



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

The TOWER

FEBRUARY 2022



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

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Check out the website

www.fhcpresb.org

Come and see!

Black History Month



...at Forest Hill Church

For many years, Forest Hill Church has addressed issues of racial inequality within and outside the walls of our building, and we know we have more to do. Groups such as our Black

Caucus, Justice and Mission, Educational Book Studies, Race Inclusion Committee and the newly-formed Racial Inequality Repair Committee provide exceptional opportunities for discussion, learning and interaction among the races within our congregation.

Here are just a few of the recent events held at FHC:

- Book Studies
 - *White Rage*, Carol Anderson
 - *The Color of Compromise*, Jemar Tisby
 - *The Origin of Others*, Toni Morrison
- Ted Talks
 - *How Can We Make Racism a Solvable Problem?*
 - *Improve Policing*
 - *We Need to Talk about an Injustice*
- A 5-Part Series, "Talk about Reparations"

And in the weeks ahead are opportunities, below, to become an even more active and positive change agent in your daily life. Change begins when each of us decides to do something. What will you do?

"BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD."

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

FHC BOOK CLUB NEWS

Me and White Supremacy Book Club

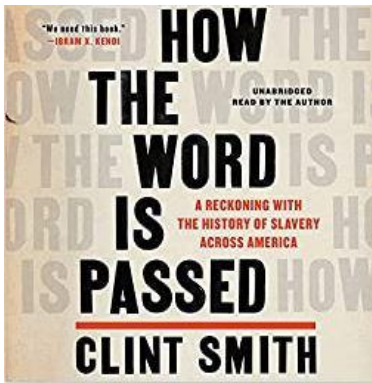
When: Monday evenings, 7:00-8:15 pm

January 24 & 31, February 7, 21, & 28

Facilitators: Jennifer Blakeney and Lisa Vahey

Description: This book club is organized around the book, *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad. At each meeting, we'll discuss the book (which is organized into "weeks" of learning that we'll follow). There will also be journaling and reflection as we read, share, discuss and grow so we can see, understand and actively dismantle white supremacy. You may purchase the book [here](#).

Sign up here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/7843252481929717>



How The Word Is Passed, Book by Clint Smith

This book details how America Remembers and distorts Its Slavery Past...protestors are tearing down Confederate statutes and the nation is on the cusp of reparations; by the next, the federal government has condemned basic education about slavery as a form of totalitarian brainwashing. The Harriet Tubman 20 flutters from season to season like an unresolved subplot. Are we in backlash, the whitelash, or the backlash to the whitelash, and when will white liberals lose interest?

Join us Saturday morning, **March 5** via ZOOM (10:30 a.m. to noon) when we will discuss the New York Times Best Seller, *How The Word Is Passed*, by Clint Smith.



To receive the Zoom link, sign up here:
<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/7b189431>.

NEWS FROM GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS (GCC)

GCC continues to work to protect our democracy and help voters make an impact in important local elections in 2022. We encourage anyone interested in finding out about this work to attend two important meetings in February.

#1 Thursday, February 10th, at 7pm, for a briefing on what GCC is proposing for our action involving the elections and other issues in 2022. To register for this meeting please use the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtduigqjwqHtdqZtBUd9GF9P6kM_oX5wdk

#2 February 24th Delegate Assembly at 7pm, when GCC Leaders will reconvene after digesting the February 10th briefing and discuss how we develop more concrete action steps going forward into the year. Register for the February 24th meeting using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlud-CvqDlpEtXu36WwLWhBD6e6LftvN-t1>

Please email Scott Lafferty or Diana Woodbridge, at swlaff@sbcglobal.net or diana@ninthrung.com to let us know you have registered, so we can keep in touch.

HERE'S THE STORY BEHIND BLACK HISTORY MONTH ...AND WHY IT'S CELEBRATED IN FEBRUARY

Excerpted from an article by Jonathan Franklin | NPR

Published Feb 2, 2022

Every February, the U.S. honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of our country's history.

