



Forest Hill Church  
presbyterian

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

**The TOWER**

**MAY 2022**



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

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*Check out the website*

[www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)

*Come and see!*

# WORDS FROM PASTOR VERONICA

## Reflections



The joy of returning to in-person worship in time for Lent, for the first time since 2019, was palpable. And while there's so much planning and coordination involved in bringing a vision to fruition, what greater joy than to see its unfolding exceed expectations.

With the festive celebration of Palm Sunday, chocked full of joyful music and singing, prayer, and a powerful message by Pastor John, our souls soared high with praise, but shifted as the weight of the cross was carried through the sanctuary and out into the public square – a witness to Christ's redeeming love.

On Maundy Thursday we gathered around a common meal, and shared the Lord's Supper. Then, we followed Jesus into the sanctuary, transformed into a garden of prayer. There we formed our tears as we wrestled over weighty issues as did our Lord; like him, in the garden we found peace and resolution. Our time concluded as we crowded at the foot of the cross to entrust our tears, and those of the world, to God.

Good Friday was an intimate gathering of prayer and reflection on Jesus' Seven last words on the cross. Blessed by the music ministry of Ying and guest violinist, Guillermo, here too we wrestled with the implications of Jesus' words for our lives and time, and brought our deep concerns into our circle of prayer.

On Easter Sunday an intergenerational crowd gathered early before worship, outside the sanctuary doors, saying, "**We've come to worship God!**" It was a feast for the eyes. Indeed, the doors were opened, and we boldly entered the church to the Chancel Choir loudly and joyfully ringing the bells. This energy remained throughout the Easter

celebration as the Holy Spirit flooded God's House through instruments, singing, liturgy, prayers and preaching. Worship concluded with "The Hallelujah Chorus."

I give thanks to God for leading us in these ways, and for the power of imagination and memory. My thanks to our stellar staff: to Ying, for your visionary leadership and direction of the choir and music program, and for your integration of instruments; to Ann Donkin, for creating a sanctuary-sized cross for Maundy Thursday--beautifully done; to Antoinette, who juggled multiple bulletins and produced graphic visions for each service; to Amy, who made Lent and Easter fun and meaningful for families, youth and children of the congregation – the ministry is flourishing under your care; to Ann, Amy, and John, for your partnership in transforming the sanctuary for Maundy Thursday (you may have a future in set design); to the Stream Team for your adaptability in accommodating diverse worship experiences; to the Deacons for coordinating and hosting the soup supper; to Worship for preparing the elements and lighting the way to the sanctuary; and to our Ushers and Church Growth for your sincere expressions of welcome and hospitality.

And to my friend and colleague, John, thank you for partnership and for sharing a love of daring worship throughout Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

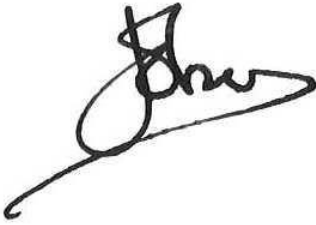
~Shalom, Veronica

# WORDS FROM PASTOR JOHN

(An Easter reflection reprinted from Facebook Page 4/17)

**Note: We are in the liturgical season of Easter until Pentecost Sunday, June 5.**

Dear Friends,



Yesterday Deanne and I were heading to the ballpark to see the Cleveland Guardians play the San Francisco Giants. We passed a man with a sign warning of the approaching judgement of hellfire and brimstone. This person was clearly moved by his message and committed to it. It cannot be easy standing in the midst of a passing crowd telling everyone they are going to hell.

Today is Easter. I am listening to the trumpeters practice the Easter hymns of joy and hope and resurrection. I wish the man with the sign would come to church and hear GOOD NEWS! The Good News is not about judgement as punishment – hellfire and brimstone. The Good News is about the judgement as reconciliation, restoration, and repair.

It gives me good hope that Jews, Christians and Muslims are all celebrating their defining moments of their origin stories at the same time this year. Passover, Easter, Ramadan: God is revealed as liberator and savior from oppression; God is revealed as triumphant over death; God is revealed in word and in deed through the prophet.

As a Christian I believe all of the expressions of faith. God is still liberating. Death does not have the final word. God is still speaking. If only we would listen. If only we would liberate. If only we would live in a manner consistent with this belief! It is up to you and to me.

