



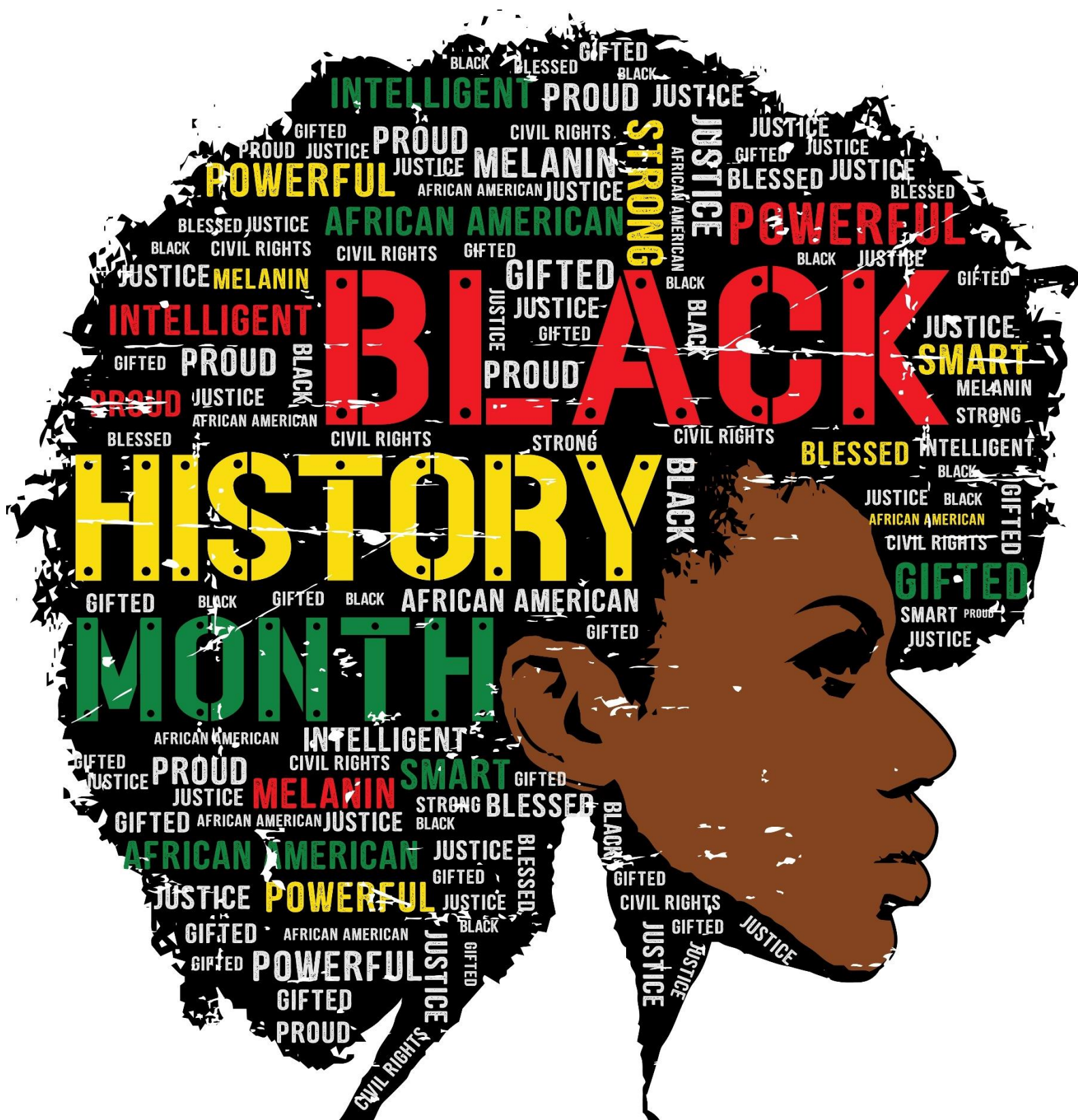
Forest Hill Church

presbyterian

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

The TOWER

February and March 2023



Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Pastor

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

LET'S RECAP THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

FROM DR. QIN YING TAN

Featured composers this February



Roland Carter

Roland Marvin Carter (born May 4, 1942) is an American composer and conductor, largely of choral music. Carter is best known for his work as composer, conductor, arranger, and publisher to promote the choral music of [African-American composers](#). He served as president of the [National Association of Negro Musicians](#) from 2003 until 2009, and publishes choral music, especially arrangements of [spirituals](#), through his publishing company MAR-VEL; as a composer, he has created numerous spiritual arrangements himself, as well as composing new choral compositions on a variety of texts. At [Carnegie Hall](#) he conducted the first concert in the African-American Music Series. As a conductor, Carter has said that he believes in performing spiritual arrangements much as he would the work of [Johannes Brahms](#) or [Franz Schubert](#), rather than bringing a more folk-based sensibility to them.



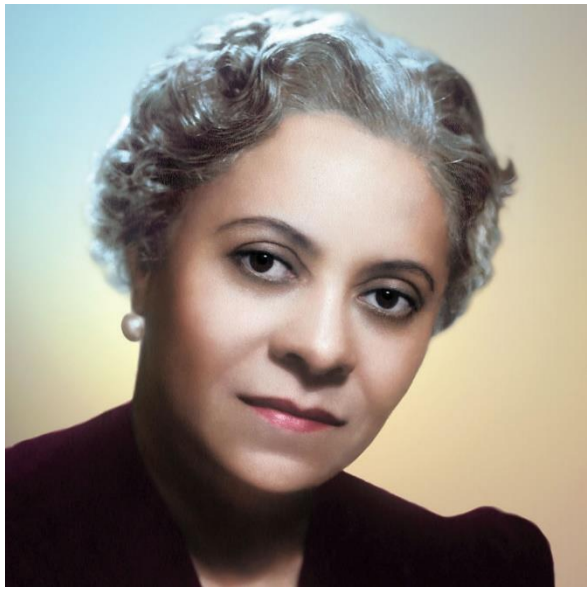
Rollo DiWorth (1970-)

Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970) is Associate Professor of Choral Music Education at Temple University's Boyer College of Music in Philadelphia, PA. Dilworth has a bachelor of science in music education from Case Western Reserve University; a M.Ed. from University of Missouri-St. Louis; and a D.M.A. from Northwestern University. He is an oft-published composer of choral music, with emphasis in the areas of spirituals and gospel-inspired works.



Mark Miller (1958-)

