*

June dates will be determined as we begin to discuss possible resolutions, including reparations.

For more information, contact: blackcaucus@fhcpresb.org



PS: It's important to note that our discussions have referenced the historical mistreatment of three other groups of people: the indigenous people of our land; our citizens, immigrants and refugees who are people of color; and women – particularly Black women who have to deal with both gender and racial discrimination. The need to express solidarity with these three groups in particular must continue to be a part of our consideration.

.

OUR NEW WEBSITE—A WORK IN PROGRESS

While the URL (address) of our new website is still the same – www.fhcpresb.org – a lot of things about it are brand new.

To begin with, we have a new webmaster. Antoinette Richardson has accepted the reins from Peg Weissbrod and is excited about working with the various ministries to keep their sections of the site up-to-date.

The new site is the result of many hours of hard work by Kurt Haas, Deedee Pim, Vikki Nowak, Antoinette, and Peg. Most of the old site's content is still there – the bulletins and *Tower* can still be accessed, and there is plenty of information about our various ministries and their activities. The site features very user-friendly “drop-down” menus at the top of each page and is expected to become much easier to use.

There are two reasons for the redesign. The first, of course, is that it was last updated in 2008, making it an octogenarian in “web-years.” But the second is that our old design was very difficult to view on mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets.

Unlike our last web design, this one is being rolled out before it's finished, to give the congregation a chance to weigh in on the new design. Once you've explored it, please take a few minutes to give us your thoughts, comments, complaints, and we hope, a few compliments through [this survey link](#).

There's a link you can follow to sign into our Breeze directory at the top of every page! (If you need help signing in – a username, or a password – please contact Peg Weissbrod at 216-291-2586 or pegw@fhcpresb.org).

We look forward to hearing from you and to implementing more new updates as we go.

SOFTBALL SEASON IS BACK!!

With Heights Recreation set to open its facility and fields later this spring, the Heights Church Softball League will finally resume playing, and the Forest Hill Team is looking for new players to join.

This year, the league may start near the end of May or after Memorial Day and run through early August. Games are played Sunday afternoons and evenings. If you are interested in joining, please sign up here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/50acb6>.



CONVERGE CELEBRATES LGBTQ ARTISTRY

Converge will be a broad-based exhibition encompassing the many facets of the Western Reserves' LGBTQ visual arts community. The purpose of the exhibition is to document and celebrate the Legacy of the LGBTQ community within the visual arts by highlighting the creativity of these artists and their contributions to the cultural fabric of the Western Reserve. It will include a wide range of styles and disciplines produced by 60-plus diverse artists ranging in age from young adult to seniors. The stories these artists tell span from protest, pride, and transformation to simple joy in the aesthetics of beauty and the act of creation.

The documentation of the contributions of the LGBTQ community artists to the overall history of the visual Art of the Western Reserve has not previously been compiled to any great extent. It is our hope that holding this exhibition, producing a catalog, recording the artists oral histories, and supporting their stories in a series of virtual programs will begin the process of historical documentation, and add to valuable insight addressing the extent of the contributions of our LGBTQ artists.

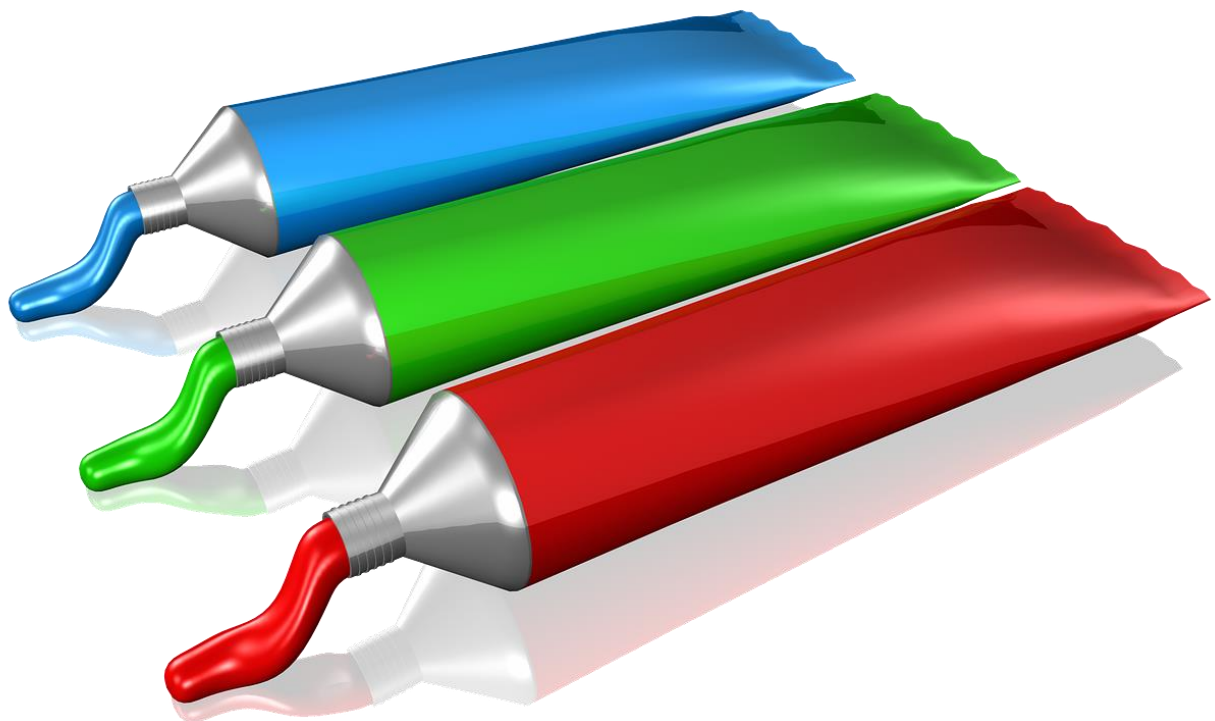
The artists are chosen by a diverse curatorial team consisting of three artist/curators led by AAWR staff member Kelly Pontoni. Each is a practicing artist in a different field within the LGBTQ community of the Western Reserve; they range in age from young adult to senior and identify as Lesbian, Gay, Non-binary, Caucasian, and Black.

