

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

The TOWER

MARCH 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!



INFANT – TODDLER – PRESCHOOL

Our rooms for infants, toddlers and preschoolers on the second floor of the Education Wing are newly refreshed and provide a welcoming space for caregivers and their children, ages birth to 5, during worship.

Parents/caregivers of young children who need a break during worship are always welcome to visit the infant-toddler-preschool rooms with their children to play or rest. TV monitors have been installed in these rooms so that adults can watch and listen to the worship service!

With the re-opening of (hopefully!) regular in-person programming, we will be hiring staff to provide caregiving for our youngest children on Sunday mornings. Until staff are in place, we are asking parents/grandparents to volunteer on a rotating basis to provide care and supervision of their children and others during the worship hour.



Our safe sanctuary policy requires two unrelated adults to be present whenever there are children from two or more families in the space. Volunteers must also complete a criminal background check, which is paid for by FHC. Please contact Amy Wheatley, ce@fhcpresb.org if you'd like to volunteer.

CHILDREN GRADES K – 5
Sunday Morning Gathering 10:00am - 10:45am
Children's Room on the First Floor of the Education Wing

During the six Sundays of Lent, we'll learn about some spiritual disciplines that have emerged over the centuries as people have experimented with ways to make space in their lives to draw near to God. We'll focus on practices Jesus demonstrated (such as praying, simplifying and giving) and think about ways we can use these practices to invite God into our lives.

Our children's gatherings include time for playing with friends, sharing joys and concerns, and being actively engaged through art, movement, drama and storytelling, music, games and quiet times of reflection and prayer. All are welcome – please join us!



SPRING CONFIRMATION CLASS (8TH GRADE +)

MARCH 6 – MAY 15

Sunday Mornings 10:00am – 11:00am

FHC Youth Room



Young people in grades 8 and above are invited to explore their faith and church membership in a Confirmation Class that begins this month.

“Confirmation is not meant to be a crash course in Christianity, but an opportunity to welcome youth into an intentional time of discernment and conversations about faith....” – Big God, Big Questions: Confirmation for a Growing Faith PC(USA) Led by Rev. Eric

Dillenbeck, participating young people will be encouraged to think about what it means to be a follower of Jesus and if they want to express that relationship through membership in the Presbyterian Church and specifically Forest Hill. The class will learn together about ‘landmarks’ of the Bible and the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion. They’ll engage in discussion around topics such as “Is the Bible True?” and “What does it mean to be the Church?” Each young person will have an adult mentor on their journey who will support them and share their own faith story. There will also be time for fun and fellowship at a WhirlyBall event in March and at a Saturday Retreat at the church in April.

During worship on Sunday, May 15th, we will embrace and affirm every teen who completes the confirmation class. Those who choose to be confirmed will share a profession of faith and their intention to participate actively in the life of the church. Families of prospective confirmands received invitations to join the confirmation class, and an informational zoom meeting was held on Sunday, February 27th.

For more information about Confirmation Class, please contact Amy Wheatley ce@fhcpresb.org or Rev. Eric Dillenbeck, erdillenbeck@gmail.com.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH (9TH-12TH GRADE)
Semler Live in Concert at Fairmount Presbyterian Church
Wednesday, March 30
Doors open at 6:30pm, Show begins at 7pm

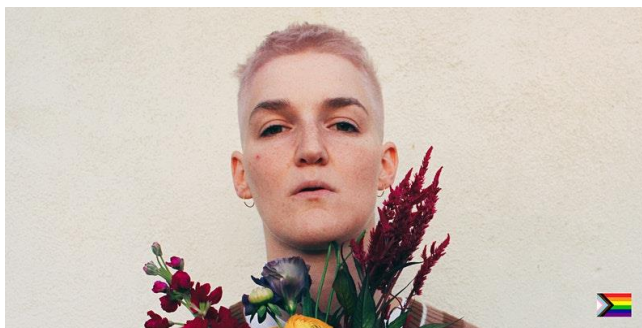
Free! Contributions accepted - 100% of proceeds go to LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, Central Outreach Wellness Center (Cleveland Heights), and Colors+ Youth Center.