I know there is a longing for God to act to bring peace in Ukraine, countries around the world and in our cities, homes and hearts. But I think God is waiting for us to take up the divine mantle of our call. We must offer our best to living out the narratives of faith: Good News! Be blessed this Easter!

~God bless you! John



Family, Youth, and Children Ministries

### **Palm Sunday and Easter**

Percussion playing, palm waving, egg hunting and chocolate bunnies made our Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations special!







## **FAMILIES IN WORSHIP**



Children are always welcomed in worship at Forest Hill. Worship bags for young people, filled with paper, crayons, worship bulletins, and quiet activities are available every week – look for them by the Big Bear as you enter the sanctuary!

In our sanctuary, you'll find two family-friendly spots for adults and children during worship. There are toys, books and drawing materials at tables at the back of the sanctuary and at the front, by the Big Bear.

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, rest, or have a snack.

We're hiring staff to provide caregiving for our youngest children on Sunday mornings. Until these caregivers are on board, we ask parents/grandparents to remain with their children in the infant-toddler-preschool rooms during worship. TV monitors have been installed in these rooms so that adults can watch and listen to the worship service!





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**CHILDREN GRADES K – 5**  
**Practice Joy!**

**Sunday Morning Gathering 10:00 AM - 10:40 AM**  
**Room 203 - Second Floor of the Education Wing**  
**May 1 – May 22**

Join us in May as our *Follow Me* curriculum helps us to:

SEE JOY in God's Creation,

FEEL JOY in God's Mercy,

SHARE JOY with others, and

PRACTICE JOY at all times.

Our children's gatherings include time for playing with friends, sharing joys and concerns, and being actively engaged through art, movement, storytelling, games, and nature. All children ages 5-10 are welcome – please join us!



**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS MAY 15!**  
**Reception for Confirmands and Their Families**  
**in Fellowship Hall After Worship**

Join us in worship on **May 15** as we celebrate the young people who are choosing to join Forest Hill Church. Our confirmands will share a profession of faith and their intention to participate actively in the life of the church. A reception in Fellowship Hall for our young people and their families will follow the worship service. There will be cake!

***A special shout-out of appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Eric Dillenbeck***, who designed and led the confirmation class this spring. His passion for working with our young people and his commitment to supporting their faith journeys is a gift to FHC. Thank you, Eric!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Family, Youth and Children's Ministry Picnic  
**Sunday, June 5 ~ 5 PM at FHC**

Parents and grandparents, mark your calendars  
and save the date, details to follow!

*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](mailto:ce@fhcpresb.org). We'd love to add you to our list!*



KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR THE STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY’S NEW VIDEOS COMING OUT IN THE WEEKS AHEAD. THEY’LL FEATURE GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS, THE MINISTRY OF ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH, AND MOVING TESTIMONIES FROM CHURCH MEMBERS.

## May: The Month of the Garden

—by Kim Hill, Stewardship Ministry Member

I’m a wayward gardener – I sometimes do a great job, often not. I suppose that’s the uber metaphor for being a Christian. It’s also, however, a metaphor for being a member of any community, a congregation in particular. Gardens are neat, messy, disciplined, chaotic, and everything in between. In all gardens, though, things grow.

Some gardeners plan very far ahead. The seed catalogs arrive in December. They pore over them and consider their capacity. They make decisions and order supplies. It’s sort of like the autumn pledging season — making budgets, deciding on donation amounts, setting up auto-deductions.

Other gardeners take a more seasonal approach. The pansies go in about now. Then, the petunias. They see what the year brings and what seems



appropriate. It’s like the folks who give several times throughout the year, which fits well with their income flow, budget, and lives.

Still other gardeners go for the big bang. They have a spectacular magnolia tree or grow the best tomatoes in the neighborhood. Their African violets bring joy to everyone who visits and sees the balcony window. These are the yearly givers – the ones who wait until year end, or perhaps bonus season, to decide what makes sense for their giving.

And, perhaps most importantly, there are the gardeners who help all sorts of ways, financial and otherwise. They’re the ones who show up on your doorstep with a saw and lemonade when they see that the magnolia lost a branch. They leave a zucchini with each neighbor. They help at the community garden, teaching children what radishes look like and which insects help pollinate plants. These are the volunteers, the members of ministries, the pantry workers, the myriad people who keep the church community strong with contributions of time, talents, and tenacity.