MILLER, Mark Andrew. b. Burlington, Vermont, 7 January 1967. Mark Miller is a pianist, organist, singer, composer, choral conductor, church musician, educator, and active lay person in the United Methodist Church. He is currently an Associate Professor of Church Music, Director of the Chapel, and Composer-In-Residence at Drew Theological School in Madison, New Jersey, and since 2006, a Lecturer in the Practice of Sacred Music in the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University.



Florence Price (1887-1953)

Florence Beatrice Price was an American [classical composer](#), [pianist](#), [organist](#) and [music teacher](#). Born in [Little Rock, Arkansas](#), Price was educated at the [New England Conservatory of Music](#), and was active in [Chicago](#) from 1927 until her death in 1953. Price is noted as the first [African-American](#) woman to be recognized as a [symphonic](#) composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major [orchestra](#). Price composed over 300 works: four [symphonies](#), four [concertos](#), as well as choral works, [art songs](#), [chamber music](#) and music for solo instruments.

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. Remember Valentine's Day is February 14th. ❤️

Any questions contact krisfay@mac.com.



Photo courtesy of Katie and Jon Hall.

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. 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.

In 2023 the book club continues reading and discussing important subjects that are infrequently addressed. In January we read *Homegoing*, a NY Times best-selling historical novel by Yaa Gyasi that addressed Africa, the origin of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and Africans who were forcibly transported to the Americas.

In March, Women's History Month, we turn to another subject rarely touched upon - - the history of Black women in the United States. Thus, on March 4 & 25 we gather to talk about an insightful and important book, *A Black Women's History of The United States* co-authored by Daina Ramey and Kali Nicole Gross.

