



# FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN

## THE TOWER

October, 2022



### IMPORTANT GCC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: VOTER ENGAGEMENT

Greater Cleveland Congregations' Battle for Democracy will be engaging low-propensity voters this fall to talk about issues important to them and their potential plan for voting. Forest Hill's core team is spearheading a team in the Noble neighborhood as part of this larger voter engagement effort. Our campaign includes going door-to-door to personally engage with voters, and it is important that our canvassing teams are in pairs. We are seeking at least six people who would be willing to accompany a Neighborhood Captain as a canvassing partner over two different weeks, one in September and one in October. Volunteers would not have any other responsibilities as part of the Battle for Democracy campaign, but you would be fulfilling a critical role in helping to make GCC's voter engagement work a success.

### Through Our Pastor's Lens



—Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz



**Dear Friends,**  
I left the outdoor service of worship on Sunday, Aug. 28 and hopped into my car with a Subway Tuna fish sandwich (yum) and headed south to Montreat, NC. A beautiful ride ( 8 hrs 35 minutes) through the lush hills of Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee

and North Carolina. The purpose of this trek was to attend a week-long continuing ed class on "Transitional Ministry." Churches and pastors that are going through transitions of staffing, of closing, or of re-imagining their mission and call should lean into the change!

I found the week very helpful and very affirming. For we are a church in transition, and I am a pastor in transition even though I have been your pastor or Co-Pastor for 28 years! The retirement of Rev. Goines has opened us all to:

- re-imagining what God has in store for us;
- re-committing to becoming the Beloved Community;

—continued on page 8



### VOTER INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2022 ELECTION

If you have moved, had a name change since you last voted, never registered to vote, or have not participated in the voting process for six consecutive years, you must submit a Voter Registration and Information Update Form to your county Board of Elections before or on October 11, 2022.

If you wish to vote by mail, that application must reach the Board of Election before November 5.

The above forms are available in the church lobby, at libraries, and your county Board of Elections' website.



## Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC): What It Is, What We Are Doing and How You Can Get Involved!

—Diana Woodbridge and Scott Lafferty

Over the years, you have likely seen announcements in the weekly email or the *Tower* or heard our Pastors 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?*

Whether you are new to GCC or a longtime supporter already involved with GCC, on Sunday, October 16, there will be two opportunities to hear about GCC from our amazing Executive Director and Lead Organizer, Keisha Krumm. First, Keisha will be our guest preacher. Then, immediately following worship, Keisha will lead a learning event, co-sponsored by the Ministry of Justice and Mission and FHC's GCC Core Team. For those online, the event will be live-streamed. Come, welcome Keisha and show your support for her leadership. Hear firsthand about GCC and our current initiatives!

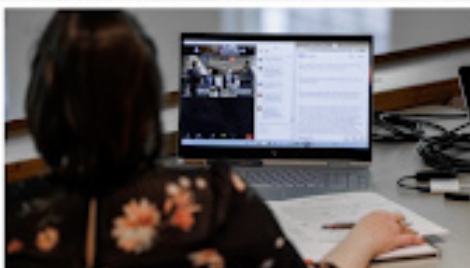
If you have questions, please contact Scott Lafferty ([swlaff@sbccglobal.net](mailto:swlaff@sbccglobal.net)), Diana Woodbridge ([diana@ninthrung.com](mailto:diana@ninthrung.com)), or Lisa Vahey ([lvahey@gmail.com](mailto:lvahey@gmail.com)).

## SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, December  
6th, 7pm at Olivet  
Institutional Baptist Church or via Zoom

***GCC Public Hearing  
to End Abuse of  
Discretionary Youth  
Bindover.***

**In Ohio, youth bind-  
over can occur when  
a county prosecutor  
recommends that a  
juvenile court judge  
transfer a youth's case  
directly to adult court  
to be tried and, if the  
youth is convicted, to  
be sentenced to an  
adult prison.**





# DEACONS

Deacon Deanne Lentz reports she had a wonderful visit with long-time member Grace Uhle. Grace has had several falls recently and suffered bruises but, thankfully, no broken bones. She is rehabbing at Montifiore and expressed her gratitude to all who have checked on her. She is most appreciative of her FHC family.

Grace receives mail from her residence:

Stone Gardens  
27090 Cedar Rd., Apt. 121  
Beachwood, OH 44122



*Coffee Hour*  
Provided by the  
Deacons



Please join us every Sunday  
after worship in  
Fellowship Hall for  
coffee and refreshments!