I know I’ve stretched this metaphor too far already, but you get the idea. It’s all vitally important. WE ALL are vitally important. Without any one of us, the garden is a lesser place, the growing less robust. I wonder if, as we wander out into the newly arrived warm weather, we might think a bit about how we contribute, what we steward, what kind of gardener each of us is, and may we all celebrate the abundance that we make together.

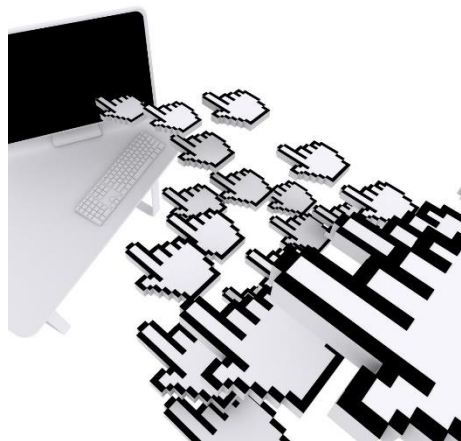
## DEACONS

The Deacons invite you to after service coffee hour. Come join us in the Fellowship Hall for fellowship and donuts and coffee.



## PROMOTION TASK FORCE OUR WEBSITE—A WORK IN PROGRESS

Kay Hogg, along with the rest of the team (Kurt Haas, Jim Hogg, Allan Khoury, Seth Ungemach, and Mark Wedell), have been researching ways to update the website. We will have more improvements and updates regarding our FHC website coming soon. In the meantime, you will still be able to access the current website ([www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)).



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Looking ahead to 2023, the Nominating Committee asks you: Have you thought about volunteering your time and talents but were unsure of where you might want to step in?

Serving in a ministry is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other members and contribute towards our mission of building the beloved community. The time commitment is generally one meeting per month (except for Elders who also meet once a month separately, as they comprise the session of the church) and as you can see, each ministry has a specialized focus.

The ask is for a three-year commitment to ensure continuity as the terms are staggered to have new people coming on as other individuals rotate off. While meetings over the past year have all been via zoom, as we return to in-person we are looking to keep that as an option for individuals who may not be comfortable driving at night or live at a distance that could make in-person evening meetings difficult.

Elders and Deacons must be members and are looked to as spiritual leaders of the congregation. Members or frequent visitors are encouraged to round out the balance of leaders on the various ministries.

If you have an interest in serving on a ministry, or would just like to chat about what those opportunities look like and how they fit your interest, please reach out to Zelma Sharp (Zelma.sharp@gmail.com), or to either one of our Pastors, John Lentz (pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org), or Veronica Goines (pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org). Terms begin February 2023.

**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 organize the Sunday morning educational offerings 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, and 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.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



## **FHC WORK DAY**

### **Saturday, May 7 • 9 AM to 1 PM**

Spring has sprung, and it's time to house clean. We need people of all ages for many tasks, including: switching storms & screens, washing glass, gardening, mulching, and getting organized. Some supplies will be provided, but please label them yours if you have your favorite tool.

There's plenty to do inside if it rains - outside tasks will be rescheduled.

Please wear your FHC name tag if you have one so that we can make new connections after being apart.

LUNCH will be served when our work is done.

A SCAVENGER HUNT is planned for the kids!

If you wish to signup, please fill out this form: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/cb0e22>.





## SOFTBALL SEASON IS BACK!!

Forest Hill softball season is right around the corner. Please complete this signup form for anyone 16 years of age and older wishing to join the team. Games are played from the Sunday before Memorial Day to the Sunday before Labor Day on **Sundays at 3 or 6 PM** at Forest Hill Park. All are welcome.

If you wish to join, please sign up here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/50acb692>.



## FIBER AND FELLOWSHIP

We welcome everyone interested in quilting, knitting, and crocheting (both beginners and experienced are welcome).

This group will work on quilting projects together. Feel free to bring your own projects or work on ours. Please bring supplies to start new projects.

Fiber and Fellowship will meet on the second Saturday of each month starting **May 14, from 9 AM-noon** in Fellowship Hall.

*For more information or questions, please get in touch with Carol Gifford at 216-598-9730.*

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Be sure to vote in the **May 3, 2022**, Primary Election.



# GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS (GCC): WHAT IT IS, WHAT WE ARE DOING AND WHY YOU SHOULD CARE!



Over the years, you have likely seen announcements in the weekly email or the Tower or heard Pastors John and Veronica mention the importance of Forest Hill's support for GCC as a central part of our church's mission.