A Black Women's History of the United States reaches far beyond a single narrative to showcase Black women's lives in all their fraught complexities. Berry and Gross prioritize many voices: enslaved women, freedwomen, religious leaders, artists, queer women, activists, and women who lived outside the law. The result is a starting point for exploring Black women's history and a testament to the beauty, richness, rhythm, tragedy, heartbreak, rage, and enduring love that abounds in the spirit of Black women in communities throughout the nation.

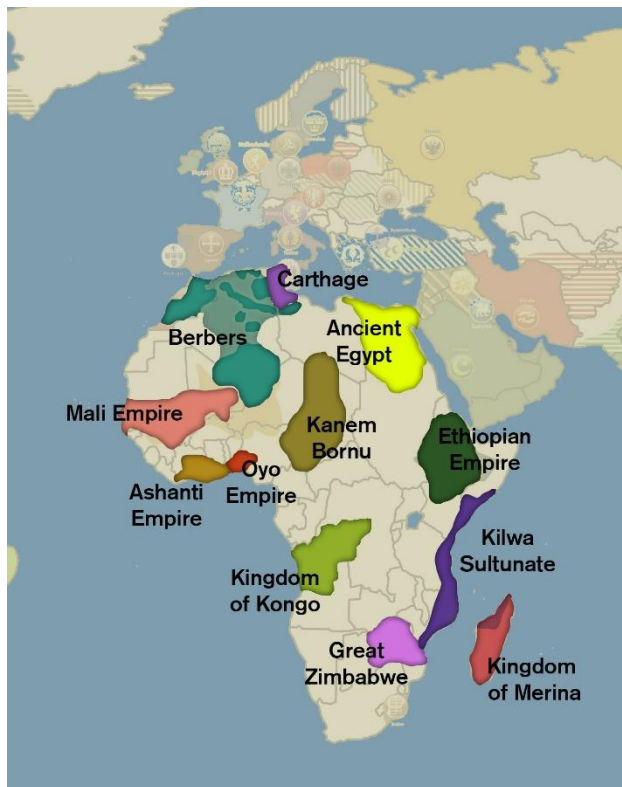
Goodreads Review in part says the following about
A Black Women's History of The United States:

A vibrant and empowering history that emphasizes the perspectives and stories of African American women to show how they are--and have always been--instrumental in shaping our country. Below are a few pictures depicting Black women unafraid and unintimidated.



REFUSAL TO BE INTIMIDATED





April 29 & May 13

African People In World History, John Henrik Clarke (1915-1998). This short book, a primer, sets us up for a more in-depth look at Africa. African People In World History, surveys the impact that African people have made on world history. Dr. Clarke guides the reader through a narrative journey from antiquity through present times.

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 Anderson. 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 more timely.

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.

Black Earth Care



In keeping with February Black History month, let's take a look at a few key pioneer notable black Earth Care devotees in our past and present history:

George Washington Carver, the Plant Doctor: Born into slavery, he became a world-recognized scientist and conservationist, famous for his research on combating soil depletion and replacing cotton crops with legumes. He is regarded as one of America's greatest agricultural researchers and educators.

Buffalo Soldiers, the First National Park Rangers: Making major contributions to the infrastructure and conservation of Sequoia and Yosemite National parks, they constructed the first usable road leading into Sequoia's Giant Forest and the first trail up Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the lower 48 states. They also built an arboretum in Yosemite, which some have described as one of the first museums in the National Park System.

Hattie Carthan, "Brooklyn Tree Lady": Noting the lack of trees in her Brooklyn neighborhood, this environmental justice activist created a beautification committee that engaged youth in tree care and led to the planting of more than 1,500 trees throughout central Brooklyn.

Hazel M. Johnson, Mother of the Environmental Justice Movement: In the 1970's, Johnson began to raise awareness about toxic pollutants impacting Chicago neighborhoods. In 1979, she founded the People for Community Recovery to fight environmental racism and was dubbed the mother of the environmental justice movement.

Dr. Warren M. Washington, Climate Scientist: This renowned expert in meteorology was an early developer of atmospheric computer models that have helped explain climate change.

Dr. Robert Bullard, Father of the Environmental Justice Movement: Esteemed author, activist, and scholar at Texas Southern University, Bullard is an environmental justice pioneer who has written extensively about environmental racism and intersection of race, pollution, economics, and political power.

