



*Discovering God's call
Celebrating the Spirit's presence
Witnessing to Christ's transformative power*

The TOWER

OCTOBER 2021



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

WORDS FROM PASTOR JOHN LENTZ

October. Leaves are turning colors. The air is getting colder. *The Tower* for October encourages us to think ahead about all the wonderful things happening at Forest Hill Church. On Sunday, October 3 we will celebrate World Communion Sunday and receive an offering for Peace and Global Witness of the PCUSA. The Stewardship season begins and I have no doubt that you will continue to support the mission and programs of the church through your pledges. It is probably too early to wish you a happy Reformation Day/All Saints Day/Halloween, but I will do it anyway!

However, I am writing for the October *Tower* on Thursday, Sept. 16. The leaves are still green. It is still warm. I want the community pool to be open. I am not ready to step into October. I am still basking in the glow of our first in-person Sanctuary worship service held at FHC since March 2019; a span of almost 550 days!

I am so grateful to Marina Grant and the Re-Opening Committee for the hard work they put in over several months in order to make sure that things went smoothly. It isn't easy making a worship service work in ordinary times; there are a lot of moving parts. Add an epidemic of Covid-19 proportions, and it became especially difficult.

What a day it was! It felt like there were twice as many as the 80 who were in the sanctuary. There was such a beautiful spirit. To have some children running around the grounds and the aisles added so much energy. The picnic after church was a delight. The grilled corn was the best ever. Thank you, Deacons.

Of course, I missed the choir. It was awkward not being able to sing with gusto. I tried to hum but I admit I sang softly! Yes, I almost spilled the grape juice of the "all-in-one" communion set on myself, trying to separate the wafer from the cup. Nevertheless, it was all good and holy and wonderful.

Welcome back Forest Hill Church. We have been through a lot. I am looking forward to – as Pastor Veronica has preached – stepping into the next beam of light that God is placing before us.

Be well and be blessed.

~Pastor John



Family, Youth, and Children Ministries

WELCOME ALL!

What does it mean to “Welcome All”? In our gatherings this month, children and youth will be thinking about the practice of *hospitality*.

Hospitality is the idea of being intentional and authentic as we offer a genuine welcome to all of God’s people – affirming the worth of both stranger and friend. A commitment to opening our hearts, our homes, our churches to, not only those who are like us, but those who are different from us, is at the very heart of the practice of hospitality.

We’ll explore the theme of hospitality in biblical stories that illustrate how people welcomed friends and strangers, and we’ll have opportunities to practice hospitality and welcoming others, both individually and in community.

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. as we **Welcome All!**

~Amy Wheatley
Director, Family, Youth and Children’s Ministry



Forest Hill Youth (6th-12th grade)

Climbing at Shaker Rocks

Cost: \$10 per climber

3377 Warrensville Road Shaker Hts.

Sunday, October 24

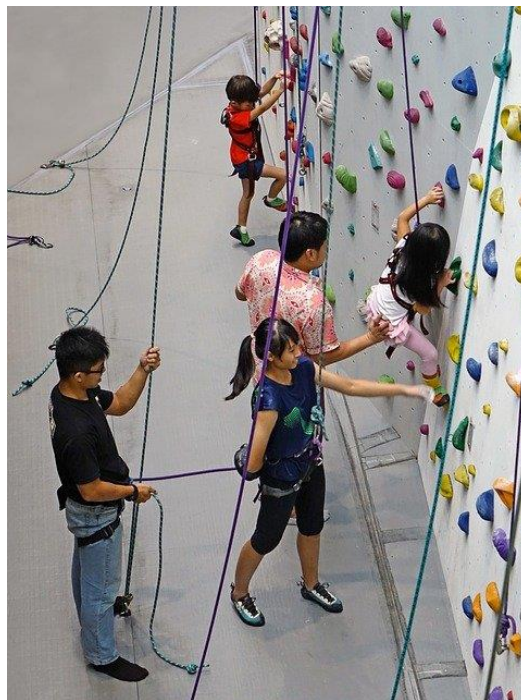
4pm - 6pm

Join us for a fun afternoon with friends at Shaker Rocks. No experience necessary!

To reserve your spot, please do the following before Wednesday, Oct 20th:

1. Submit payment here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/6c7ff4>
2. Submit FHC permission form here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/931ca7>
3. View orientation video and parent sign online waiver here:
<https://app.rockgympro.com/booking/f/8129dc9c65b945a2a67a62dbc3def8cb>

Questions? Contact Amy Wheatley ce@fhcpresb.org.