*Have you wondered what Greater Cleveland Congregations is all about or why FHC supports GCC's work? Would you like to find out what issues and initiatives GCC is currently focused on? Would you like to know how you can become more involved in supporting GCC's work?*

IF SO, mark your calendars and attend a learning event following worship on Sunday, May 22 at 12:30 p.m. co-sponsored by the Ministry of Justice and Mission and FHC's GCC Core Team.

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*Check out the website*

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*Come and see!*

For those who cannot attend in-person, the event will be live-streamed.

The featured presenter will be Keisha Krumm, GCC's amazing Executive Director and Lead Organizer. You will not want to miss this opportunity to meet and hear from Keisha first hand – and to learn about some new initiatives GCC will be undertaking! If you have questions, please contact Scott Lafferty ([swlaff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swlaff@sbcglobal.net)), Diana Woodbridge ([diana@ninthrung.com](mailto:diana@ninthrung.com)), or Lisa Vahey ([lvahey@gmail.com](mailto:lvahey@gmail.com)).





Julie	Gran	May 01
Marjorie	Ravas	May 04
Juliann	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
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	Communications	<a href="mailto:office@fhcpresb.org">office@fhcpresb.org</a>
Genetha (Nita) Clark	Finance	<a href="mailto:finance@fhcpresb.org">finance@fhcpresb.org</a>
Ann Donkin	Building Mgr.	<a href="mailto:adonkin@fhcpresb.org">adonkin@fhcpresb.org</a>
Custodians	Custodian	<a href="mailto:custodian@fhcpresb.org">custodian@fhcpresb.org</a>
Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines	Co-Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org">pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org</a>
Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.	Co-Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org">pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org</a>
Dr. Amy Wheatley	Family, Youth, Children	<a href="mailto:CE@fhcpresb.org">CE@fhcpresb.org</a>
Dr. Qin Ying Tan	Director of Music	<a href="mailto:music@fhcpresb.org">music@fhcpresb.org</a>
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](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org) Website: [www.fhcpresb.org](http://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, Director of Music

Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate

## **June TOWER issue deadline: 8 am on May 19**

**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
<b>Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b> -AA: Progress not Perfection <b>7:00 pm</b> -AI Anon: Now There's Hope <b>7:30 pm</b> -AA: Borton Group	<b>10:30 am</b> -Abundance Pantry <b>-Bulletin and Weekly email Deadline</b>	<b>7:30 am</b> –Bible & Bagels (virtual) <b>12:00 pm</b> -Staff Meeting (virtual) -AA: Wed. Women's Group	<b>1:30 pm</b> -English Dance <b>6:00 pm</b> -Bell Choir <b>7:30 pm</b> -Chancel Choir	<b>9:30 am</b> -AI Anon: Hand in Hand	
<b>May 1</b> 9:30 am: Adult Education course  <b>Communion</b>  12:00 pm- Black Caucus  4:00 pm: Racism Series	<b>May 2</b>	<b>May 3</b>  <b>Primary Election</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b>May 5</b> Cinco de Mayo	<b>May 6</b>	<b>May 7</b> 8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lusic  9:00 am: FHC Work Day
<b>May 8</b>  9:30 am: Adult Education course	<b>May 9</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>May 11</b>  <b>Confirmation Dinner</b>	<b>May 12</b>	<b>May 13</b>	<b>May 14</b> 8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lusic  9:00 am: Fiber and Fellowship
<b>May 15</b>  <b>Confirmation Sunday</b>  <b>3:00 pm: Student Recital</b>	<b>May 16</b>	<b>May 17</b>  7:00 PM: GenderSphere	<b>May 18</b>  7:00 PM: Homeowners Assoc. Meeting	<b>May 19</b>  <b>TOWER DEADLINE</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>May 21</b> 8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lusic
<b>May 22</b>	<b>May 23</b>	<b>May 24</b>	<b>May 25</b>	<b>May 26</b>	<b>May 27</b>	<b>May 28</b> 8:00 am: Men's Group. Women's Walk
<b>May 29</b>	<b>May 30</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>May 31</b>	<b>June 1</b>	<b>June 2</b>	<b>June 3</b>	<b>June 4</b> 8:00 am: Men's Group. Women's Walk

May 2022



*On May 30, 2022, in honor of our veterans,  
the church office will be closed.*

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