FHC High School Youth (and young adults) are invited to bring a friend and join youth from Fairmount Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

In a genre that has historically shunned musicians for coming out or supporting LGBTQ+ rights, Grace "Semler" Baldrige (all pronouns) is among a group of Christian LGBTQ+ artists carving out space that embraces their full identity, including their faith. Semler made headlines in 2021 by topping Apple Music Christian charts and Spotify's Top Christian Artists playlists. They were the first openly queer artist to hit Number 1 on the iTunes Christian music charts.

Pre-Registration and Proof of Covid-19 vaccination/booster is required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/semler-live-in-concert-tickets-249338878297?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Contact Amy Wheatley ce@fhcpresb.org for more info!



FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Faith at home during Lent and Easter season

Faith formation doesn't happen only in church!

During the six weeks of Lent, we'll be providing parents, grandparents and other caregivers with simple suggestions for creating meaning for the season at home using Traci Smith's new book, *Faithful Families for Lent, Easter and Resurrection*. Through practices such as praying, simplifying and giving, we hope families will find ways to create sacred moments, even in the "holy mess" of family life!



A REFLECTION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Every February, we honor the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the United States of America. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs, and adversities that are a huge part of our country's history. For our service, I chose music that reflects the culture of African-Americans from their beginnings to present. We celebrated the historical beginnings with spirituals, songs that had their beginnings in work and labor. Traditional black gospel, music that was born out of faith, was presented faithfully by Elégie during our second Sunday in February. For the latter half of the month, we had renditions of more recent songs by Yolanda Adams, Sam Cooke, Steve Green, and of course Andraé Crouch by former FHC choral scholars (and now professional singers), Mist'a Craig and Michael Hives. It was a thrill to dive into a range of music that celebrates generations of African American, and we hope the music brought you as much joy as it did us during our preparation for services.



Elégie, featuring Michael Hives, Brian Barron, Mist'a Craig, and Caleb Wright. Elégie performed a digital concert celebrating African American music and musicians on 2/26/22 at 7:30PM. To view the most recent concert, visit this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aT3nCmXYNrg&t=2582s>.

~ Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music

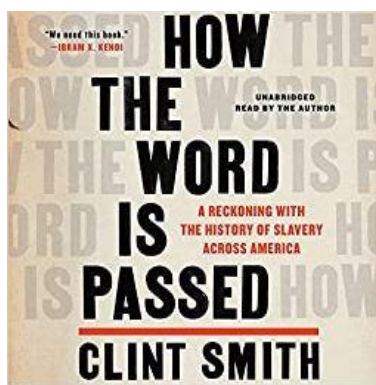
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Come and see!

NEWS FROM THE BLACK CAUCUS



Saturday morning, March 5, via zoom, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, we convene to discuss the acclaimed bestseller *How The Word Is Passed*. This book forces us to confront many uncomfortable truths about American slavery. To join the conversation simply respond to this email. If you have previously requested the zoom link you need not do so again. Following are some of the uncomfortable truths, the author Clint Smith, makes us confront. In this email, we provide provocative quotes from the first two chapters of the book. Later, we give a brief overview of the remaining six chapters.

Hope you can and will join us March 5.

To receive the Zoom link, sign up here:

<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/7b189431>.

Enslaved Children & Women

“The spitting of families was not peripheral to the practice of slavery; it was central.”

Referring to Thomas Jefferson, Smith writes Jefferson’s comfortable “life was only possible because of the enslaved men and women he held, sold, and separated; because of the people he allowed to be threatened, manipulated, flogged, assaulted, deceived and terrorized.”

“Children sustained and embodied the institution of slavery, especially after the formal end of the transatlantic slave trade in 1808... Children feed like pigs out of troughs ... Children under 10 were 51% of total Black deaths in 1850.”

“We need to also understand that (when children were born due to rape by the master) the plantation owner would have been enslaving his own child, which happened all the time” Yes, Thomas Jefferson, too!