The AAWR has partnered with The Cleveland LGBTQ Center, Lake Erie College, and Cleveland's MetroHealth hospital to present works simultaneously in four exhibition spaces (including the AAWR home gallery). Each exhibition space will coordinate around a different theme and will take place from Aug. 26 through Oct. 16, 2021. Receptions and educational programming within each venue will be staggered and coordinated according to individual organizations' schedules.

Cleveland's MetroHealth Medical Center has planned their bi-annual exhibition of the National AIDS Quilt to coincide within the time frame of this exhibition, and tours of the quilt will be scheduled for AAWR & Center members during the exhibition. If the AIDS Quilt Blocks remain available for extended display, each venue outside of MetroHealth will also display one of the 12'x12' blocks of the quilt.

Be well,
Kelly K Pontoni
Collection Registrar

Artists Archives of the Western Reserve
[1834 E. 123rd St.](#)
[Cleveland, Ohio 44106](#)-1910
216-721-9020





Julie	Gran	May 01
Marjorie	Ravas	May 04
Julianne	Ely	May 05
John	Dugard, Jr.	May 06
Angela	Oetama-Paul	May 06
Blake	Himes	May 07
Karen	Wong	May 07
Neil	Molyneaux	May 08
Jeff	Dyck	May 09
Kathryn	Hanna-Stauffer	May 10
Elsie	Boyd	May 11
Julie	Lustic	May 11
Clarence	Boyd	May 12
Jennifer	Blakeney	May 13
Jane	Olson	May 16
Gail	Larson	May 17
Kris	Fay	May 19
Suzanne	Seifert	May 19
Thomas	Zych	May 19
Kevin	Stauffer	May 20
Anna	Brock	May 21
Melody	Obery	May 21
Cathy	Kernich	May 23
Ronald	Zimmerman	May 23
Cheryl	Anderson	May 24
Monita	Franklin	May 26
Gary	Sampson	May 27
Marilyn	Wilk	May 27
Joan	Bacon	May 28
Marina	Grant	May 28
Viktor	Hexe	May 31

Staff Emails

Antoinette Richardson	Administration	office@fhcpresb.org
Genetha (Nita) Clark	Finance	finance@fhcpresb.org
Ann Donkin	Building Mgr.	adonkin@fhcpresb.org
Custodians	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
Dr. Amy Wheatley	Family, Youth, Children	CE@fhcpresb.org
Dr. Qin Ying Tan	Music	music@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Carol Wedell	Parish Associate	

3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts. OH 44118

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

Pastoral Care Emergencies: 216-319-3596

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

Email: office@fhcpresb.org Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines, Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastors

Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries

Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Interim Director of Music

Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate

June TOWER issue deadline: 8 am on May 20

Giving/donation options- Friends of FHC, during this time, you may give monetary gifts/donations by texting 216-400-5300 or give online using either [our BREEZE Giving Page](#) or [PayPal](#). You may also mail in a check to the church bookkeeper (3031 Monticello Blvd. Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118).

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 -Book Group 7:30 pm -AA: Borton Group -Boy Scout Trp. #403 -OA Big Book	11:00 am -Abundance Pantry 5:00 pm -Fitness Fusion exercise class -Bulletin and Weekly email Deadline	7:30 am -Bible & Bagels (virtual) 12:00 pm -Staff Meeting (virtual) -AA: Wednesday Women's Group 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 (virtually)	9:30 am -AI Anon: Hand in Hand	
April 25 9:30 am: Adult Education course	April 26	April 27	April 28 7:00 pm: Session Meeting	April 29	April 30	May 1 8:00 am- Men's Group (virtual) 9:00 am- Tax Prep
May 2 Communion Sunday 9:30 am: Adult Education course	May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8 9:00 am-Last day for Tax Prep
May 9 9:30 am: Adult Education course	May 10	May 11	May 12 Ministry Meetings	May 13 Hygiene Donation (TBD)	May 14	May 15 2 pm: Family Tea Box Giveaway
May 16 9:30 am: Adult Education course	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20 8:00 am- TOWER DEADLINE	May 21	May 22
May 23 9:30 am: Adult Education course	May 24	May 25 Session Meeting	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29
May 30	May 31 Office Closed	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5 8:00 am- Men's Group (virtual)

May 2021