There is no American history without African American history," said Sara Clarke Kaplan, executive director of the Antiracist Research & Policy Center at American University in Washington, D.C. The Black experience, she said, is embedded in "everything we think of as 'American history.' "

First, there was Negro History Week

Critics have long argued that Black history should be taught and celebrated year-round, not just during one month each year.

It was Carter G. Woodson, the "father of Black history," who first set out in 1926 to designate a time to promote and educate people about Black history and culture, according to W. Marvin Dulaney, a historian and president of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Woodson envisioned a weeklong celebration to encourage the coordinated teaching of Black history in public schools. He designated the second week of February as Negro History Week and galvanized fellow historians through the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which he founded in 1915. (ASNLH later became ASALH.)



The idea wasn't to place limitations but really to focus and broaden the nation's consciousness.

The idea eventually grew in acceptance, and by the late 1960s, Negro History Week had evolved into what is now known as Black History Month. Protests around racial injustice, inequality and anti-imperialism that were occurring in many parts of the U.S. were pivotal to the change.

Colleges and universities also began to hold commemorations, with Kent State University being one of the first, according to Sara Clarke Kaplan.

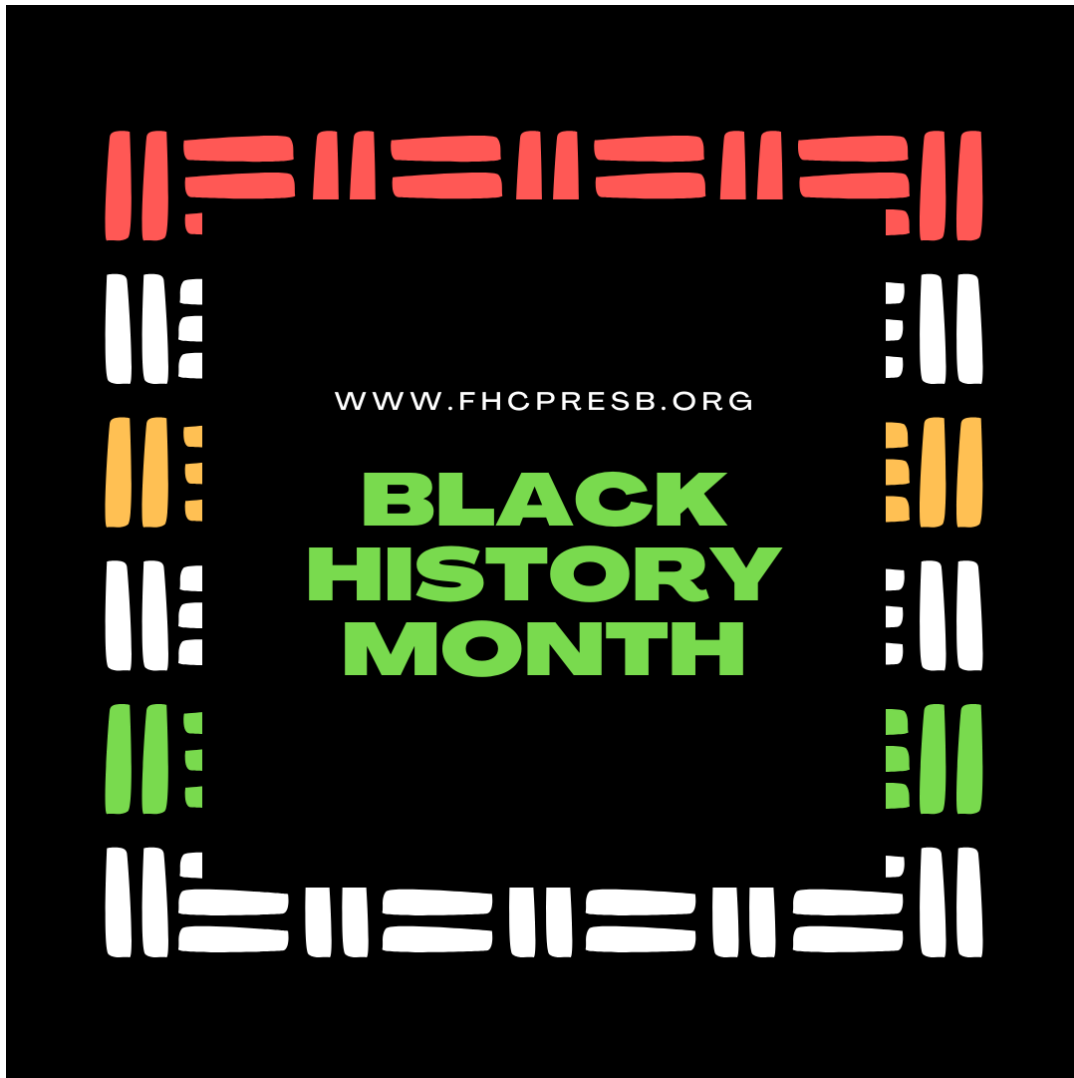
Fifty years after the first celebrations, President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month during the country's 1976 bicentennial. Ford called upon Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history," History.com reports.