## Fall Fellowship Picnic A Fabulous Party

*Thank you, dedicated Deacons and volunteers, for sponsoring another fabulous fall fellowship Sunday following worship on September 18.*

*Children and even some adults enjoyed perfect weather for the bounce house and cotton candy. Grilled hot dogs, hamburgers and vegetables, fruit skewers, macaroni and cheese and a delicious assortment of cookies rounded out the thoroughly- enjoyed menu.*

*Special thanks to Dave Bell, Jim Hogg, Em Ezell and Pastor John who entertained the happy crowd with their music. It was a perfect mix of autumn outdoor fellowship, food and fun!*



## Attention FHC Cleveland Hts. Residents

FHC needs help on  
Community Shredding  
Day

Saturday, October 15,  
9am - noon



**Would you transport banker boxes of old church records for shredding?**

The drop-off is at Cleveland Heights City Hall, and you'll need your personal ID.

You can pick up boxes on the Church Fall Cleaning Day, October 5, and we'll load your trunk for you.  
**OR**, you can pick up boxes at the church on the morning of the Community Shredding Day, October 15.

Contact [krisfay@mac.com](mailto:krisfay@mac.com), if you are able to help.



## KEISHA KRUMM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/LEAD ORGANIZER

Keisha Krumm joined Greater Cleveland Congregations, a nonpartisan community power organization that gives voice and action to social justice issues in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, in November 2019. Keisha came to Greater Cleveland Congregations from its sister organization, Milwaukee-based Common Ground, where she served as Lead Organizer for eight and a half years.

Keisha brings her talent and experience to an organization that has seen a host of successes in agitating for social change in health equity, criminal justice reform, firearms safety, and voter engagement in Cuyahoga County since 2011. Her leadership has been especially critical during a time of unprecedented stress to communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to working at Common Ground, Keisha worked for 10 years as an organizer in Los Angeles and the Seattle-Tacoma region. She has a master's degree from the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary in Christian Community Development. She is a devoted wife and mother who has committed her life to justice-seeking.



**KEISHA KRUMM will be our guest preacher at  
Forest Hill Church on Sunday, October 16!**

## World Communion Sunday, October 2 – Welcoming Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble

–Dr. QinYing Tan, Director of Music



We observe World Communion Sunday at the beginning of October every year to celebrate our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Musically, this has always been an event to explore our hearts, minds, and ears for all music! This year, we are honored to invite the Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble to join us in our service; they will play hymns on their instruments (as they have done in their churches) and present Chinese folk music selections during the service. The ensemble will also present a short concert during fellowship after service, and welcomes us all to join them!

# FHC WORK DAY

**Saturday, October 8th  
9am to 1pm**

***FALL is in the air and it's time to  
get the church ready for WINTER!***

We need people of all ages for many tasks including: switching storms & screens, washing glass, gardening, and getting organized. We have a special need for strong arms to move old records. There's plenty to do inside if it rains - outside tasks will be rescheduled.

**LUNCH** will be served after our work is done.  
Please **RSVP by October 6th** using the link or call the office so that we can plan to have food for everyone.  
<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/cb0e2268>



## Family Youth and Children's Ministry

### SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FHC

—Dr. Amy Wheatley, Director of Family, Youth & Children

#### 9:30am – 12:15pm **Childcare Rooms 201-203**

Before worship for children whose grown-ups are participating in adult classes, meetings for music rehearsals.

During worship for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

#### 10:00am – 10:45am **Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) Room 102 (Library)**

Young people meet with adult leaders to explore faith, values, identity, and what it means to follow Jesus today. Our gatherings are an inclusive and safe space to share experience, express ideas and ask hard questions. Youth will also have monthly opportunities to build community through service and social events.

#### 11:00am **Worship – Children and Youth participate in worship with their families**

Following the Children's Welcome, children (preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders for children's programs.

#### 11:20am – 12:15pm **Children's Programs**

##### **Pathways (Preschool – 5th grade) Room 207**

Our curriculum, *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living*, supports children's exploration of what it means to follow Jesus and helps them practice putting faith and love into action. October's theme is "Practice Generosity." Through stories, art, games, and discussion, we will think about the generosity Jesus inspired through his words and actions. How can we extend generosity to others today?

##### **Little Crescendos Choir (Preschool – 5th grade) Room 208 (Chapel)**

Following the Pathways gathering, adult leaders and children move to the Chapel to sing! Julie Minder leads a fun time of music and movement. Little Crescendos will sing in worship once a month.

Parents and grandparents meet their children in the Chapel at the close of morning programs at 12:15pm.

#### 11:50am – 12:15pm **J.A.M. (Joy and Music) Room 52 (Choir Room)**

Young people (grades 6-12) are invited to join this ensemble led by Seth Ungemach. JAM will explore singing and percussion, and participate in worship once a month.

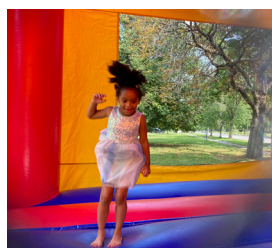
### Families in Worship



### School Year Blessing



### Fall Picnic Fun ↓







# It's Music to Our Ears!

—Dr. QinYing Tan, Director of Music

With most of the pandemic's impact behind us these days, Forest Hill Church musical group opportunities have returned. And they're looking for more talent — perhaps YOU!