MUSIC AT FHC

This year, as World Communion Day celebrates the unity of all Christians worldwide, Forest Hill Church's World Communion Sunday will feature songs and music from China, Costa Rica, Brazil, and Finland.



A quartet of singers will be supported by a “humming choir” in Pepper Choplin's “One World, One Communion.” This piece was specially written for World Communion Sunday and celebrates the act of breaking bread with all believers worldwide, proclaiming, “There is room for everyone.” We will be joined in this choral item by Guillermo Salas Suárez on the violin and Dylan Moffitt on percussion.

The “humming choir” will also present music from Finland: “This Is My Song,” by Jean Sibelius. In addition, the FHC percussion ensemble makes its debut this Sunday with some samba drums from Brazil.

We look forward to this celebration of unity with all Christians worldwide!

~Dr. Qin Ying Tan
Director of Music



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Forest Hill Church's financial position remains steady through August 31 as we celebrate being back together for worship (well, sort of) to kick off the church year. More good news: The Payroll Protection Plan loan of \$112,054 was fully forgiven as of September 3, so it will be included as revenue beginning in September.

2021 Year-to-date Summary FHC Financial Activity

	8/31/2021	8/31/2020	2021
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Current Year Pledges	\$ 508,597	\$ 469,921	\$ 675,000
Other Gifts	\$ 54,863	\$ 71,670	\$ 103,000
Church Rentals	\$ 47,044	\$ 32,350	\$ 74,040
Covid-19 Relief Grant	\$ 4,800	\$ -	\$ 4,800
PPP Loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 112,054
Total	\$ 615,305	\$ 573,942	\$ 968,894
<u>Expenses</u>			
Board of Trustees	\$ 117,005	\$ 135,250	\$ 180,544
Payroll and benefits	\$ 438,623	\$ 440,114	\$ 680,160
Ministries	\$ 16,806	\$ 24,518	\$ 43,690
Justice and Mission	\$ 5,717	\$ 6,750	\$ 54,000
Total	\$ 578,152	\$ 606,632	\$ 958,394
Net Gain(Loss)	\$ 37,153	\$ (32,690)	\$ 10,500

Donor designated Funds

Beginning balance at January 1	\$ 343,919
Gifts 2021	\$ 67,483
Distributions 2021	\$ (120,781)
Ending Balance at August 31	\$ 290,621

FHC Operating Budget Distribution

Payroll & Benefits	76%	73%	71%
Trustees	20%	22%	19%
Ministries	3%	4%	5%
Justice & Mission (Note 1)	1%	1%	6%
	100%	100%	100%

Note 1: For 2021, the Justice and Mission budget was calculated as 8% of base pledges; the 6% above reflects the Justice & Mission allocation as a portion of total income

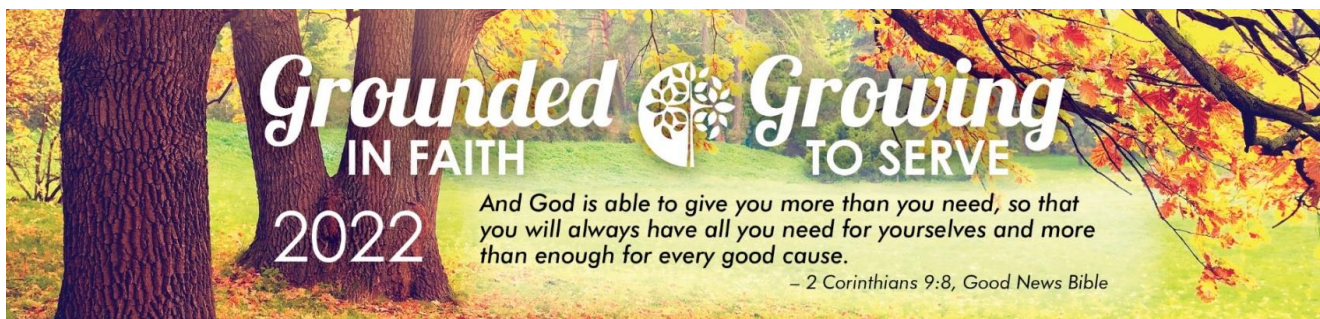
Thank you to everyone who has contributed, pledges or otherwise supported the work of Forest Hill Church so far in 2021. One of the highlights of the fall is the 2022 Stewardship campaign. Your commitment of any size is greatly appreciated as Session and the Ministries work to develop the 2022 budget in a way that speaks to our mission of building the beloved community.