“There’s a job on the plantation that was ‘good breeder.’ She was a good breeder. Had nine children in 11 years.”

The National and Global Breadth of the Slave Economy

A popular misconception is that only the south profited from slavery. The truth is the entire United States and Europe benefited from that peculiar institution.

“New York City was the second slave market in the United States, the first being Charleston.” In 1861 the then-mayor, Fernando Wood, of NYC recommended seceding from the Union and joining the Confederacy.

“a lot of the sugar produced here didn’t stay in Louisiana. It was sent up north to granulation facilities...that gives us an opportunity to talk about the textile industry and the rise of industrialization. And the North - where were they getting that cotton from?..larger linked economy of banks, insurance companies, and slave traders.”

“In England, these factory workers were going to work in the nineteenth century, and all of a sudden molasses comes on the market...sugar became cheaper and more accessible - something factory workers could buy. Poor people can now afford sweeteners, which used to be reserved for the elite.”

Slave Rebellions and Haitian Independence

“Speaking for the Negro, I can say, we owe much to Walker for his appeal; to John Brown for the blow struck at Harper’s Ferry. . . and to the anti-slavery societies at home and abroad; but we owe incomparably more to Haiti than to them all. I regard her as the original pioneer emancipator of the nineteenth century.”

~Frederick Douglass

Haiti

L’Ouverture led the world’s greatest uprising against the European slave system. His forces defeated armies from France, Spain, and England, and they opened the road to independence and emancipation.



Above Image of the Haitian Revolution. Below Exhibit at The Whitney Plantation. Louisiana had the largest slave rebellion on American soil. The Whitney museum shows what happened to the leaders of that revolt.



All the above quotes are taken from the first two chapters of the book: Monticello Plantation and the Whitney Plantation. Following is a brief description of the next 6 chapters.

The third chapter, Angola Prison, reviews the infamous prison in Louisiana, which sits on the site of one of Louisiana's largest slave plantations. Smith draws attention to the economic scope of American slavery, not only nationally but internationally. Using the spatial and geographical closeness of the two, (the prison & plantation) the author adroitly draws parallels between today's criminal justice system and the enslavement of America's past.

Blandford Cemetery is the following chapter. Blandford Cemetery is located in Petersburg, Virginia, and is a memorial to Confederate soldiers. This chapter details the success of the southern states to recast the narrative of the Civil war and romanticize slavery and the Confederacy. "*Gone With The Wind*" although not mentioned in the book, is a prime example of the success of this "*Lost Cause*" narrative. Smith's interviews with people at Blandford Cemetery are eye-opening and mind-boggling.

Galveston Island chapter is about June 19, 1865, better known as Juneteenth. This chapter is chock full of little nuggets. For example, in 1979, Texas became the first state to create a holiday in honor of Black emancipation. That the Emancipation Proclamation dissuaded European powers from assisting the Confederacy. In 1863 "Black Americans had about 0.5% of the total wealth of America. Today, Blacks have less than 4%. How in 2015, McGraw Hill history textbooks described the slave trade as "millions of workers from Africa to the southern United States to work on agricultural plantations."

The chapter on **New York City** lays bare - in great detail - any pretense that slavery was localized to the south.

The final chapter **Goree Island** brings us to the west coast of Africa where the transatlantic slave trade began.

BLACK WOMEN AND THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

Besides, They'll See How Beautiful I Am And Be Ashamed-I too am America (I Too, Langston Hughes, 1926)

Black women are historical 'hidden figures.' Throughout history, the contributions made by women and Black women particularly, have been overlooked, devalued, and discounted. During this particular era, opportunities for Black women were severely limited. Granted Black men were similarly oppressed but the patriarchal order of this society gave men, regardless of race, greater opportunity than women. The retelling of history conveniently overlooks the patriarchy and devaluing of women.



The history of the Harlem Renaissance is no exception. The Black Caucus does our small bit to correct that imbalance, With this piece, we shine a spotlight on some of the Black women who contributed mightily to that period.