Check out this variety of options and consider joining one or more of your favorites!



## Chancel Choir

All voices – high, medium, or low – are welcome to join in making music in worship. Chancel Choir meets on Thursdays at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary.

## Voices in Bronze

**CALLING ALL DING-A-LINGS!** You know who you are – music readers with snappy wrists and a sense of humor. FHC's "Voices in Bronze" bell choir needs your talent! They rehearse in the bell choir room on Thursdays at 6:20pm.



## FHC Percussion

This group explores percussion rhythms from South America to Africa, and occasionally takes up repurposed items to bang on! We meet on Sunday afternoons after worship at 12:30pm.



## J.A.M. and Little Crescendos

We are so excited to welcome the return of children's ensembles. Little Crescendos (ages 3-8) are led by music veteran, Julie Minder, and J.A.M. ("Joy and Music"; older students) is led by our fearless assistant choir director, Seth Ungemach. These music groups meet at 11:50am every Sunday to explore percussion, singing, and friendships!



See or email director, Ying, for more information. ([music@fhcpresb.org](mailto:music@fhcpresb.org))

# October Birthdays



## DATE LAST NAME, FIRST NAME

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



As the Stewardship Ministry prepares for our upcoming year, we're guided by the words of the first Psalm:

***They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. – Psalm 1:3, NRSV***

What does it mean to prosper, not wither, on the banks of the stream of our faith? That's what each of us may consider as we look back over our shared year and look forward to a new one as a congregation.

Emerging from the isolation of the Covid-19 pandemic has meant time together in the sanctuary for in-person worship again. Outdoor services on the front lawn this past summer visibly celebrated our place in the neighborhood and world. The streaming of live services worldwide is now an ongoing feature of our outreach. The Abundance Food Pantry continued to address food insecurity for a greatly increased number of households. Social justice projects such as creating racial equity and GCC's work on Battle for Democracy voting initiatives are again ramping up. Ministries began to meet again in person and continued work together online. Spiritual education continued in both modes as well. Family, Children and Youth programming found new ways to keep us connected, having fun, and feeling supported.

We've truly seen the ripples of our resilience and strength reflected in our work in our neighborhood and the greater Cleveland area. We continue to remain in faithful service to one another as we traverse the unexpected retirement of our co-pastor and to work together in discernment of the next steps of this transition.

In the coming weeks, you'll receive an email, a regular mail package, and a range of messages during worship about how we are preparing together to fund FHC's operations, ministries, and missions in the year to come. We look forward to working together to nurture the health and growth of all that we treasure.



—From the Pastor's Lens, continued from page 1

- re-building the community after Covid.

First and foremost, we shouldn't be afraid for the future. We are God's church. We are precisely where we need to be at this moment in time. We need to remain curious, leaning into the tension, learning and listening. We need to worship together, support one another, show each other that we care. We will keep to our mission of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ both inside and outside the walls of the church.

We were encouraged to ask "WHY?" a lot and follow up with "WHAT IF?" Pastors were challenged to be "non-anxious leaders."

I also came away with a feeling of such gratitude that Forest Hill Church is a lively, functional, faithful (and fun-loving) community of believers whose best years are still to come! We are resilient. We are risk-takers!

We are on the path together. I thank all of you who participated in the Congregational Conversations. Over 120 people participated. We will send out the questions to active members who didn't join in the table discussions. The data will be organized and analyzed by Case Western Reserve University students of Professor Jessica Kelly. A report will be made public and next steps announced sometime in October.

God bless you all! These are exciting (Kairos) times.  
—John



—Mary McMillan and Marina Grant  
Co-Treasurers

—Melanie Alban, Clerk of Session

"Per capita" is the amount of support per member that FHC contributes annually to the work of our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly of the PCUSA. It is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together and furthers the mission of Jesus Christ worldwide.

This year, we ask you to consider contributing a per capita of \$34.91 for each family member, in addition to your pledge and other gifts. Your contribution will free up dollars in our regular budget for the work of Forest Hill Church in our local community.

Here are a few examples of your per capita at work:

- Biennial meeting of the General Assembly
- Ecumenical mission work with other churches around the world
- Preparation, administration, and grading of standard ordination examinations for seminary students
- Preservation of the Presbyterian experience at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia
- Training events for presbytery leaders

If you pay your per capita by check, please note Per Capita on the memo line. Thank you!



## SOME GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

—Dave Neff

This month I am passing along some good environmental news from the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) — meaning, I got started too late for the article and lack some creativity this month!