Barack Obama, President: As President, Obama created two large marine reserves and the second largest desert reserve on the planet. In all he placed more than 550 million acres of natural habitat under protection—far more than any other US president and added 22 new national parks.

Lisa Perez Jackson, Chemical Engineer and Environmentalist: The first African American to head the Environmental Protection Agency, Jackson pushed for stricter fuel-efficiency standards and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions for the sake of human health and the planet.

~Dave Neff, *From NWF.org*



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



Fiber Fellowship this **Saturday, February 11, from 9 AM - 12 noon**. All are invited to come and learn or work on existing projects. Laurie Logan is coming to present a special children's project. We have another quilt in progress. Yarn is available for anyone wishing to knit. Contact Carol Gifford at msgiff79@aol.com for more information.



Cleveland Heights to 'Light up the Heights' in support of Kelce brothers ahead of Super Bowl matchup

From WKYC.com

While Cleveland Heights has celebrated the Kelce brothers' previous Super Bowl appearances -- Jason's Eagles won in 2017 and Travis' Chiefs won in 2020 before losing in 2021 -- having the two All-Pro brothers' teams play each other has left their hometown searching for a way to support both of them.

The solution: "Light up the Heights," an event in which Cleveland Heights residents are asked to light their front porches with gold lightbulbs on Sunday, Feb. 12, in a display of unity for the city and support for its most famous sons...[READ MORE HERE](#)

Forest Hill Presbyterian's 11th Annual Black History Month Celebration

The Black History Education Committee of Forest Hill Church is happy to announce our 2023 theme: *Reparations vs. Jubilee*. During the month of February, the Black History Education Committee will lead the church in exploring this theme through a variety of interactive, open-to-the-public weekly activities.

Forest Hill Presbyterian welcomes the opportunity to learn, grow and fellowship with our neighbors in Cleveland Heights and beyond.

Schedule of Events:

February 12: Experience Reverend Dr. Otis Moss Jr.'s Interactive Biography

Join us in visiting the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage to see this groundbreaking AI-generated interactive biography. Children and adults alike are sure to enjoy this unique exhibit. Join us at 3031 Monticello for carpooling at 1:30 PM or meet us at 2929 Richmond Rd. at 2:00 PM for the tour. Tickets start at just \$10. Sliding scale available. Lunches not provided.

Feb 19: Teach In and Talk on Reparations vs. Jubilee

What are the differences between reparations and Jubilee? This is the grounding question we will explore at our teach-in and talk. Black-owned Food Trucks will be available onsite, so grab a plate and settle in for a robust discussion!

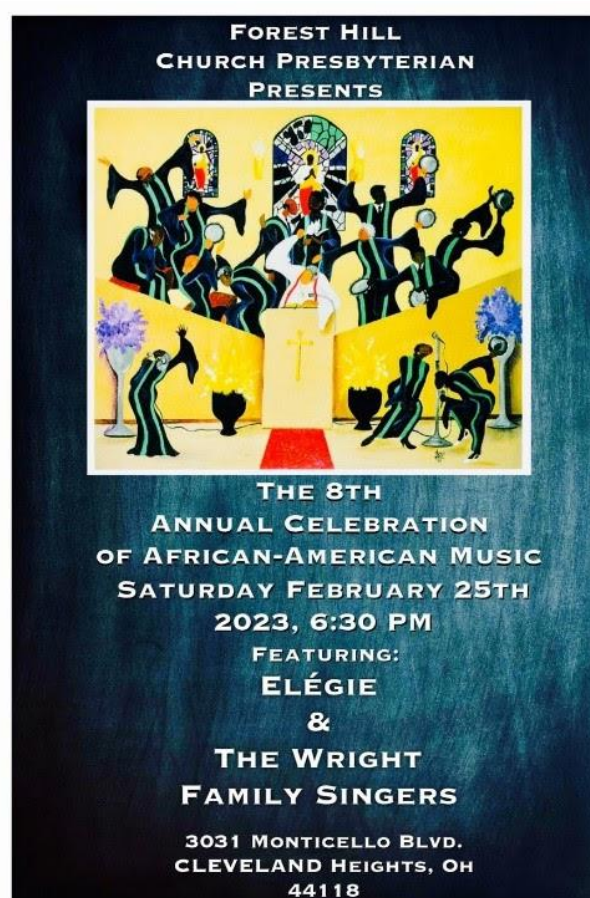
February 25: Honoring Mother Willie Mae Wright

The Wright Family Singers and Elégie will split the bill to offer a gospel concert on Saturday February 25th at 6:30 PM. FREE and open to the public.