Nita and I continue to work to review and improve Forest Hill Church's accounting processes and reporting. Please let one of us know if you have questions or need additional information.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McMillan, Treasurer

Forest Hill Church





Forest Hill Church Stewardship News – October 2022

Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly. They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar.

~ Delia Owens, *Where the Crawdads Sing*

After the heat of summer, October can be a welcome relief of cooler days, intense blue skies and clearer, brighter moons. Our senses are enlivened with the fragrant aroma of sweet apple cider, the familiar smell of a campfire, or cinnamon and nutmeg-spiced pumpkin pies. And, oh, the delight of deep amber, crimson, maroon and yellow-orange leaves.

Autumn is a time of transition and change. It is a very real analogy for life at Forest Hill Church as we continue to find our way through the challenges of a pandemic, and we begin to think about how our church will look in the future.

As individuals and a church, we need to embrace change. We need to accept it as a positive development and integrate it into our church life without fear — confident in God's abiding presence with us and prayerful for God's continued guidance.

Traditionally, October is "Stewardship Month" in churches. We often define "stewardship" as the careful, responsible management of something entrusted to our care. Forest Hill Church has been entrusted to our care. As the scripture in our logo conveys, "...God is always able to give us more than we need...so that

we have more than enough [to share] with every good cause."

Our Autumn Stewardship focus begins on Sunday, October 10, and continues throughout the last Sunday in the month. Each of us will be asked to reflect on what God has given us and what we in turn can give back to our church.

To help us think about this and to inspire our decision-making, we will have an opportunity to view a series of four, newly-created videos about Forest Hill Church, highlighting our many blessings – staff, volunteers, outreach and ministry programs and, especially, the essence of what we are building here through the varied personal stories of members and why they support the church.

Emails, letters, weekly updates and information about viewing the videos will be distributed to



our church family during October. Each of us is asked to carefully and prayerfully consider how best we can share our time, talent and treasure with our church.

With the winds of autumn, leaves don't just fall, they find ways to fly. As a church, let **us** fly – it may be our very best chance to soar!

(This is the second in a series of 2022 financial program messages from your Stewardship Ministry Team.)

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Christine Henry, Jenny Himmelman, Kay Hogg, Keith Logan, Peter Williams, Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines

THE BLACK CAUCUS BOOK CLUB OF FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN

October 23, 2021, *White Rage*, Carol Anderson

Join us (via ZOOM) Saturday, October 23, 10:30 a.m. – noon, to discuss *White Rage*, an important and insightful book on race and racism. To receive the ZOOM link, contact us at blackcaucus@fhcpresb.org. All people of goodwill are welcome.

White Rage was well-received as the honors below show:

National Book Critics Circle Award Winner

New York Times Bestseller

A New York Times Notable Book of the Year

A Washington Post Notable Nonfiction Book of the Year

A Boston Globe Best Book of 2016

Below the flyer, below, which shouts, "We Who Believe in Freedom Cannot Rest", are some excerpts from several reviews of *White Rage*.



"A sobering primer on the myriad of ways African American resilience and triumph over enslavement, Jim Crow and intolerance have been relentlessly defied by the very institutions entrusted to uphold our democracy."

- Washington Post

"I've read a fair bit of African-American history, but *White Rage* by Carol Anderson, which is beautifully written and exhaustively researched, illuminated for me just how deliberately education policy in the United States disenfranchised African-Americans." - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, bestselling author of *AMERICANAH* and *HALF OF A YELLOW SUN*

"*White Rage* is a riveting and disturbing history that begins with Reconstruction and lays bare the efforts of whites in the South and North alike to prevent emancipated black people from achieving economic independence, civil and political rights, personal safety, and economic opportunity." - *The Nation*

"A compelling look at American history, *White Rage* has never seemed more relevant than it does today." - Bustle, "17 Books on Race Every White Person Needs to Read"



White rage is defined as the backlash against **black progress**, demonstrated time and again throughout America's dramatic timeline.

White rage provides a genteel cover for **racism** at every level of society and it surfaces whenever significant steps are made by African Americans seeking equality and full citizenship.

Anderson reminds readers that white rage has a long history in the United States and that it has frequently come in response to **black progress**.

