



Forest Hill Church

presbyterian

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

The TOWER

APRIL 2023

HOLY WEEK



**Palm
Sunday**



**Maundy
Thursday**



**Good
Friday**



**Easter
Sunday**

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Pastor



WORDS FROM REV. DR. JOHN C. LENTZ, JR.

T.S. Eliot wrote, "April is the cruelest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain."

I have always thought that was a bit harsh! I like April. The Guardians are back in play. The days are significantly longer. And even though our gardens aren't fully in bloom – there are a lot of buds budding and flowers sprouting. On top of all this we celebrate Easter, the day of resurrection and new life. I hope you will make it back to church on **Sunday, April 9 at 11:00 AM.**

April is very special this year for two more reasons. I have invited two amazing people to preach at Forest Hill Church during the month. On **Sunday, April 2** The Rev. George Walker will preach. George and I have been friends for 30 years. We met while in Winchester, Va. He was a recent graduate of Duke Divinity School and was an intern at one of the two PCUSA church in town. I was serving as the Associate Pastor at the other church. George is smart and funny and committed to things that matter. He worked for a while in Cleveland at Interact Cleveland. He now lives with his partner in Washington DC.

At the end of the month (**April 30**) The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner will preach. Dr. Wagner is the Assistant Professor of Preaching at Princeton Theological Seminary. But we know Professor Wagner as Kim who grew up at Forest Hill Church. Kim, her mom and dad (Jim and Debbie) and sister Christine were much beloved. We are hopeful that the entire family will return for a reunion of joy and fellowship. Kim recently published her first book entitled: *Fractured Ground: Preaching in the Wake of Mass Trauma*, (Westminster/John Knox Press). Forest Hill Church will be hosting a public lecture and talk back on **Friday, April 28 at 10:00 AM.** All are welcome.

Don't miss these special days and hear some dynamic preaching. Come and see why April is not the cruelest, but maybe the best, most hopeful and coolest month of the year.

Maundy Thursday, Thursday, April 6. 6:00 supper. 7:00 service of worship in the sanctuary. If you wish to join, please register here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/25a55e15>.

Good Friday, Friday, April 7 Community Good Friday Service at St. Pauls', Cleveland Heights 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM.

~Peace to you! John



**Rev. George Walker will be our guest preacher
on Sunday, April 2.**

George Walker serves as the Chief Equity Officer for Planned Parenthood Federation of America. He oversees the implementation and stewardship of diversity, equity and inclusion for the organization and will lead the team that drives the work throughout the national office, and assists in guiding the Federation. Prior to coming to PPFA, he led Diversity & Inclusion at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, the world's oldest cancer care facility. A proud former volunteer of the U.S. Peace Corps, he served in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

George Walker has worked extensively in social justice and philanthropic causes, as an employee and volunteer. He currently sits on the founding board of the Studio Design School, based in New York. In February 2012, President Barack Obama appointed him to be a member of the White House Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), where he served until the end of the administration in 2016. He was selected to serve as a German Marshall Memorial Fellow, representing the US and learning about transnational partnerships on a variety of issues while traveling to five European Countries.

George is a graduate of Morehouse College (BA History) and The Divinity School, Duke University (M-Div). He is also a graduate of The Georgetown University, with a Certificate in Executive Coaching. He is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC).



**Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner will be our guest preacher
on Sunday, April 30.**

The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner serves as the Assistant Professor of Preaching at Princeton Theological Seminary. She received a B.S. in Secondary Life Science Education from Miami University (OH), an M.Div. from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and

her Ph.D. from the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University. Though she has served among the Lutherans and was educated among United Methodists, Dr. Wagner is ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Previous experience on the pastoral staff of a PCUSA congregation in Virginia helps fuel and inform her present scholarship and teaching. She is passionate about supporting students' formation and helping clergy and communities navigate the realities of an ever-changing world and church. Her current writing and work focus on preaching and ministry in the midst and wake of trauma, particularly thinking about collective trauma, the role of the preacher, and the resources of our Scriptures and faith to respond to these moments. Dr. Wagner's book, *Fractured Ground: Preaching in the Wake of Mass Trauma* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2023), offers guidance for preaching in the aftermath of communal trauma, including mass violence, natural disasters, and public health crises.

Dear Friends,

I am inviting you to participate in three gatherings that will help open up future possibilities for our church. Each and every congregant is important in the process of moving forward.

As you remember, soon after Pastor Goines retired, the Session organized a series of “Congregational Conversations” to help us process our feelings. We had over 100 people participate. The questions were:

- How are you feeling?
- What did you most appreciate about Pastor Goines and the Co-Pastor model?
- What did we learn about ourselves?
- What are our hopes for the future?

Table leaders took notes. The notes were then collated and analyzed by a team from Case Western Reserve University. The report will be ready for distribution to you by the end of April.

I believe that in order for us to take full advantage of learning from this report we need to have an orderly process so that our reflection together leads us into the next ray of light that is before us.

I am asking you for a big commitment. Before we talk about the report, we need to grow in our ability to listen to and interact with one another. With this in mind the Session has contracted with the Cleveland Mediation Center for two three-hour trainings on conflict management, creative and faithful listening and communication skills. These trainings will be held on successive Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon, April 15 and 22.

Then, on Sunday evening, May 21 from 5 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., leaders from Equius, an organization that has walked with us along the racial equity path for ten years, will lead a de-brief of the report on the Congregational Conversations.

The Session believes that these three events are intimately tied together. If we are going to grow and heal and learn from our past so we can move faithfully into God's future for us, we need to make this commitment to each other.

I trust that you will try your best to come to all three. However, I realize that life is full. If you can only attend one or two sessions, it is important that you do that.

Finally, Session is discussing hiring an outside consultant to help us chart a faithful path forward. We are committed to engaging with a consultant firm that has both the theological and cultural competencies to help us on our continuing journey towards becoming the Beloved Community.

We are at a very important crossroads in the life of our church.