Although these women are noted for their contributions to the arts and culture, it is impossible to divorce their work from the politics of the day. All were heavily involved in political issues, particularly those around equality, feminism, race, and racism. These women and their contributions take a backseat to no man.

The Harlem Renaissance, a term popularized in the 1960s, is used to describe the explosion of Black expression of thought expressed through art, politics, and culture from the early 1900s through the mid-1930s. Although this awakening was also occurring in numerous cities across the United States, it became associated with Harlem because of the number of Black artists and political voices who moved

there. At the time, however, the phrase most commonly used to describe this phenomenon was not renaissance but 'the new Negro.'

This 'new Negro' shunned centuries of stereotypes and projected an image of strength, intelligence, beauty, fashion, giftedness, of being unafraid and outspoken. We now turn to some of the Black women who possessed those attributes.



Writer, anthropologist, and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston

1891-1960

Zora's wit, charm, and intellect made her a larger-than-life figure. *This quote captures her brilliance, wit, and charm. "Sometimes, I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me.*

How can any deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It's beyond me."

Zora is perhaps the best-known Black woman of the period. She published 4 novels, 2 books of folklore, an autobiography, a number of essays, short stories, plays, and articles.



Speaking lovingly of her mother, Zora recalled her mother's exhortation to 'jump at the sun'. Zora explained, mother knew we wouldn't land on the sun but she also knew we would at least get off the ground! Indeed, Zora got off the ground.

Jessie Redmon Fauset (1882 - 1961)



Ms. Redmond Fauset received a scholarship to attend Cornell University, where she graduated in 1901 with a degree in the classical languages and became the first Black student to be elected Phi Beta Kappa. Later, she earned a Master's degree in French from the University of Pennsylvania, with summer study at the Sorbonne.

Her skills and talents were recognized by none less than WEB DuBois and Langston Hughes. DuBois, acknowledging her multi-talents and intellect, recruited her to be the literary editor of *The Crisis*, the official magazine of the NAACP. In addition to writing several novels, poems, and short stories, she also guided many artists of that period. Langston Hughes wrote about her in his memoir 'The Big Sea.' "Jessie Fauset ...midwifed the so-called New Negro literature into being. Kind and critical - but not too critical for the young - (she) nursed us along until our books were born."

Augusta Savage 1892-1962 **Sculptor, educator, and activist**



Her work reflected the philosophy, attitude, and approach of the 'New Negro' She rejected stereotypical images and depicted Black people in the fullness of their lives.

Her social consciousness was expressed not only in her art but in every aspect of her life. Thus, she was the co-founder of the Harlem Artists Guild and also assisted in the formation of the Harlem Community Art Center. She also opened the Salon of Contemporary Negro Art, the first gallery in the

USA dedicated to exhibiting and selling works by African American artists.

Her talents and gifts could not save her from experiencing racism. Upon being accepted (1923) to the prestigious Fontainebleau School of Fine Arts in France, Augusta Savage experienced the racist sting of America. The American sponsoring committee upon discovering Ms. Savage was a Black woman refused to honor their commitment and rescinded their offer. She would thereafter be actively involved in the quest for human rights.



The Gamin, shown on the right, is one of her best-known works. The original is on permanent display at the Smithsonian Art Museum in D.C. A life-size version is in the collection here at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

The French word Gamin is a French word referring to street-wise children. The model was Augusta Savage's nephew.



Her most famous piece known as either "*The Harp*" or *Lift Every Voice and Sing*."

Ms. Savage was commissioned to produce a piece of sculpture for the 1939 World's Fair held in NYC, which resulted in this 16-foot epic sculpture. It was widely admired and perhaps the most photographed sculpture at the Fair. It depicts twelve Black singers of graduated height representing the strings of a harp. The sounding board is the hand and arm of God. The foot pedal is a kneeling man holding a sheet of music. Sadly, the 16-foot sculpture was destroyed at the end of the fair.