This event comes with an extra layer of emotion for The Wright Family Singers, as it will be the first family concert since the passing of the family matriarch, Mother Willie-Mae Wright. Mother Wright was the original singer of the family and founded The Wright Family Singers with her 8 children in 1978. Three of her children, Bridgett, Deborah and Eric (The group's original accompanist), preceded her in death, yet the group continues on with her remaining living children and their children.

February 26: Live Ancestral Listening

Join us for a special jazz concert at 4 PM which will feature local jazz musicians Robin Blake, Joshua Stone, Malika Turner, Kenesha Terrell and many others. This event will be followed by an open forum discussion facilitated by a special guest speaker, giving both participants and patrons the chance to discuss and perform the music. FREE and open to the public.





PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): LEFT: CISCOPE, MATAMOROS RESOURCE CENTER, MULTICULTURAL ALLIANCE FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT; CISCOPE

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for **JUSTICE, RESILIENCE, and SUSTAINABILITY.**

 **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

03.02.22-
04.17.22



WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER.

 MATTHEW 25

LARM RMAH

Every gift makes a difference in the life of someone who deserves God's love and support.

 **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

03.02.22-
04.17.22



FIRST DAY OF SPRING IS MARCH 20, 2023

Sometimes it seem like to **tell the truth** today is to **run the risk of being killed**. But if I fall, I'll fall five feet four inches forward in the **fight for freedom**.
I'm not backing off.

– Fannie Lou Hamer

AZ QUOTES



Equity Book Club

Saturday, March 4, via zoom from 10:30 AM to noon

A Black Women's History of The United States, co-authored by Daina Ramey and Kali Nicole Gross.

Join us Saturday morning, March 4, (10:30 am to noon) via zoom when we will discuss a challenging, insightful, revealing, and important book, A Black Women's History of The United States, co-authored by Daina Ramey and Kali Nicole Gross. If you wish to participate in these discussions, email racialequitybuddies@fhcpreb.org, sign up on [BREEZE](#), or call the office.

On March 4, we will discuss chapters one through six (122 pages). Chiq Montgomery will be our host and leader. We will complete the remaining 100 pages of the book and our discussion on March 25.

BOOK REVIEW by Penguin Random House

The award-winning Revisioning American History series continues with this “groundbreaking new history of Black women in the United States” (Ibram X. Kendi, author of How to Be an Antiracist)—the perfect companion to An Indigenous People’s History of the United States and An African American and Latinx History of the United States. An empowering and intersectional history that centers the stories of African American women across 400+ years, showing how they are—and have always been—instrumental in shaping our country.

Here is the link to the full review:

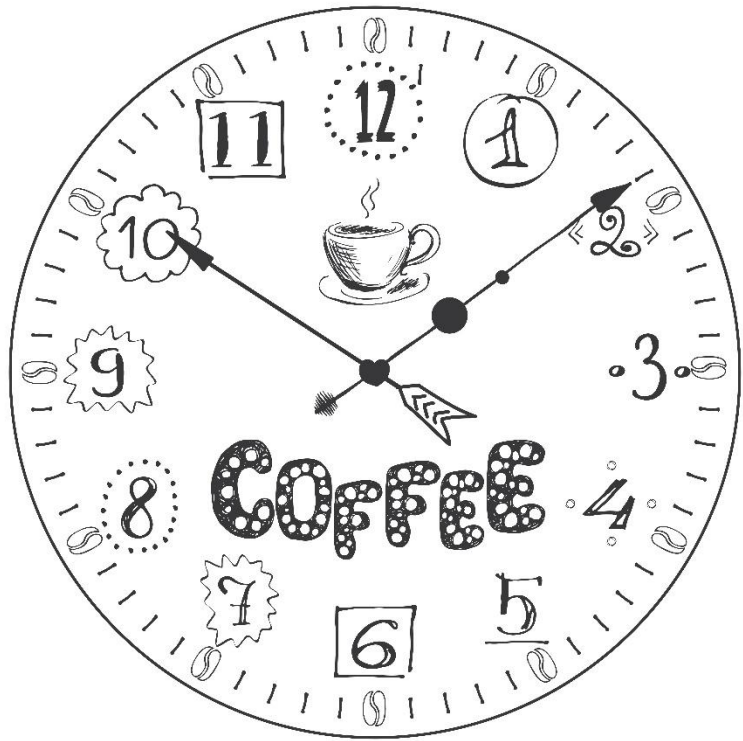
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/567157/a-black-womens-history-of-the-united-states-by-daina-ramey-berry/>

Malcolm X, in a 1964 speech, contended that “the most disrespected in America is the black woman. The most unprotected person in America is the black woman. The most neglected person in America is the black woman.”

A Black Women's History of The United States supports Malcolm's perspective. However, the authors chose to focus on the resiliency, strength, intelligence, creativity, and leadership Black women have always displayed. Black women are and have always been powerful change agents who have indelibly shaped the black community and the entire nation, as this book makes clear.

Fannie Lou Hamer is but one example of such a Black woman. It was her voice, not that of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that so frightened then-president Lyndon Johnson, that he called an impromptu press conference to stop her speech from being aired live at the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

Blessings to all. Hope to see you on March 5.



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 gauranys4s@gmail.com](mailto:gauranys4s@gmail.com).

**MUSIC SHE WROTE, MARCH 4 FROM 4-6 PM
FOREST HILL CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN**

Tea reception and discussion at 4 PM, Fellowship Hall
with Jessica Kelley
Concert at 5 PM in the Sanctuary

We are excited to kick off Women's History Month with a concert celebrating the works of female composers from the baroque era. Historically-informed musicians, Guillermo Salas-Suárez (violin) and Andréa Walker (soprano), will present a dazzling performance of musical pieces with Qin-Ying Tan on the organ and harpsichord. In addition, our youth group will present recitations of poetry composed by female writers through the ages during the performance.

There will be a light tea reception and discussion of women's civil rights at 4PM in the fellowship hall prior to the concert led by CWRU sociology professor, Jessica Kelley.

For more information, contact Ying at music@fhcpresb.org.

Music She Wrote



**Saturday, March 4 2023, 5PM
Forest Hills Church Presbyterian
3031 Monticello Blvd Cleveland Heights**

FORGIVE: A STUDY FOR LENT

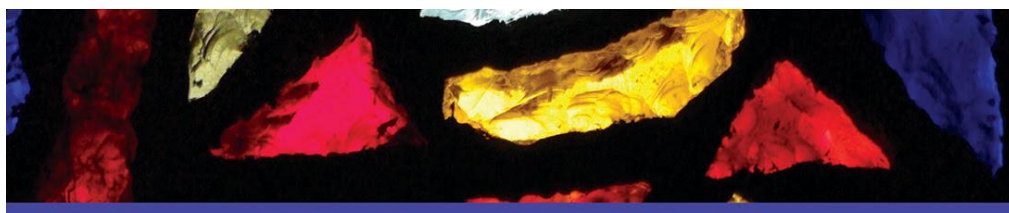
Using the *Follow Me* curriculum during the Education Hour on Sunday mornings (9:15-10:15 AM), we welcome you to join us by Zoom.

The following is a brief description: We forgive because God first forgives us. When we forgive one another, we participate in God's way of being in the world. At its root, the word *forgiveness* draws on a Greek word meaning "to let go." When we forgive one another, we let go of anger over wrong; we let go of a desire for getting even; we let go of the burdens of shame and guilt. To forgive is not to forget; it is an active decision to not live in the past and to build toward a future. Forgiveness does not deny the realities of sin: betrayal, violence, anger, and jealousy. It ensures that wrongs do not have the last word. The final word in forgiveness is God's grace, available to those who seek to forgive and to move beyond separation and brokenness toward restored relationships with God and one another.