If you wish to join, please register here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/0817a5>.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr. Pastor



Dear Forest Hill Members and Friends,

We are happy to announce our new Church Administrator, Laura Schultz joined the staff of Forest Hill Church (FHC). Laura will be located in the former reception office, renamed the Church Administrator's office. **Her hours are Monday-Friday, from 9 am-2 pm. Laura's email is churchadmin@fhcpresb.org.**

Laura has a master's degree in library and information sciences from Kent State University. She lives in Solon with her husband

David and their four children – Alex 11, Evelyn 8, Jill 3 and Rachel 10 months. David is an adjunct professor at Tri-C. Laura's hobbies include knitting and playing the piano. Laura and David are members of Pioneer Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Laura's office and administrative responsibilities include the following:

- Welcoming members, visitors and vendors and answering phones
- Maintaining church records
- Budgeting, inventorying and ordering office supplies
- Serving as the administrator of the member database (Breeze)
- Coordinating the work of the office volunteers
- Providing graphic support and inserts for the live-streamed worship services
- Maintaining the FHC's policy manual under the direction of Session and the Personnel Committee
- Supporting the Pastor and Clerk of Session as needed

When contacting the church, expect Laura to become the first voice you hear or face you see. Going forward, we ask that you enter the building on weekdays via the door at the entrance to the Christian Education wing for direct access to the reception area.

The arrival of our Church Administrator will relieve Communications Manager Antoinette Richardson of office and administrative tasks, enabling her to focus on FHC's communications.

Please join us in welcoming Laura Schultz to the staff of Forest Hill Church.

Sincerely,

Pastor John Lentz

FHC Personnel Committee

Dear Friends,

I know you join me in being devastated by the news of the shooting in Nashville. We are a sick nation. We lack the theological courage to imagine a more peaceful and just society where our children go to school without the fear of gun violence. It is shameful that we cannot raise the political will to pass common sense gun control.

Do not give up on faith, hope and love even in this time of stunned sadness. As we move further into this season of Lent, as we move towards the story of Christ's passion and death feel the pain and raise the lament. But do not forget the triumph of Easter. God is waiting on us to be a resurrection people. I am grateful that after Easter we will be hosting a gun buyback in our parking lot. We have our voices, actions and our votes. Use them faithfully.

~Pastor John

ROSE PETAL WEDDING TOSS FOR SARAH LENTZ!!!

Be a part of Sarah's big day by contributing your spent roses for tossing! It's a tradition to shower the bride and groom as they exit the church, so as her church family lets all get in on the celebration.

Bring your spent roses to be dried, or do it yourself as it's easy. Any color is fine. Pull the rose head gently off the stem, separate and scatter the petals loosely on a baking cooling rack. Toss daily until crispy. Place in an open paper bag or container and drop off at the volunteer office. Be sure to add your name so Sarah will know from whom they came.

Treat yourself to some roses (you deserve it) or honor your sweetie with a bouquet.

Any questions contact krisfay@mac.com.



Open Invitation

To Friends of Forest Hill Church to attend the wedding of

Sarah Lentz & Jordan Swaim-Fox

July 1, 2023 | 4 - 6 PM
Forest Hill Church Presbyterian
3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts



While a private dinner will be held later that evening, a light reception will be held in the Forest Hill courtyard immediately following the ceremony for the church community. We are grateful for the vital role the church family has played in our lives and very much hope you will celebrate with us on our wedding day.





Forest Hill Church
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Family, Youth, and Children Ministries



SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

FHC Fellowship Hall

Parents, grandparents, babies, toddlers,
children, and teens - all families are welcome!

Family Meal

A family-friendly taco bar, drinks and dessert will be provided.
(No need to cook or shop tonight!)

After Dinner FUN for Everyone!

Games and activities for kids of all ages
Dessert, coffee, and conversation for grown-ups

This event is free for families, but please register before March 29:

<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/c79c4e>.



**Family Youth and Children's Ministry
invites you to
A Luncheon for All Generations
to benefit *I Support the Girls Cleveland*
featuring a program by *Women in History***

Sunday, May 7, 2023

12:15pm – 2:00pm

FHC Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$10 per person

No charge for those under 16 years of age

**Bring your mom, daughter, granddaughter, friend...
Enjoy lunch and a performance by actress Jeannine Gaskin,
portraying Jane Edna Hunter**

- ~ A child of South Carolina sharecroppers, born in 1882
- ~ Social worker, attorney, advocate who worked to improve the lives of African American women
- ~ Founder of the Phillis Wheatley Association and the Women's Civic League of Cleveland
- ~ Cuyahoga County Social Service Center on Euclid Avenue is named for her
- ~ Buried at Lakeview Cemetery

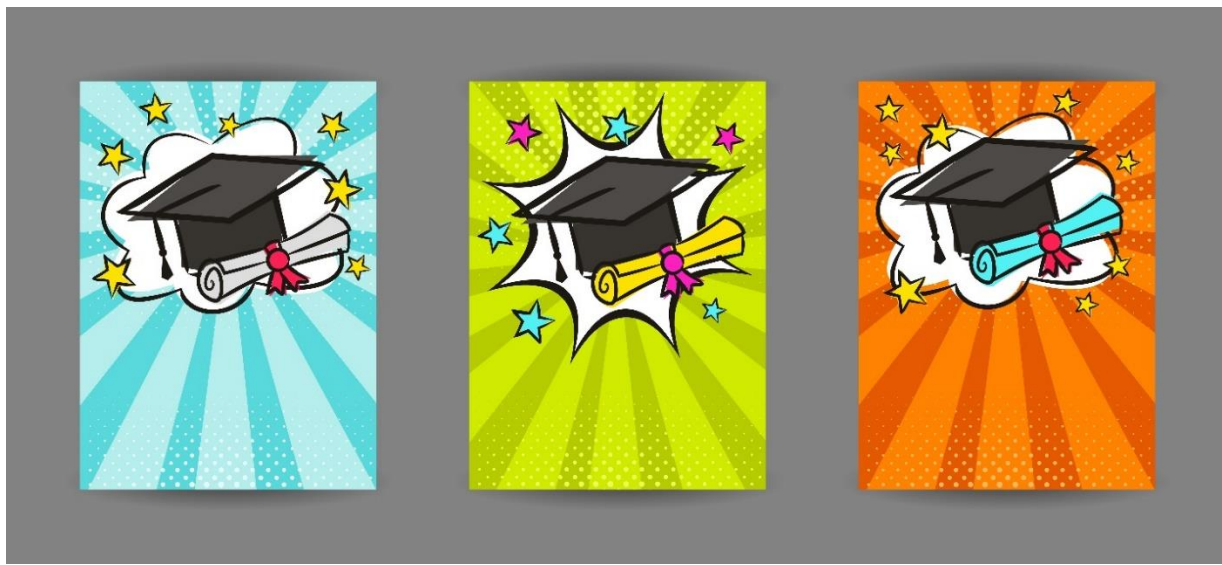


This event will benefit ***I SUPPORT THE GIRLS CLEVELAND***, a non-profit that distributes menstrual hygiene products to women and folx experiencing homelessness, poverty, or distress.

Please support the girls by donating a new, sealed box of tampons or pads.