Josephine Baker 1906-1975

Dancer, Singer, Activist

Some of you may remember last year when Karamu House revived the play 'Shuffle Along' from the 1920s. Our own Treva Offut starred in that Karamu House production. In the original, Josephine Baker had a role. That part led to others for Josephine including Chocolate Dandies and performing with Ethel Waters, in the floor show of the Plantation Club.



Josephine's international fame came from her performances in France, there due to her risqué acts she became known as the 'Creole Goddess.' Actress Lynn Whitfield observed 'before Monroe, before Madonna, there was Josephine!' Most know of her banana dance and her rainbow tribe, the assorted children she adopted and raised. Sadly, however, little attention has been paid to her fighting spirit and her unending quest for human equality.

During WW2, she was part of the French Resistance. Her contributions to defeating the Nazis were so significant that in 1945, General de Gaulle awarded Josephine the Croix de Guerre and the Rosette de la Résistance. He also named her a Chevalier de Légion d'honneur, the highest order of merit for military and civil action.

Due to her anti-racist work in the USA, she was one of the few women to speak at the March on Washington. Decrying the racism in the land of her birth, on that day she said "You know, friends, that I do not lie to you when I tell you I have walked into the palaces of kings and queens and into the houses of presidents. And much more. But I could not walk into a hotel in America and get a cup of coffee."

This past December 2021, France accorded Ms. Baker another honor. She was granted one of France's highest honors: A tomb in the Pantheon in Paris, the country's monument to its heroes. Only 80 people have had this honor since the tradition began in Napoleonic times. Baker is the first Black woman honored at the Pantheon, according to the Elysee Palace. She is also only the sixth woman, which includes scientist Marie Curie and politician Simone Veil to be so decorated.



Gwendolyn B. Bennett (July 8, 1902 – May 30, 1981) *Untitled River Landscape* by Gwendolyn B. Bennett, 1931

Gwendolyn B. Bennett was a Renaissance woman in every sense of the word: poet, painter, illustrator, short-story writer, arts reviewer, teacher, columnist. She was a significant figure in Harlem between 1924 and 1928 – publishing over 20 poems, 5 magazine covers, her column “The Ebony Flute,” et.al.

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

FASHION OF THE RENAISSANCE



**NEW MATERIALS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY:
Great Courses DVD Sets
From Dean Seick**

Bible Study at FHC under the expert guidance of Kathryn Eloff and Tom Zych is as good as can be found anywhere. Kathryn's planning and written materials and Tom's excellent classroom teaching make a stimulating combination.

But that only happens for one hour a week. Grasping complex issues of biblical research from the first century, or earlier, is a challenge for 21st century Christians, regardless how committed they may be.

What if learners could bring that material home with them? Could take it at their own speed? Could listen again or stop and go back to hear something they missed?

That opportunity is now available at Forest Hill Church. In consultation with the Ministry of Adult Spiritual Growth, our church library has acquired five sets of lectures from The Great Courses, by noted scholars in their fields. The Great Courses are available on a huge variety of subjects. Some of the sets of lectures mesh well with our recent Bible classes and are now part of our library.

Each of the lectures is thirty minutes long, delivered by noted scholars in their fields. All of the DVD sets except "The History and Archaeology of the Bible" are delivered in 24 lectures. That one is 48 lectures.

The titles are:

- *How, Historically, Did Jesus Come to Be Seen as God?* by Bart Ehrmann, of the University of North Carolina
- *Understanding the New Testament* by Joe Engle, of The Ohio State University
- *Understanding the Old Testament* by Robert D. Miller, of the Catholic University of America
- *What Was It Like to Live in Ancient Times?* by Robert Garland, of Colgate University
- *The History and Archaeology of the Bible* by Jean Pierre Isbouts, National Geographic Historian and Fielding Graduate University

They will soon be available for your use. And perhaps in the near future some of us may meet on Zoom or in person to discuss what we learn from these richly informative resources.