Why February was chosen as Black History Month

February was chosen primarily because the second week of the month coincides with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Lincoln was influential in the emancipation of slaves, and Douglass, a former slave, was a prominent leader in the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery. Traditionally then, February was a month when African Americans would hold celebrations in honor of emancipation, Kaplan said.

Forty years after Ford formally recognized Black History Month, it was Barack Obama, the nation's first Black president, who delivered a message of his own from the White House, a place built by slaves.

"Black History Month shouldn't be treated as though it is somehow separate from our collective American history or somehow just boiled down to a compilation of greatest hits from the March on Washington or from some of our sports heroes," Obama said. "It's about the lived, shared experience of all African Americans, high and low, famous and obscure, and how those experiences have shaped and challenged and ultimately strengthened America."



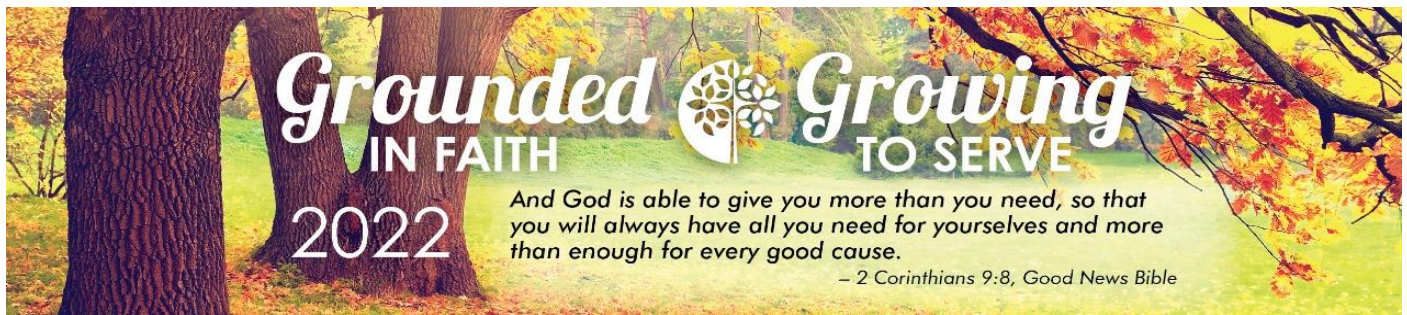
FROM THE DEACONS!

We thank Bader Boland for his service as the Elder leading the Deacons for the past several years and wish him renewal and a bit lighter load with all that he does for Forest Hill Church. In his place, we welcome Sheryl Dugard. These leaders link the Session's work to that of the Deacons and ensure that this body of volunteers knows of those in our church community who might benefit from nurture.

The Deacons' work and its many hopes have been made complex over the last two years. Much of what Deacons do centers around our Sunday gatherings. As our entire congregation knows, Sunday is also a time when we catch up with each other and learn of joys and concerns among our friends. Staying close to each other has been difficult, for sure.