Register here by April 30: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/aaf78b>

Contact Amy Wheatley, ce@fhcpresb.org



Celebrating our Graduates!

On Sunday, May 21, we will recognize those in our church family who are graduating this spring. If you or a family member would like to be included in our recognition of graduates, please complete this form prior to May 12: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/9a5b69> or contact Amy Wheatley, ce@fhcpresb.org.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

We had fun and engaging gatherings last month.

We made breakfast burritos and enjoyed a meal together before worship on a chilly Sunday morning.



A group of twelve teens and parents visited the Maltz Museum to see the exhibit
“This Light of Ours: Activist Photographers of the Civil Rights Movement.”



The group had fun and put all of their problem-solving skills to the test
as they worked together to successfully get out of an ESCAPE ROOM in under an hour!



Paul Jennings, manager of the Abundant Food Pantry, joined us during a Sunday gathering to
share information about this important mission of our congregation. Youth then had the
opportunity to volunteer at the pantry on a Tuesday morning during their spring break.



OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS ARE GROWING!

The sanctuary is alive on Sunday mornings with the voices and energy of our children, who participate in the opening moments of worship with their families. The nursery is often overflowing with babies and toddlers. Sunday School is a busy place with curious and active preschoolers and elementary-aged children. We are always delighted to welcome new children and families – please join us!



FAMILY YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2



PALM PARADE! Children of all ages and their parents/grandparents are invited to be a part of our joyful procession during worship. Families will gather in the back of the sanctuary at 10:50am and during the opening hymn, we will lead the parade, waving our palm branches, as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

LITTLE CRESCENDOS CHILDREN'S CHOIR, directed by Julie Minder, will sing in worship on Palm Sunday. Children rehearse with Julie from 12pm-12:15pm on Sunday mornings following Sunday School. All ages are welcome!



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

EASTER EGG HUNT 10:30 AM

Meet us on the front lawn of church before worship and join in the fun of our annual egg hunt! Children of all ages, accompanied by a parent or grandparent, are welcome.

WORSHIP FOR ALL 11:00 AM

Families are encouraged to worship together on Easter Sunday – no Sunday School or Youth Group today. There will be childcare available for little ones, birth to age 5, in Rooms 201-203, and there will be special worship activity bags for children in the sanctuary.



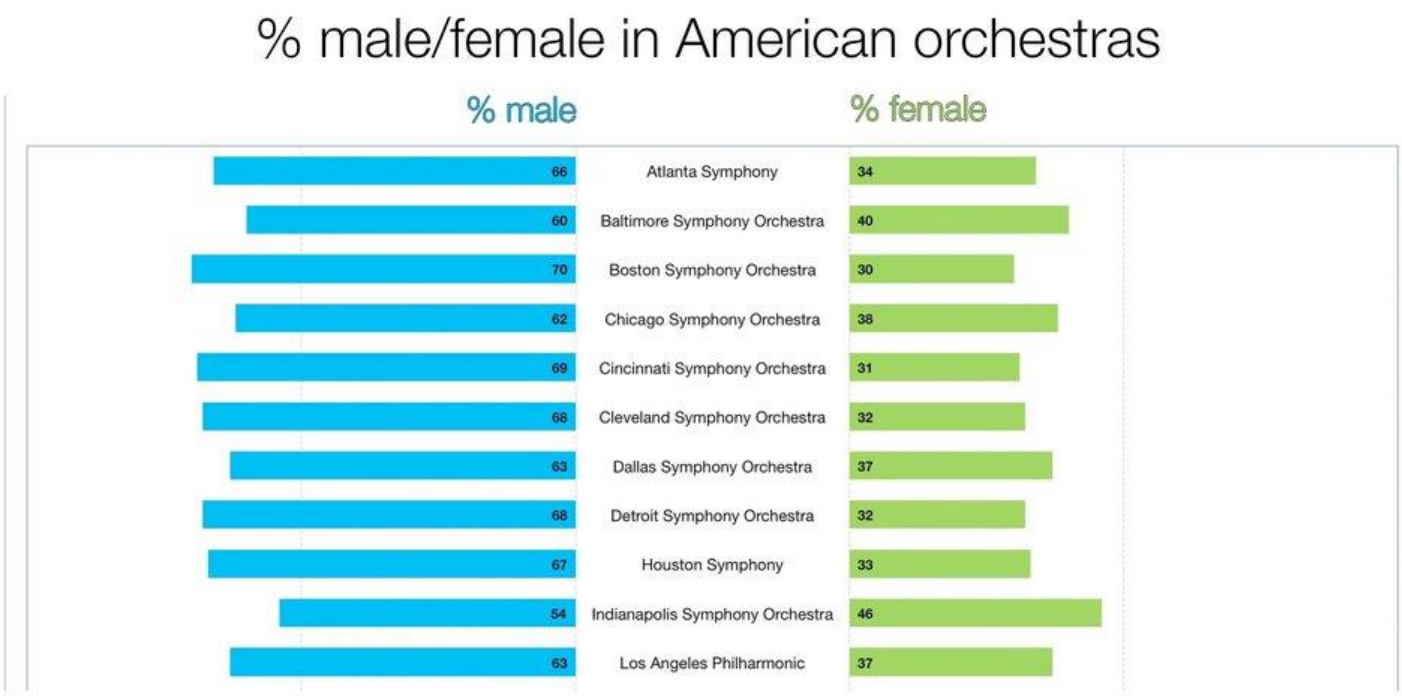
~ Amy Wheatley, Director of Family, Youth and Children

A Recollection of Concert, “Music She Wrote”
By Qin Ying Tan, Music Director

To celebrate Womens' History Month, the music ministry presented a concert program of music by female composers from the 17th and 18th century at Forest Hills Church on Saturday, March 4th. Jessica Kelley, who is a professor of sociology at Case Western Reserve University, led a talk and discussion prior to the concert, comparing issues that surrounded these female composers to current issues that still exist in today's performing arts world.

Present-Day Issues

It is not shocking that women are still paid less than men and the percentage of female workers in STEM fields still make up less than 30% of the workforce. However, it was revealing to see that on average, American orchestras are made up of 63% men and 37% women.



(Image of graph sourced from Classic FM)

The number of female conductors for orchestra is around 13% in the US and there are still **no female conductors in the top five orchestras in America.**



(Presentation by Ying and Jessica Kelley during the pre-concert reception)

Though surprising, the absence of female artists is not a strange phenomenon. Almost all of the female composers of the music we heard on March 4th were not allowed to take on professional positions in courts and churches despite being fully qualified to do so. The reason-- females were not allowed to be employed as professional composers and musicians. Positions were available as actresses and singers in theaters but female artistes in those professions had ill reputations and were always plagued by scandals.