~The Black Caucus Committee

THE ELEMENTS



The Ancients believed that their natural environment was comprised of four elements: Earth, Wind (Air), Fire, and Water. In this era, we can muse upon these four elements within the context of how each of these relates to our responsibility as Earth Care advocates.

The **Earth** is our God Mother. Rich soil is necessary for growing much of our food. Care must be taken to avoid degradation of the soil by erosion, run-off, and ground destabilization by careless or wanton deforestation.

The **Wind/Air** that all living creatures – human, animal, and plant – breathe in one aspect or another must be kept clean. We all recognize that fossil-fuel caused emissions and industrial air-borne pollutants contribute to poor air quality, subsequent health problems, and climate change.

Fire: Remember the opening of the movie *2001* with apes discovering fire? Well, hopefully modern man has learned how to contain this element, starting with campfires. Perhaps not, though, considering the multiple manmade wildfires of the past few years around the globe; they only add to those caused by climate change or weather upsets.

In the coming few months, consider how modern urban use of “fire,” i.e., heating our homes and businesses, affects our planet. Conservation of heat is the order of the day to reduce fossil fuel usage, hence emissions, and we can increase home insulation and lower the thermostat as well.

Water: Here in the Great Lakes region, we live in a water utopia – no droughts, no (huge) floods, no hurricanes! Others throughout the world are not so fortunate. We must maintain our currently abundant water supplies not only by wise and minimum usage, but also by avoiding fertilizer and pesticide usage and runoff in our land-based water use and eliminating industrial chemical pollution of water sources. Minimizing purchases of plastic food and beverage containers and recycling those we do buy can reduce ocean pollution. Water health for the oceans, which feed a huge percentage of Earth’s population, is critical for our own specie’s well-being and survival.

~Dave Neff, Earth Care Leader

October Birthdays!

Zelma	Sharp	October 01
Becky	Stawovy	October 01
Iyabo	Sampson	October 02
Katie	Hall	October 05
Eileen	Vizcaino	October 05
Katie	Russo	October 06
Deborah	Chapman	October 07
Cynthia	Lehman	October 07
Paul	Weissbrod	October 08
Anona	Stack	October 09
Janet	Dauer	October 12
Joseph	Dauer	October 12
Tish	Van Beers-Klein	October 12
Mary Ann	Breisch	October 14
Karen	Loughridge	October 14
Claudia	Zimmerman	October 14
Fred	Lafferty	October 15
Elaine	Tapie	October 15
Jack	Breisch	October 16
Mary	Hosier	October 16
Wendy	Brock	October 17
Rosanna	Sprague	October 18
Kurt	Haas	October 19
Jack	Lentz	October 19
Kathleen	Muller-Girard	October 20
Andrew	Burleigh	October 22
Marcie	Denton	October 22
Dierdre	Pim	October 22
Nathan	Baldwin	October 23
Sharon	Wiggins	October 23
Shannon	Garrett Headen	October 24
Sondra	Schultz	October 24
David	Bell	October 25
Julie	Minder	October 26
Sara	Baumgartner	October 28
Kathryn	Eloff	October 28
Pam	Webster	October 28
John	Cary	October 29
Melanie	Alban	October 30

CONTACT INFORMATION

Staff Emails

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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

November TOWER issue deadline: 8 am on October 14

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).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

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 -Al Anon: Now There's Hope -Book Group 7:30 pm -AA: Borton Group	10:30 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	1:30 pm -English Dance 5:00 pm -Fitness Fusion exercise class 7:30 pm -Chancel Choir (virtual)	9:30 am -Al Anon: Hand in Hand	
					October 1	October 2 8:00 am: Men's Group (virtual)
October 3 WORLD COMMUNION 9:30 am: Adult Education course 4:00 pm: Adult Education course	October 4	October 5	October 6	October 7	October 8	October 9
October 10 Stewardship Campaign 9:30 am: Adult Education course 4:00 pm: Adult Education course	October 11	October 12	October 13	October 14 TOWER DEADLINE	October 15	October 16
October 17 9:30 am: Adult Education course 4:00 pm: Adult Education course	October 18	October 19	October 20	October 21	October 22	October 23 Black Caucus Book Club Zoom Meeting
October 24 9:30 am: Adult Education course 4:00 pm: Adult Education course	October 25	October 26	October 27	October 28	October 29	October 30
October 31 9:30 am: Adult Education course 4:00 pm: Adult Education course	November 1	November 2	November 3	November 4	November 5	November 6 8:00 am: Men's Group (virtual)

October 2021