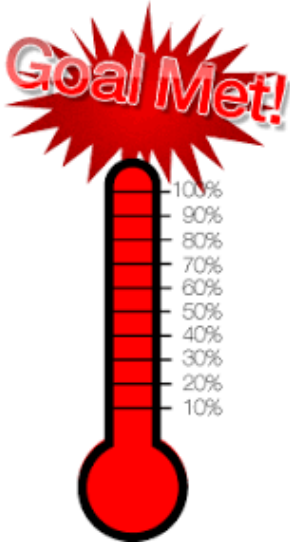
One way that the work is made easier is through what we call "Care Groups" – smaller groups of church members. It is the Deacons' hope to reinvigorate these groups in 2022, forming community and communication within them so that your needs are known, even if that need seems "small," such as just wanting to know what's happening with others, or wanting conversation to alleviate feeling alone during this pandemic.

Hopefully, you will hear from your Care Group Deacon Leader in the weeks ahead. If you have not been assigned to a Care Group or don't know which group you are in, feel free to reach out to Elaine Turley at elaineturley60@gmail.com. We would be happy to hear from you and make sure you have a small group "home" in our larger congregation.



WE DID IT!

Our \$800,000 Operating Fund Goal for 2022 was surpassed! Praise be to God and to ALL of you!



THANK YOU for your generous, loving support. Your commitment to share your talents, volunteer time and financial gifts to our many programs and operating budget, enables Forest Hill Church to provide for its operating budget in this new year. And it allows us to not only sustain but thrive in our mission to be a beloved Matthew 25 congregation.

...³⁴For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. NIV

The Forest Hill Church Stewardship Ministry expresses its deepest gratitude for your participation in the 2022 Stewardship Season.

And it allows us to not only sustain but thrive in our mission to be a beloved Matthew 25 congregation.

**Christine Henry, Jenny Himmelman, Kay Hogg, Keith Logan, Peter Williams
The Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines
Welcome to new 2022 ministry members, Sally Davis and Kimberly Hill**

REVELATIONS OF AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION



During a conversation with a friend a few weeks ago, I had mentioned that my church was accredited as an “Earth Care Congregation,” and he asked, “What is that?” I replied that an Earth Care Congregation is one that demonstrates a conscious active concern for protection of our worldly existence of God’s creation, through becoming informed, education, responsible action, advocacy and witness. Reflecting for this article on how this should be manifested by all of us:

>An Earth Care Congregation Member shows care for the good “earth” – care and nurturing of the soil, which is the truly good earth that allows our plants to grow the abundance of fruits and vegetables we consume. Good soil also nurtures tree life, which not only provides shade and habitat for animal and bird life but, as modern science has informed us, also provides for conversion of green-house gases which have contributed to climate change and global warming. Soil erosion and overuse of agricultural production result in food shortages and drive populations to seek new lands, creating poverty, social discontent and political turmoil.

>An Earth Care Congregation member honors the water abundance we enjoy in the Great Lakes basin and supports wise use of this precious local resource in our homes and community programs. The member advocates issues which enhance the quality and quantity of fresh water for all and acts against generation of pollution through chemical discards and other means.

>An Earth Care Congregation member consciously strives to reduce, re-use and recycle use of all materials and products derived from the earth’s natural resources – minerals, plants, trees, etc.

>An Earth Care Congregation member seeks to reduce pollution of the air we breathe by judicious reduction and utilization of the fossil fuel usage that causes subsequent greenhouse gas emissions.

>An Earth Care Congregation member abides by God's charge to retain *responsible* dominion over all the Earth's creatures. All are intertwined in the incredible interconnection of and dependency between all life forms. To break the chain, as we have often done in habitat destruction, poaching, over-fishing and killing of many life forms, ultimately threatens our own human existence. Care about pollinators is especially important to provide for food sources.

Simply put, the Earth Care Congregation member acts as God's personal servant to protect and preserve all aspects of His/Her Creation.

~Dave Neff, Earth Care Leader

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

How the Scriptures Came to Be THE Bible

Facilitated by: Tom Zych and Kathryn Eloff

When: Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30 AM, 1/9-3/27/2022 (12 weeks). The room will open at 9:00 AM.

Where: The class is offered as a hybrid so that you can join us via Zoom or in-person.