Female Composers in 1700s-1800s

One of the female composers we presented during the talk and concert was Élisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre. Jacquet de la Guerre was a French harpsichordist and composer born to a family of master masons and musicians. By age five, the young prodigy had been invited to sing and play the keyboards at the court of Louis XIV. Her father, a harpsichord maker, was adamant that his daughters be afforded the same quality of musical education as his sons. This, in addition to the rich musical tradition of her family, helped Jacquet de la Guerre's musical career flourish despite her gender.

As her gender prevented her from holding a position in court, Jacquet de la Guerre could only perform and publish privately. Fortunately, King Louis XIV recognized her talent and awarded her an annual pension, in addition to funding her publications.



(Soprano, Andrea Walker in "Music She Wrote")

The unusual situation of Jacquet de la Guerre's gender in the sphere of male professional musicians was not lost on the composer herself. As the first female to pen an opera in France, she made sure to note in the work's dedication that the music was 'a sort of piece that no one of my sex has yet attempted.'

The Master of the King's Music, Jean-Baptiste Lully, delayed the premiere of her opera until a year after the composition was completed. The premiere was not well-received, with many speculating that the public (and perhaps the opera musicians themselves) were unwilling to accept the music of a woman.

In addition, female writers and artistes have often written of fears and concerns of putting their works in public. Barbara Strozzi (we sang her song, "L'Amante Segregate") wrote of her apprehensions, "Being a woman, I am concerned about publishing this work. Would that it lie safely under a golden oak tree and not be endangered by the swords of slander which have certainly already been drawn to do battle against it."

Barbara Strozzi did endure criticisms and slanders, and in fact, had to endure rumors that she was a courtesan since a lady of her standing did not sing and play in public in 17th century Italy. Despite such challenges, Barbara Strozzi's entrepreneurial and thriving spirit endures to this day through her publications.



(Antoinette Franklin recites "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou after Strozzi's L'Amante Segreto)

This event was brought to fruition by the Friends of Music fund, and we gratefully acknowledge those who donated to this fund. We welcome contributions to FOM to help support more musical events at Forest Hills Church.



SHOW ME THE MONEY!

This year, your Stewardship Ministry is “doing something new.” We thought it might be meaningful for all of us to see where some of these commitment dollars go. It’s always great to be able to have some concrete examples of the operating budget we talk about sometimes a bit abstractly. While all of us run our households within (hopefully) our carefully measured budgets, it’s another thing entirely to run a whole church – ministries, building, staff, supplies, and on and on.

So, for example, have you ever wondered what it takes to do a start-of-season cleanup session on the outside grounds of the church? Never fear, we’re here to tell you.

FHC’s beautiful corner lot is large – about three acres. That includes many long edges that need cleaning up, a number of beds that need to be raked out and re-mulched, and, of course, a lot of grassy area to be mowed, raked, and maintained. As a congregation, we’ve made a commitment to a toxic-chemical-free landscaping regimen, so some processes are a bit more intensive than simply squirting a couple of gallons of RoundUp around. We’re committed to being responsible stewards of our planet in addition to our funds.

It costs nearly \$2,000 for the landscaping crews to do the work that gets the spring season started. These costs for outside contractors don’t cover the many gifted hours of work done every year by congregants on the outside gardens (particularly the Memorial Garden and the Courtyard Garden) or staff custodial hours spent on grounds work.

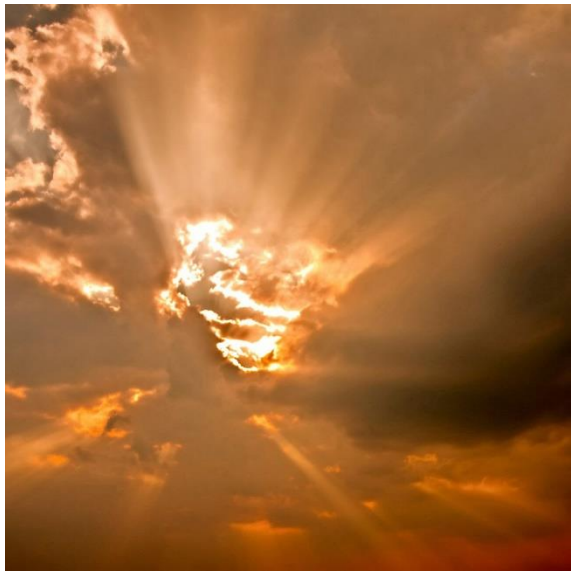
Fortunately, FHC sought and has hired a minority-owned landscaping business for this work. So, our commitment dollars that go toward this operating expense are extending the benefits of circulating funds in the local community and supporting our anti-racist values.

Watch in coming months for more examples of our commitment dollars at work.

As always, we are honored to serve alongside you,

~The Stewardship Ministry





FROM THE MINISTRY OF ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Lenten practice community conversation.

On Monday, April 3 at 7 PM (via in-person and zoom), the ministry of Adult Spiritual Growth will host a conversation about your Lenten experience.

Come and share where the Lenten practice helped you grow in your faith, what moved you and what brought you new insights in your preparation to be with yourself, your community and with Jesus in his suffering and resurrection. For more information or

questions, email spiritgrowth@fhcpresb.org.

Here is the ZOOM information if you wish to join:

Topic: Lenten Practice — Conversation

Time: Monday, Apr 3, 2023, 06:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87810992240>

Meeting ID: 878 1099 2240

One tap mobile

646-558-8656

EASTER LILIES!



Hello everyone! We will again be decorating the sanctuary for Easter on April 9 with Lilies! The cost of each lily is \$20. Instructions for ordering and paying for the lilies are included on the order form. You can pay through BREEZE or send off/drop off a check at the church. The lilies can be picked up after worship on Easter Sunday, April 9, if you wish to take them with you. Otherwise, please indicate on the order form if you would like the lilies donated.

If you wish to purchase, please use this link:

<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/641db770117975>.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday consists of the Last Supper, the washing of the disciples' feet, and it extends into the garden, where Jesus takes with him Peter, James, and John, to tarry while he goes off to pray. The story unfolds with Jesus fervently praying for God to take away the cup (his crucifixion). Three times he prayed for release, and each time his disciples fell asleep. Ultimately, Jesus came to acceptance, praying, "Nevertheless, not my will but Thine be done."

Join us on Thursday, April 6, at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall. A worship Service will follow at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.

If you wish to join us for Maundy Thursday dinner, please register here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/25a55e15>.