A LENTEN LOVE OFFERING

From The Ministry of Adult Spiritual Growth

In the last several years, many people in our congregation have expressed interest in learning more about spiritual disciplines. Also, for the numerous activists in our midst, learning and practicing inner disciplines is crucial to remaining energized as they work for justice. During Lent of 2022, we plan to build on our church's pre-pandemic tradition of community dinners and learning during Lent. We are offering *Practice Spiritual Disciplines* from the "Follow Me" series on Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings.

In this 6-week unit, we will discuss Christian spiritual disciplines. These are practices that help us draw near to God, for example: fasting, praying, and listening to God. Practicing spiritual disciplines helps us to make space in our lives to be with Jesus and allow Jesus to transform us both as individuals and as a people into the Beloved Community.

Sunday Morning Classes

When: Sundays, 9:30-10:30 AM, March 6 through April 10 (six sessions)

Facilitated by: Ron Zimmerman

Resource texts: Your own Bible, and a resource book, available in printed copy at the church.

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>

Tuesday Evening Café

When: Tuesdays, 6:00-7:30 PM, March 8 through April 12 (six sessions)

Facilitated by: Ann Williams and Leslie Clement

Resource Text: The facilitators will provide a handout for each class, and it's helpful to have a Bible handy if you have one.

Class description: Bring your supper for an informal Zoom conversation about the same topics covered on Sunday mornings. The handout materials will help us to focus on ways that we can include spiritual disciplines into our lives.

To sign up: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/a8709f14>

Please note:

These classes will begin before the end of the very popular series, "How the Scriptures Came To Be THE Bible." For the many people in that Sunday morning class, we encourage you to remain in that class. If you wish to also sign up for "Practice Spiritual Disciplines", please sign up for the Tuesday evening section.

If the Tuesday time does not work for you, please email Ann Williams at asw1217@gmail.com. I will communicate with everyone who indicates interest by 2/27 (1 week prior to beginning the class). If enough people would like to have a class at a different time., I will try to make it work.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sharing Resources, Changing Lives

The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering is received during the Lenten season. This is an opportunity for Presbyterians to focus on improving the lives of the need through three unique programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Presbyterian Hunger Program
Self-Development of People

These programs support projects in more than 100 countries. By giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing, you join with Presbyterians around the world in sharing God's grace and love. Through this offering, we work together to improve the lives of many by promoting justice and developing programs to assist those who suffer. Funding is used to provide initial disaster response as well as to address the lack of clean water, food, education, and opportunity in many parts of the world.

We are called to action and to care for our neighbor. Help us unite in this effort to make a difference in the lives of many. Please give prayerfully and generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Ways to give:

1. You may mail a check to the church. Please indicate on the memo line one great hour of sharing.
2. [Breeze Giving Online](#)
3. [PayPal](#)



CHURCH GROWTH

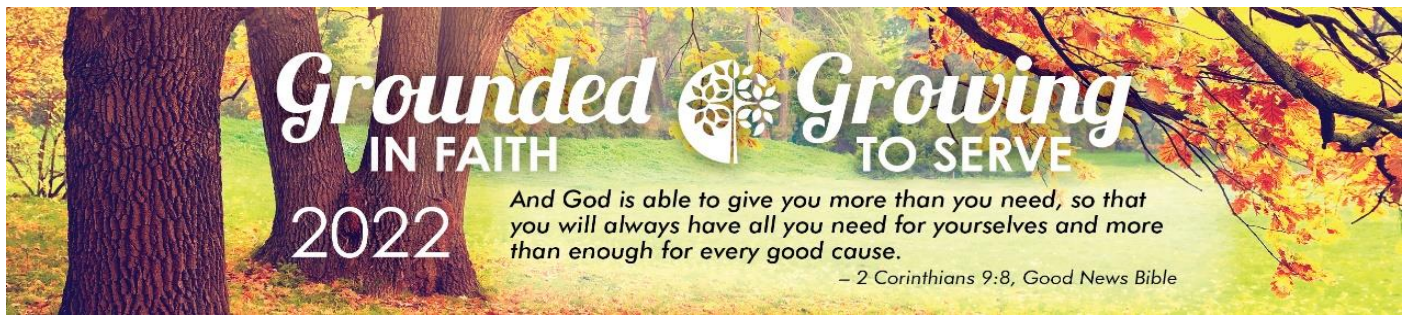
Exploring Church Membership: Want to learn more about being part of the Forest Hill Church Community? Come enjoy our pressure-free Exploring Membership Class. Learn more about our history, our vision, and what it means to be a member (although you do not have to join - just participate and learn!)