Description: Have you ever wondered how our Scriptures came to be “the Bible?” Have you wondered how the books we study got into the canon in the first place? And who decided what was in and what was out? Or even when that came to pass? We share texts with our Jewish sisters and brothers, but we use different collections and use the texts in different ways. When and how did this happen? We invite you to participate in a 12-week class on developing the Biblical canon. A mix of presenters and styles, with various readings, outside speakers, and our own Pauline scholar, the course will be organized around Bart Ehrman’s “The History of the Bible: Making of the New Testament Canon.” There will be readings (including particular sections of scripture and extra-canonical books). It’s hard to predict what will be best about the series, but the first class will undoubtedly be a highlight. Our good friend, Rabbi Roger Klein, will start us off with an outline of Jewish thought on forming the canon of the Hebrew Bible. And he will pick up on an idea that has been raised in our classes: should the canon be open to new books or remove old ones? Is it a formal discussion in our faith? Should it be? Do we have a tradition that parallels the oral and rabbinic traditions of the Jewish tradition? Does the text itself ask for ongoing interpretation?

Sign up here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/784325246418>

Follow Me - Practice Spiritual Disciplines

Facilitated by: Ann Williams and Ron Zimmerman

When: Sunday Mornings, 9:30-10:30 AM, March 6-April 10 (six sessions) and another time to be determined.

Resource texts: Your own Bible, and a resource book, available in printed copy at the church for \$15 apiece.

Class Description: This class series is continued from the Fall and Advent classes, focusing on ways for adults to live and grow as Christians. In this series, we prepare each week by reading and reflecting on Bible passages and the book. During class, we have a group discussion that follows the interests of the group members.

To sign up: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/a8709f>

Developing Your Super Powers: Disrupting Interpersonal Racism Series Sunday afternoons, 4-5:15 pm starting March 27- May 1

It can be difficult to talk about racism, white supremacy, and even the news, yet we must build our skills to help us move toward equity and justice. How do we step into the challenge, away from "negative peace, which is the absence of tension to a positive peace, which is the presence of justice"? (Dr. King) This series will focus on building new knowledge and working through role-plays to help us practice deep listening skills. We will also have guest presenters to help us learn a structure to "change the culture of conversations about race, finding alternatives to the polarized and judgmental nature of these exchanges that tie our politics and problem solving into knots. This (skill) can lead to more productive conversations and joint action with people of all races." This class will be held via Zoom.

You may sign up here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/3cc2fb>.

Title: The Men's Group

Group Leader: Pastor John Lentz

When: Every first Saturday of the month starting Sept. 11 from 8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Where: Via Zoom. Drop-ins are welcome.

Description: Men of the FHC congregation get together for a lively group discussion.

Sign up here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/78432558>

Title: Bible and Bagels

Group Leader: Pastor John Lentz

When: Wednesday mornings at 7:30 AM

Where: Via Zoom. Drop-ins are welcome.

Description: Participants meet for coffee and bagels and a lively discussion of the upcoming lectionary passage. There's nothing to read ahead of time.

Sign up here:

<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/98da6c454538264754>

RECONNECTING WITH GOD'S CREATION OFFERS INSPIRATION, HOPE AND ACTIVISM

Let nature help lift you out of the COVID and winter blues! For the fifth year in a row, Kemp Jaycox and Stephen Sedam will be offering the course "Reconnecting with God's Creation." The course explores the wonder of the natural world from spiritual and scientific perspectives, examines our interconnected relationship to nature, awakens us to the power of its healing, promotes awareness about the inequities of environmental justice for people of color, and challenges us to be responsible as Christians for the stewardship of God's glorious gift of Creation.

There is no charge for the course. Classes will take place on Sundays from 4 - 5:30 p.m. via Zoom from March 13 through June 5, with optional days off for Easter, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day.

For more information, click on this link
[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8-rU-E5b5eh44\\$skHhCsJpyx9NR4uk0e](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8-rU-E5b5eh44$skHhCsJpyx9NR4uk0e).

If you'd like to register for the course, please click here
<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/e0fc68>.