Building and Grounds

The south portico repairs are out for bids. These will be analyzed so that repairs may begin soon. An engineering report has been received.

Many thanks to the Dr Hugh and Lois Leslie Fund for the repairs needed to hear our wonderful carillon chiming once again!

New Event Setup forms are being implemented for Fellowship Hall and Bodwell Hall. Their use will enable ministries and renters to clearly communicate how they would like rooms set up for their events. If you have any questions, contact Ann Donkin (adonkin@fhcpresb.org).

WORD FROM OUR DEACONS

April 2023 update from your Deacons

As members of the beloved community, we have all been placed in care groups with a Deacon assigned to each group. First, if you have any cares or concerns, we want you to know that Deacons are available to facilitate needed meals, prayer requests and fellowship. Please reach out to Antoinette who will connect to your deacon should a need arise. Next, each Care group has the opportunity to assist with coffee hour after Sunday services. Your Deacon will reach out to you the month your group has been assigned.

Below is a list of Deacons and care group months assignments.

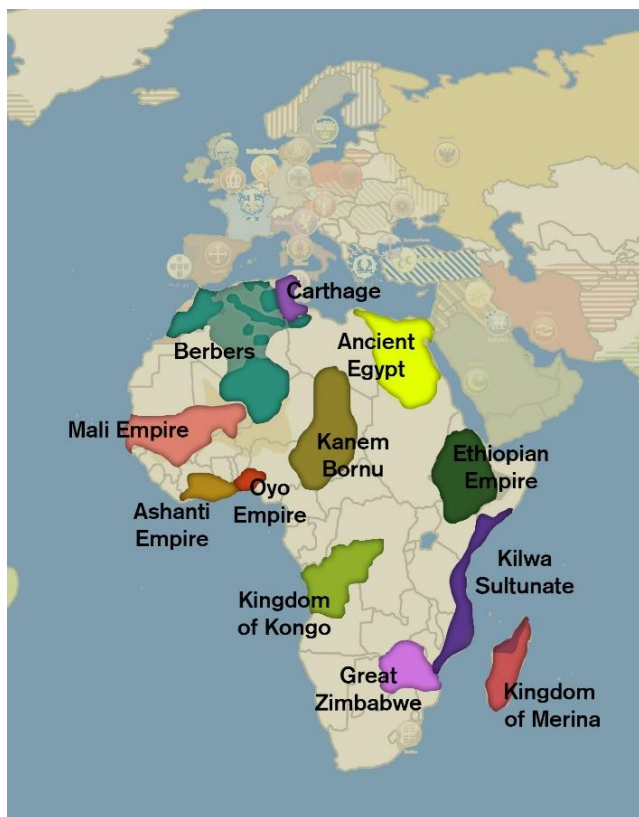
- February-All Deacons
- March-Mary Ann Breisch-Jericho
- April-Susan (Kay) Dunlap-Nazareth
- May-Peg Weissbrod-Corinth
- June-Kitty McWilliams-Nazareth
- July-Cathy Hanna Stauffer-Canaan
- August-Gail Larson-Jerusalem
- September-Laurie Rose-Mount Sinai
- October-Kemp Jaycox-Calvary
- November-Deanne Lentz-Eden
- December-All Deacons
- January-Sharon Wiggins-Jordan

~Deacons Ministry, Deacons@fhcpresb.org

REACHING FOR THE BELOVED COMMUNITY EQUITY BOOK CLUB AND RACIAL EQUITY BUDDIES

The objectives of the Equity Book Club and Racial Equity Buddies include: generating awareness and individual learning on topics of racial equity; facilitating discussions; and creating a safe space for conversations on these sensitive topics. We believe such conversations are a necessary prerequisite to establishing the Beloved Community that Dr. King so lovingly and boldly spoke of. Significantly, we see the Beloved Community extending beyond the walls of FHC into the broader community and embracing all. Toward that end, the book club and buddies have been endorsed and co-sponsored by The First Congregational Church of Hudson (UCC) and the Adult Spiritual Education Ministry of Forest Hill Church.

We invite you to join us on this equity journey. To participate in either program, you can: 1) email racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org; 2) call the office; 3) or sign up on BREEZE (<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/74fa0d190839624>). **All book club events are via ZOOM, Saturday mornings from 10:30 am to noon.** Specific dates and books are listed below. Equity buddies have confidential and sacred conversations on issues of race and racism when convenient for the two buddies. If you would like an equity buddy we can assist in that endeavor.



Black History Does NOT Begin With Slavery

An alien who observed Black History Month celebrations throughout the United States easily could have come to the mistaken conclusion that Black History began with slavery. That is far from the truth! How and why Africa is not central to that celebration is puzzling.

The Equity Book Club, in our small way, is trying to remedy the overlooking of the continent where human life and civilization began. We continue to read and discuss books and events that occurred long before the African slave trade began. In January, we read the historical novel *Homegoing*, by Yaa Gyasi which gave us a glimpse of Africans and their culture free of western influences. This April we take a deeper dive into African antiquity when we discuss John Henrik Clarke's* primer on the subject ***African People in World History***.

We begin discussing this book and subject on Saturday morning April 29, from 10:30 am to noon via zoom. We conclude our discussion on this book on May 13.



Visualizing The True Size of Africa

The map below shows the true size of Africa, as revealed by the borders of the countries that can fit within the continent's shape. The African continent has a land area of 30.37 million sq km (11.7 million sq mi) — enough to fit in the U.S., China, India, Japan, Mexico, and many European nations, combined.

*Dr. John Henrik Clarke

The Sankofa World Publishers website describes Clarke's role in the mid-20th century political, academic, cultural, literary, and social leadership: "Dr. Clarke's special relationship with African people afforded him the company of kings, queens, presidents, and other heads of state. For example, Dr. Clarke mentored Kwame Nkrumah while he was a student in the United States. Because of the special relationship they shared, when Ghana — the first Sub-Saharan nation in modern times — gained its independence in 1957, Clarke served as a journalist for the Ghana

Evening News for several years. Dr. Clarke was enstooled as a chief for a region among the Ga people of Ghana....

“Without a doubt, his association with Betty Shabazz and Malcolm X, Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin, Martin Luther King Jr., Richard Wright, Julian Mayfield, Audre Lorde, John G. Jackson, Chancellor Williams, Yosef ben-Jochannan, John Oliver Killens, Hoyt Fuller, Druscilla Dundee Houston, and many other important historical figures of this century who are too numerous to mention here, is a testimony of Dr. Clarke’s influence and place in history as a seminal figure.”