Here are three news items harvested from the NRDC Fall newsletter:

- Interior Secretary Deb Haaland has set her department on a bold course to phase out single-use plastic products from nation parks, wildlife refuges, and other federally managed lands by 2032. Such products, from drinking straws and disposable cutlery to those ubiquitous plastic shopping bags, contribute a significant share to the estimated 14 million tons of plastic pollution that ends up in our oceans each year. The department will seek to swap single-use plastic products for more sustainable

alternatives, such as those made from compostable or biodegradable materials

- In a big win for imperiled wildlife, a federal court has rejected the Trump administration's attempt to sabotage the Endangered Species Act. The victory comes after NRDC and other wildlife champions sued to reverse the attack, the most aggressive assault on the landmark conservation law in its nearly 50-year history. The Trump administration sought to impose dozens of destructive, industry-friendly changes to the law, including weakening protection of species' critical habitats and allowing economic factors to infect decisions about whether species would be protected under the act.
- An irreplaceable gem, home to the world's most productive wild salmon runs, is poised to win permanent protection from the operation of a colossal copper and gold mine. The EPA has proposed adopting safeguards that would block the

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## CALLING ALL PACESETTERS

(and any other interested Forest Hill Church theater lovers!)

All are invited to attend on Saturday, October 22, at 7:30pm, Silhouette Productions' and Shore Cultural Centre's presentation of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* at the Shore Cultural Centre (291 East 222<sup>nd</sup> Street in Euclid). Forest Hill's own Clayton Minder will be the narrator, and former FHC choir member and friend of Forest Hill, Linn Obery, performs with this talented local company.

Tickets are \$20 Adults, \$18 Seniors (age 62+), \$16 Students (age 11-17) and \$14 Children (10 and under). Please email Linn Obery at [c172nancy@gmail.com](mailto:c172nancy@gmail.com) to order tickets.

Free Parking is available adjacent to the Shore Cultural Centre.

**Questions??? Call, text or email Sue Lafferty (440-669-4885, [salaff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salaff@sbcglobal.net) or Scott Lafferty (440-429-2937)**



## GOD'S PRESENCE EMPOWERS US TO LIVE JOYFULLY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES AND TO BRING PEACE TO ALL AROUND US

—Joan Bacon

The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the greater church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world. Together we are building God's

household of peace where everyone is welcome; where all can find compassion, peace and justice.

On World Communion Sunday, October 2, Lisa Vahey speaks about this important subject in a "Moment of Mission," and FHC will receive a Peace & Global Witness Offering.

## Some Good Environment News

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Pebble Mine from being gouged out of the pristine wilderness at the headwaters of Bristol Bay in Alaska, which local indigenous communities and their allies, including NRDC, have been fighting for for decades. The proposed mine would generate millions of tons of toxic mining waste and would pose potentially catastrophic risks to the Bristol Bay watershed and its wild salmon. The salmon are the linchpin of a magnificent natural ecosystem which support an array of wildlife, as well as a \$2.2billion sustainable fishery that provides 15,000 jobs and half the world's sockeye salmon.

## FIBER & FELLOWSHIP

We are looking for machine sewers to join us to complete reusable shopping bags for the food bank. Knitters are welcome as well. We have prayer shawl patterns and yarn available.



**Next Meeting: November 12 (9am-Noon)**

For more information or questions, please call Carol Gifford at 216-598-9730.

An intriguing mix of rewarding classes and group get-togethers are being offered this fall by the Forest Hill Ministry of Adult Spiritual Growth. Discussion topics include ways to more easily follow Jesus' teachings and deal with life's negative forces, pre-Christian scriptures included in the *Book of Wisdom*, Probing Jesus' parables, and ways to address racial equity in our daily lives.

Most classes "meet" (via Zoom and/or in person) Sunday mornings at 9:15am; others meet Saturday mornings or another day and time. For more information about this fall's offerings, go to the church's website at [fhcpresb.org](http://fhcpresb.org) and look for the complete list of adult classes. Lists will also be mailed and are also available at the church.



### **Tower Staff/Volunteers**

#### **Antoinette Richardson**

FHC Director of Communications  
(office administrator: [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org))

**Jim Hogg**, advisory editor: [hoggwriter@gmail.com](mailto:hoggwriter@gmail.com)

**Kay Hogg**, layout designer: [kayhogg64@gmail.com](mailto:kayhogg64@gmail.com)

***Next Tower Deadline: October 13, 2022***

### **Staff Contacts**

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Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music: [music@fhcpresb.org](mailto:music@fhcpresb.org)

Dr. Amy Wheatley, Family, Youth, Children: [CE@fhcpresb.org](mailto:CE@fhcpresb.org)

Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate

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Genetha (Nita) Clark, Finance: [finance@fhpresb.org](mailto:finance@fhpresb.org)

### **Social Media Platforms**

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

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/ForestHillChurch>

Instagram: [@fhcpresb](https://www.instagram.com/fhcpresb)

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/foresthillpcusa/>