Hybrid Classes (i.e. you can attend in person or virtually) will be held on Sunday, Mar 20, and Sunday, Mar 27 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Attendance at both classes is necessary for membership (if you have a conflict, please let us know). Participants who decide to join the Church will be inducted in April.

If you have interest in attending or questions please contact the Church Office or Mark Wedell (mark.wedell@averydennison.com).

You may also sign up here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/98da6c821>.





STEWARDSHIP 365 CORNER



We welcome you to our section of the Tower. Each month, we look to provide you with some thoughts, resources and information about Stewardship. Here is our first article from one of new Ministry members, Kim Hill.

First Fruits: A Way to Think About Giving By Kim Hill, Elected Leader

I recently joined the Stewardship Ministry, so I've been thinking about all the ways folks give to the church. I come from a pledging background, so pledging and sending my contribution on a monthly basis feels natural to me. That's not true for many people. Some people are more comfortable tithing a certain percentage of whatever comes into the household, and that amount may not be known up front. Others give when able or when a particular mission or project speaks to them. Still others give what they can on any given Sunday, either in the collection plate or online. All are important. All are valued.

One way of giving that's been nagging my heart recently is the idea of First Fruits. The phrase "First Fruit" appears many times in scripture, in both the Old and New Testaments. Perhaps the best known is Proverbs 3:9, "Honors the Lord from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce." That sounds quaint to our 2022 ears, but of course the context here is that produce is survival – a family's fields were the source of most household food. When the harvest came in, there would be a celebration of plenty, hopefully, and the first of that plenty belonged to God.

First Fruits look a bit different to those of us who get our produce at a market or grocery, but a celebration of plenty is still a useful concept, I feel. I have a really dorky example from my own household to offer:

You know that utterly indecipherable Internet bill? The one with all the lines, and the weird charges, and the bits per second, and all that? Yeah. Who can understand that? Well, my partner Ann recently took on the Herculean task of calling AT&T and re-negotiating our Internet bill. I had been avoiding this for, seriously, years. After some conversation, and charming banter I'm sure, and magic I guess, she was able to get the monthly charge for our Internet service both increased in speed and also lowered by \$30 per month. No joke! Faster broadband for less, through the dedication of having a conversation.

So, here's the First Fruits part: This is a little windfall in our monthly budget. My household spreadsheet now has \$30 breathing room per month -- \$30 that was previously earmarked for AT&T broadband – an amount that I had, in effect, already spent and that now is a bit of plenty. (I told you this was going to be a dorky story.)

What I'm playing around with is this: We'll go ahead and send a portion of that savings, the little plenty in the budget, to the church. It's a First Fruit – an amount I had not anticipated and of which I can

send the first portion as an offering. It's a celebration, right? First Fruits are happy. Saving money on Internet service is happy. I'm happy.

So, that's my thinking these days. I'm pondering First Fruits. Maybe I'll work with this idea around my tax refund. Maybe a cash birthday gift. Perhaps the proceeds from a garage sale. A stipend I'm expecting from taking on an extra project at work. You get the idea.

I wonder what First Fruits could mean to our way of thinking about offerings. I welcome more conversation, as do all of us on the Stewardship Ministry.

Stewardship Ministry Team

Sally Davis, Kim Hill, Jenny Himmelman, Kay Hogg, Keith Logan, and Peg Weissbrod

Peter Williams and Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines- advisor

Any questions, thoughts? Please email at stewardship@fhcpresb.org and we will get back to you!



Forest Hill Church
presbyterian

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 jlustic@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! 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>.