June 10 & 24 We conclude our book club for this year by visiting an issue roiling today's political landscape, *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy*, by Prof. Carol Andersen. Dr. Anderson is a highly praised academic who has mastered the art of gathering information and writing for a general readership. This book could not be timelier.

Today's Voter Suppression Tactics Have A 150 Year History

"The Georgetown elections - the Negro at the ballot box." Cartoon by Thomas Nast, 1867.
Library of Congress

Goodreads review in part:

With *One Person, No Vote*, she chronicles a related history: the rollbacks to African American participation in the vote since the 2013 Supreme Court decision that eviscerated the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Known as the *Shelby* ruling, this decision effectively allowed districts with a demonstrated history of racial discrimination to change voting requirements without approval from the Department of Justice.

Focusing on the aftermath of *Shelby*, Anderson follows the astonishing story of government-dictated racial discrimination unfolding before our very eyes as more and more states adopt voter suppression laws. In gripping, enlightening detail she explains how voter suppression works, from photo ID requirements to gerrymandering to poll closures. And with vivid characters, she explores the resistance: the organizing, activism, and court battles to restore the basic right to vote to all Americans Kirkus's review reads in part:

'After providing a look back at voter suppression throughout the history of the United States, Anderson (African-American Studies/Emory Univ.)—who won the National Book Critics Circle Award for *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* (2016), her top-notch dissection of racial issues in America—focuses on the years since 2013, when the majority of states and Congress ratcheted up their anti-democracy, racist campaign to reduce the number of black voters.

~Quentin Smith



What is Biodiversity all about, and why does it matter?

Maintaining biodiversity is about keeping the natural world's millions of plants and animals species alive in good health. Why? They are part of the continuous chain by which all, including we human species, are able to thrive on planet Earth. The 'Earth Care' for biodiversity takes on many actions and activities that intertwine a bit of everything, much like the current movie title. This includes maintaining the land, waters, air, and forest as well so that our own species can live in harmony with the environment.

In addition to saving species simply for creation because God put them here, we are certainly aware that many species of plants and animals harbor the genetic material keys to our historical medical advances, and portend to many more that will benefit ours and future generations. Over many decades, scientific studies have shown that every ecosystem on the planet is governed by keystone species—be they land or aquatic animal, insect, or plants, that all other living things in that particular system depend upon. Consequently it can be said that no species should be allowed to become extinct through Man's actions. Ultimately, we the human species are dependent on a vast complex of plant and animal life for our existence. Degradation and destruction of land and water habitat—especially that caused by man overwhelms any temporary effects caused by natural forces such as fire, drought, storms, floods, etc.

One prime example of a 'keystone' species—and a valuable success story—is the restoration of wolves to Yellowstone National Park. Wolves became the keystone species—predator—keeping elk and deer in check. In turn, fewer browsers meant that birch and other riverine tree species returned to flourish, resulting in better water flows and conservation, and subsequent return of beavers. Many other examples abound in many ecosystems around the globe where nature can rebound if given the chance. And a keystone species doesn't always need to be a predator. In the Serengeti, it is the wildebeest. Their numbers fluctuate with their health, and their enemy the lion population follows. If all the lions go, overgrazing and conflicts with pastoral peoples and their livestock ensue as grassland is taken up—problems for other animals and people alike.

Protecting species is the mantra of organizations like Center for Biological Diversity. They are therefore focussed on programs that promote the funding and legislative support of the Endangered Species Act; the Environmental Protection Agency for clean air and water, and they oppose land-grab actions by natural resource extractive industries which bespoil the land and degrade valuable habitat for many plant and animal species.

th and the planet.

~ Dave Neff, Earth Care Leader

Ps: Once again FHC is re-certified as an Earth Care Congregation for 2023 by PCUSA!



Have your very own FHC Camp Chair!

Since last summer's outdoor services, when these chairs were introduced in red, there has been much interest in members purchasing one for themselves. Bring your chair to church activities and other places too, like Blossom, neighborhood block party or sporting events. It's great advertising for the church!

Details:

- *Constructed with a lightweight tubular framework (weight limit 300lb).
- *Royal Blue Polyester fabric imprinted with the FHC logo on the back. (to identify yours from those belonging to FHC.)
- *2 Mesh cup holders and a carrying bag with shoulder strap.
- *\$30.00 each

Watch for actual ordering information coming soon. We hope to receive delivery this spring. For questions contact krisfay@mac.com

FIBER AND FELLOWSHIP



We will continue to meet and grow on the Second Saturday of each month. We will be meeting from **10 AM - 1 PM** (note time change).

Upcoming Dates:

April 8

May 13

June 10

As a group, we are working on quilts for donation and a special project to provide quilts for children who have been admitted to the hospital. Knitters are going strong with car seat blankets and Prayer Shawls.

Personal projects are welcome as advice and tips are freely given. All are welcome- beginner to experienced. We are happy to teach. **Contact Carol Gifford for additional information.**

216-598-9730 cmsgiff79@aol.com

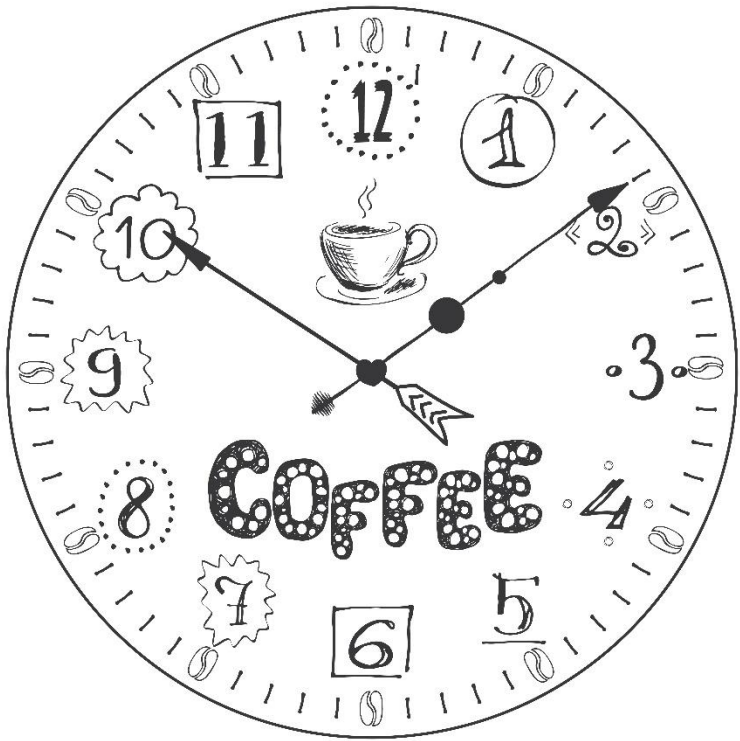


SOFTBALL SEASON IS BACK!!