Women of Forest Hill Church and Friends

Come and join us each Saturday morning, for a walk-through **Lakeview Cemetery. Lakeview paths and roads are always cleared during the winter months to make for safer walking.** We will meet by Garfield Monument at 8:00 am and are usually done by 9:00 to leave plenty of time for all the OTHER things you need to do on Saturdays. All are welcome! Email Julie Lustic at jjustic@gmail.com if you plan to join us, so we don't leave without you.

FHC CONNECTED

Are you interested in an opportunity to connect with other members of the Forest Hill Church Community? "FHC Connected" is just that!

FHC Connected started when a couple of FHC members moved from the Cleveland area. Though they remained faithful and attended the YouTube Sunday service, they missed the fellowship and relationships they had formed. What then started as a zoom call for an hour of fellowship has grown to include Forest Hill Church participants from multiple different geographies (e.g., Virgin Islands, Florida, Arizona, India, Washington D.C., and Virginia as well as Ohio) who have really valued this fellowship.

While FHC Connected started as a group for long-distance members, this monthly forum is open to everyone. Local members and visitors who may not be able to attend Forest Hill in person (whether COVID-19 restrictions are in place or not) are encouraged to participate. Meetings are on the second Sunday of each month (we all take a break after service ends and then join the Zoom call at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time), and after a quick roundtable on how people are doing, we then enjoy discussing the sermon.

If you are interested in joining the group, look for the zoom link that will be included in the "Week Ahead at Forest Hill Church" email before the second Sunday of each month. If you have questions or want to find out more information about the group, don't hesitate to contact Vikki Nowack, Karen Wong Smith, or Mark Wedell.

You may also sign up

here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/d93b9476>.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

Christine	Fuller	February 05
Ronald	Register	February 05
Carol	Gifford	February 07
Timothy	Gifford	February 07
Margaret	Brouwer	February 08
Susan	Lafferty	February 08
Charles	Sprague	February 08
Kate	Burleigh	February 09
James	Allen	February 10
Gretchen	Reynolds	February 11
Jennifer	Carr	February 13
Lorraine	Ranchod	February 13
Cindy	Fink	February 14
Beverly	Cameron	February 16
Ron	Grant	February 16
Ed	Briskey	February 17
David	Burleigh	February 17
Mark	Gerteis	February 17
Susan	Way	February 17
Elizabeth	Wollaeger	February 20
Jill	White	February 24
Beryl	Williams	February 25
Becky	West	February 26
Marlene	Harmon	February 27
Allison	Peterjohn	February 27
Margaret	Peterjohn	February 27
Eric	Brock	February 29
Malik	Joseph	February 29

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Custodians	Custodian	custodian@fhcpresb.org
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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	

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Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

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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

February TOWER issue deadline: 8 am on February 17

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 FEBRUARY

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	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 6:00 pm -Bell Choir 7:30 pm -Chancel Choir	9:30 am -AI Anon: Hand in Hand	
January 30 9:30 am: Adult Education course ANNUAL MEETING	January 31 7:00 pm: Book Club	February 1	February 2	February 3	February 4	February 5 8:00 am: Men's Group Women's Walk with Julie Lusic
February 6 9:30 am: Adult Education course FHC Connected Ordination and Installation Service Communion	February 7 7:00 pm: Book Club	February 8	February 9	February 10 7:00 pm: GCC Meeting	February 11	February 12 8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lusic
February 13 9:30 am: Adult Education course Black History Concert (TBD)	February 14 7:00 pm: Book Club Happy Valentine's Day!	February 15	February 16	February 17 TOWER DEADLINE	February 18	February 19 8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lusic
February 20 9:30 am: Adult Education course	February 21 7:00 pm: Book Club	February 22	February 23	February 24 7:00 pm: GCC Meeting	February 25	February 26 8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lusic
February 27 9:30 am: Adult Education course	February 28 7:00 pm: Book Club	March 1	March 2	March 3	March 4	March 5 8:00 am: Men's Group. 10:00 am: Black Caucus Book Club Women's Walk

February 2022



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

**“Never be limited by
other people’s limited
imagination.”**

**DR. MAE JEMISON,
FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN FEMALE ASTRONAUT**

Check out the website 20 *Come and see!*
www.fhcpresb.org