Prayer Request:

To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz (pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org) or Pastor Goines (pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org) no later than Thursday afternoon of each week for inclusion in next week's congregational prayer. Please direct all prayer concerns that arise between Friday and Sunday morning to the Pastor's on-call phone line (216-319-3596). The on-call phone is operational after office hours on weekdays and Saturday through Sunday morning.

Prayers are requested this week for:

Barb Cloud, the family of Laura Cosgrove (Mike Cosgrove's sister-in-law), Mark Davidson, Mark Hansen, Deborah Howard, Joanna Klingenstein, Dave Neff, the family of Jack Prentice, Paul Tuggey (father of Christina Hidek), Grace Uhle, and Susan Way.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Robert Kellermeyer, Florence and Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Emelia McGuire, Margaret Sentell, Elaine Tapié, Beryl and Henrietta Williams.

Care Group: The Corinth Care Group will assist our pastors with members' needs in **March**. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will be passed on to the **Care Group leader, Dean Sieck** (deacons@fhcpresb.org).

Thank you, all office volunteers: Joan Bacon, Lynda Bernays, and Cathy Ghiandoni.

The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **March 24 (for the April TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

Robert	Brock	March 02
Ellen	McChesney	March 03
Pamela	Conover	March 05
Danielle	Cosgrove	March 06
Carline	Paul-Blanc	March 06
Laura	Minder	March 07
David	Peterjohn	March 07
Emily	Klein	March 09
Annette	Himes	March 10
Doris	Allen	March 11
Cameron	Peters	March 11
Grace	Uhle	March 12
Ahren	Stock	March 13
Trent	Swain	March 13
Andrew	Stadler	March 14
Deanne	Lentz	March 15
Katherine	Weissbrod	March 17
Sue	McCauley	March 19
Lance	Vernon	March 19
Patricia	Dunbar	March 21
Ralph	Thomas	March 21
William	Dannefer	March 22
Jane	Duncan	March 22
Dr. Carolyn	Vrtunski	March 22
Derek	Duncan	March 23
Shelly	Jesberger	March 23
Amy	Wadsworth	March 23
Rosamonde	Peters	March 28
Mary	McMillan	March 30
Mary	McPheeters	March 30
Charles	Ishler	March 31

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

February TOWER issue deadline: 8 am on March 24

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 MARCH

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 -Bulletin and Weekly email Deadline	7:30 am –Bible & Bagels (virtual) 12:00 pm -Staff Meeting (virtual) -AA: Wed. Women's Group	1:30 pm -English Dance 6:00 pm -Bell Choir 7:30 pm -Chancel Choir	9:30 am -AI Anon: Hand in Hand	
February 27 9:30 am: Adult Education course	February 28 7:00 pm: Book Club Antoinette Out of Office	March 1 Women History Month Begins!	March 2 Ash Wednesday Lent Season Begins One Great Hour of Sharing Begins	March 3	March 4	March 5 8:00 am: Men's Group. 10:00 am: Black Caucus Book Club Women's Walk
March 6 9:30 am: Adult Education course Communion 10:00 am: Confirmation Class	March 7 7:00 pm: Book Club	March 8 6:00 pm: Tuesday Café	March 9	March 10	March 11	March 12 8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lusic
March 13 Spring forward those clocks! 9:30 am: Adult Education course 10:00 am: Confirmation Class	March 14 7:00 pm: Book Club	March 15 6:00 pm: Tuesday Café	March 16	March 17	March 18	March 19 8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lusic
March 20 9:30 am: Adult Education course 10:00 am: Confirmation Class 1:00 pm: Exploring Membership	March 21 7:00 pm: Book Club	March 22 6:00 pm: Tuesday Café	March 23	March 24 TOWER DEADLINE	March 25	March 26 8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lusic
March 27 9:30 am: Adult Education course 10:00 am: Confirmation Class 1:00 pm: Exploring Membership 4:00 pm: Racism Series	March 28 7:00 pm: Book Club Antoinette Out of Office	March 29 6:00 pm: Tuesday Café	March 30	March 31 Women History Month Ends!	April 1	April 2 8:00 am: Men's Group. Women's Walk