Forest Hill softball season is right around the corner. Anyone 16 years of age and older wishing to join the team, please complete this signup form. 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, sign up

here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/50acb69288>.



COFFEE HOUR

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

~Deacons



IN PERSON BREEZE TRAINING FOR ELDERS OF THE MINISTRIES AND COMMITTEES!

Hello there! We want you to learn how Breeze applies to you! Let's improve your Breeze skills. If you are a first, second, or third year elder or a leader of your committee, I (Antoinette) would like to meet with you. Training is available each Friday afternoon, to reserve a training slot, please email the church office (office@fhcpresb.org).

SOLES 4 SOULS

TURNING SHOES AND CLOTHING INTO OPPORTUNITY.

When people lack the resources to get through today, it's difficult for them to focus on tomorrow. Soles4Souls turns shoes and clothing into opportunities for education and employment so they can have a more hopeful future.

If you wish to make a donation, you may donate on the website (<https://soles4souls.org/>) or donate in person each Tuesday during FHC Food Pantry hours (10 am-1 pm) with Gail Durany.

For more information, feel free to contact Gail at gduranys4s@gmail.com.



Emmanuel, our guest from Burkina Faso living in the church's Sanctuary Apartment, has been able to receive an International Driver's license. This allows him to drive in the United States, providing him the important freedom of getting around more easily. Please call or email Jeff Smith (jeffsmith2756@gmail.com, 216-312-6989). If you, or someone you know, has a used, relatively reliable automobile that might be donated to Emmanuel while he patiently waits for his asylum hearing to be heard. Since Emmanuel is a mechanic, the car does not have to be in perfect condition.



The GenderSphere Support Group

Our next meeting: Tuesday, April 18

What is it? A group to support transgender and gender diverse folks of all ages, as well as their family members and allies.

When: the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7-9 PM

Where: Forest Hill Church, 3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Values: We believe that everyone has the right of self-expression.

We honor and respect all people who come to our meetings.

Leadership: Sarah Jackson, Jodi Solomon, and Ann Williams are the planners and facilitators.

The GenderSphere Support Group is affiliated with Camp Lilac, in honor of gender-diverse children and youth.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ann Williams, spiritgrowth@fhcpresb.org.



The 32nd Homeless Stand Down (CLE) will take place this year from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM on Saturday, April 22, at Cleveland Public Auditorium.

For many years, Forest Hill Church, now a sponsoring organization of the Stand Down, has fielded a volunteer team on the day of the event. This year we will be personal shoppers once again, and I invite you to join our team!

If you would like to join, please follow the link below. Just so you know, you must register with the organizer, BVU before you can sign up. TO BE ASSURED A SPOT, PLEASE SIGN UP BEFORE 20 MARCH, WHEN REGISTRATION WILL OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. After you sign up, please also send me a quick email so that I know you're on the roster. See you on April 22!

<https://volunteerconnect.bvuvolunteers.org/opportunity/a0C8V00001xxKd4UAE/personal-shoppers>

If you would like more information or if you have questions, please feel free to contact Jack Breisch (jackbreisch@gmail.com).

HOLD YOUR NEXT SPECIAL EVENT AT FHC!

Did you know the church is available for your next baby shower, family celebration, concert or conference?

Fees are very reasonable. Fellowship Hall seats 200, but there are many smaller spaces available. There are 2 kitchens, custodial help and free parking! Possibilities for your party planning are endless. Fees adjust for members and non-members.

Book your next event soon. For details contact Ann Donkin for more information or fill out a request here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/9894b2>.

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Isaiah 2:4



Guns to Gardens Safe Surrender Event

Sat. May 20, 10 am – 1 pm

Place unwanted, unloaded guns in a vehicle trunk.

Gun donors are anonymous.

No ammunition is accepted.

Thank you gift cards will be provided until they run out.

The project is part of the “Guns to Gardens” movement, which works to reduce gun violence by reducing the number of guns in homes and communities. Unwanted guns are dismantled and the leftover parts are forged into garden tools. Guns to Gardens Safe Surrender events will be offered across the nation marking Wear Orange Day, June 2, Hadiya Pendleton’s birthday. She was a high school student from the south side of Chicago, who marched in President Obama’s second inaugural parade. One week later, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago. Soon after this tragedy, Hadiya’s childhood friends decided to commemorate her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others.

With over 400 million guns in American homes, many of these guns are no longer wanted for a range of reasons: the gun owner may have children or grandchildren in the home; a hunter or other gun owner may have reached an age where they no longer feel that they can safely handle weapons; a gun may have been returned to family by the police after it was used in a suicide or accident; there may be conflict in a family or there may a family member with a serious illness. For whatever reason, Guns to Gardens provides a way to dispose of unwanted guns without returning them to the gun marketplace, where they could be used for future harm.

Over 43,000 Americans die every year from gun violence. Approximately 60% of the gun deaths are from suicide, followed by homicide, family violence and accidents. A difficult moment can turn into a tragedy simply because a gun is nearby.

Please support this event by spreading the word to family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Flyers advertising the event are available. See Cynthia Lehman or Derry Stauffer for flyers and/or more information.

You may also reach out to Cynthia Lehman to volunteer or if you have questions (716.830.4330 or email lehman.cynthia@gmail.com).

**JOIN FOREST HILL FRIENDS ON JUNE 11TH TO CELEBRATE LIFE AND TO
SUPPORT TRANSPLANT HOUSE OF CLEVELAND!**

6TH ANNUAL
Transplant House
of **Cleveland**



***Celebrating the Life
of Brian Vitale***

ALL members and friends of all ages are invited to join fellow Forest Hill's team as we walk to support Transplant House of Cleveland (THOC) and celebrate the Gift of Life!

The 5K run/1 mile walk begins and ends at THOC and winds through University Circle and a portion of the Cleveland Cultural Garden. Proceeds benefit Transplant House of Cleveland is a local non-profit that provides affordable, temporary housing and a welcoming, supportive community to organ transplant patients and their families. THOC, located in University Circle, is under the leadership of FHC's own Elaine Turley (co-founder and Executive Director) and is truly an example of the healing power of community.

Please notify Sue Lafferty (salaff@sbcglobal.net or 440-669-4885) if you would like to join the Team or if you have any questions! We will coordinate carpooling from Forest Hill on the day of the event. Each team member will need to complete and submit the attached registration form. The race fee is \$30 per entrant in advance/\$35 Day of the Race. All team members will receive a T-shirt and runner bag! Registration forms will also be available at church.

Can't run or walk but would still like to Support Transplant House of Cleveland? You may write a check to Transplant House of Cleveland and mail it to 2029 E. 115th St., Cleveland, OH. 44106

Give online via this link: <https://www.transplanthouseofcleveland.org/5k-run-1-mile-walk/>, where there is a DONATE button at the top of the page—donation acknowledgments to anyone who gives.



GREENING WITH YOU AND THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

There are ways for us to green-up our household and save money in the process long term, although it requires some investment up front. The recently passed so-called Inflation Reduction Act provides for some ways to gain from going 'greener' with our household utilization of more energy efficient applications.

---Buying a new or even used electric vehicle can qualify for a tax credit, although of course you may also want/need to install home-centered charging facilities at upfront cost.

--It is known that gas stoves in the kitchen with leakage and use generate nearly as much methane-caused pollution as half a million cars. Switch to an electric stove. The new climate law allows for rebates if you switch to an electric range.

---In the laundry room, switching to an electric heat pump for drying is very popular in Europe and is much more energy efficient than a gas dryer. Purchase Rebates are also available here.

---A heat pump is another energy and cost-saving way to heat and cool your home with thoughtful control of your thermostat. Again, tax credits are available for new installations.

---With the steady reduction in costs for solar-based energy, through home installation of solar panels, or cooperative membership in regional wind or solar power farm installations, here is a good way to save money, reduce energy costs, reduce dependency on fossil fuels, and earn more tax credits.

---While not specifically related to the Inflation Reduction Act credit benefits, want to lower your food costs as well? Eat more locally-grown organic vegetables and minimize beef consumption for better compliance in combatting climate change and pollution. Growing beef cattle in feed-lots demands great water usage for monoculture crops that feed the cattle, and the cattle increase methane-pollution. Truck-based transportation fuel costs and pollution emissions can be minimized with locally grown food consumption.

Of course, much of the above requires an up-front investment in order to reduce energy dependency and usage, and ultimately save money. It may not be financially prudent to simply run out just now and change our appliances that we depend on. But it is the price that we should consider in order to contribute to get away from dependency on fossil fuels and improve the health of our planet.

~Dave Neff

APRIL 2023 BIRTHDAYS

First Name	Last Name	Birthdate Month/Day
Robert Bruce	Cameron	April 01
Brynn	Keefe	April 01
Robert	Reynolds	April 01
Jeremy	Ryman	April 04
Robert	Jeffreys	April 05
Sharon	Shumaker	April 05
Roberta	van Dijk	April 05
Lucille	Conde	April 08
Nick	Baumgartner	April 10
Marcia	Grant	April 13
Audrey	Himes	April 13
Laura	Peterjohn	April 14
Jeannine	Gury	April 15
Amy	Wheatley	April 15
Caleb	Correa-Marcy	April 16
William	Finn	April 17
Ajah	Hales	April 17
Seth	Ungemach	April 17
Steven	Hosier	April 18
Beth	Garrett	April 19
Benjamin	Stadler	April 19
Kermit	Lind	April 20
Phyllis	Baumgartner	April 23
Harold	Musick	April 24
Dave	Neff	April 24
Jeff	Smith	April 24
Laura	Stauffer	April 26
Jonathon	Hall	April 27
Patricia	Ludwig	April 27
Adam	Stauffer	April 28
Victoria	Sampson	April 29
Meridith	Vandall	April 29
Peter	Cary	April 30
Daniel	Shaner	April 30

CONTACT INFORMATION

Staff Emails

Antoinette Richardson	Communications	office@fhcpresb.org
Laura Schultz	Administration	churchadmin@fhcpresb.org
Genetha (Nita) Clark	Finance	finance@fhcpresb.org
Ann Donkin	Building Mgr.	adonkin@fhcpresb.org
Custodians	Custodian	custodian@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.	Pastor	pastorlentz@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
Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

Email: office@fhcpresb.org Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor
Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministry
Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music
Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate

MAY TOWER issue deadline: 8 am on April 13

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
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	1:00 pm: English Country Dance 1:30 pm -English Dance 6:00 pm -Bell Choir 7:30 pm -Chancel Choir	9:30 am -AI Anon: Hand in Hand	
						April 1 8:00 AM: Men's Group 9:00 AM: VITA Tax 12:30 PM: Play Auditions
April 2 PALM SUNDAY Guest Preacher 12:30 PM: Exploring Membership 1:00 PM: Play Auditions 5:00 PM: Family Fun Night	April 3 7:00 PM: Lenten Discussions with Adult Spiritual Growth	April 4 5:00 PM: Creating Racial Equity Team Meeting	April 5 7:00 PM: Personnel Meeting	April 6 Easter Lily Orders Due 6:00 PM: Maundy Thursday Dinner 7:00 PM: Maundy Thursday Service	April 7 Antoinette out of the office 5:00 pm: Praying with others meeting	April 8 9:00 AM: -VITA Tax -Fiber and Fellowship
April 9 EASTER (11 AM SERVICE ONLY) Easter Lily Pickup 10:00 AM: Easter Hunt	April 10 Antoinette and Laura out of the office	April 11 5:30 pm: English Country Dance 6:30 pm: Creating Racial Equity Meeting	April 12 7:00 pm: Ministry Meetings	April 13 TOWER DEADLINE	April 14	April 15 9:00 AM: -VITA Tax -Conflict Resolution Part 1
April 16 12:15 PM: J&M Gathering	April 17	April 18 7:00 PM: GenderSphere Meeting	April 19	April 20	April 21 5:00 pm: Praying with others meeting 6:30 pm: Scottish Country Dancers	April 22 9:00 AM: -Conflict Resolution Part 2 -Homeless Stand Down 2:00 PM: Eagle Scout Celebration
April 23	April 24	April 25 5:30 pm: English Country Dance 6:30 pm: Creating Racial Equity Meeting	April 26 5:00 PM: Eastside Citizens 7:00 PM: Hybrid Session Meeting	April 27	April 28 6:30 pm: Scottish Country Dancers	April 29 8:00 AM: Morning Prayer Brunch
April 30	May 1	May 2 5:00 pm: Creating Racial Equity Meeting	May 3 7:00 PM: Personnel Meeting	May 4 3:00 AM: Wedding Caterer 5:30 PM: Wedding Rehearsal	May 5 1:00 -10:00 PM: Wedding 5:00 PM: Praying with others meeting	May 6

April 2023