There is an Adult Reflection guide available for pick up in the office. The cost is \$9.00 for those who want to contribute to its cost.

A second option for a Lenten study is the class titled -Discovering the Beloved Community in the Gospel of Matthew. This class is already in progress by Zoom on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15. Each session is an independent exploration. It is not too late to join. The class would be glad to have you join it.

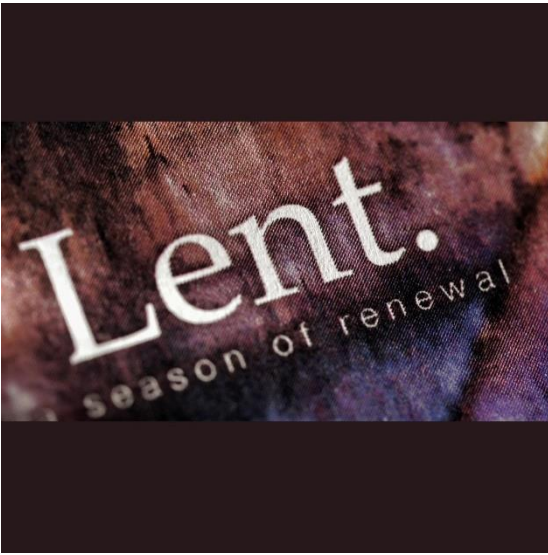
If you wish to join, please register here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/448ccd>.



Forgive



**LENTEN PRACTICES
EMAIL OFFERING
FROM THE MINISTRY OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH**



Look for an email each Monday offering ways to enhance your Lenten practice and deepen your spiritual readiness for Easter through scripture, poetry and prayer. APRIL 3 @ 7 PM in person or via Zoom – come together to share your Lenten practice experience. (details and invite to come). **For more information or questions, email spiritgrowth@fhcpresb.org.**



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 let's all get in on the celebration.

Bring your roses to be dried to Forest Hill Church (from now until June 1), 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 it in an open paper bag or container and drop it 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. If you have any questions, contact krisfay@mac.com.



Interested in becoming a member of Forest Hill Church? Then check out our upcoming Exploring Membership classes! The classes provide a pressure-free and engaging way to learn about the Church's vision and core values as well as the many opportunities the church offers for growing in spirit, in service and in connection to others. Exploring Membership is a 2-class series (i.e., participants should plan on attending both classes) with the next upcoming classes on Sunday, Mar 26 (in person, after church, with lunch and childcare provided) and April 2 (via zoom, after church). If you are interested in finding out more about exploring membership, click below.



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.

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.

MARCH 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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session leads and guides the congregation as it becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness.

Session met for its stated meeting on Monday February 20, 2023, virtually via Zoom. This was the first meeting of the year with newly elected and installed elders. In this meeting we accomplished the following:

- Elected Marina Grant and Mary McMillan as church Co-Treasurers and Elizabeth Shaw as Clerk of Session.
- Approved upcoming baptisms of Catherine McKenzie Allen, daughter of Jamie and Megan Allen and Ryder James Gifford, son of Ethan and Michelle Gifford.
- Approved the serving of holy communion for Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday and the first Sundays of March and May through December.
- Heard a summary of the Endowment Committee work from Steve Sedam, Chair.
- Heard a preliminary report on the Creating Racial Equity Audit Team work.
- Heard about the work of the Ministry of Church Growth to update the set of questions for new members.
- Heard about the work of the Ministry of Justice and Mission to create a model for improving the connection amongst congregants and groups doing acts of mercy and justice.
- Approved the description of a new Committee on Finance as presented by the Trustees.
- Discussed follow-up to the Congregational Conversations held after the retirement of Co-Pastor Goines. In the coming months congregants will be invited to work on listening, learning and healing through facilitated workshops.

Wow!

Kim Hill, Stewardship Ministry

The numbers are in, and the story they tell is wonderful.

For the just-ended commitment season, the generosity of Forest Hill members and friends raised over ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (101.1%, to be exact) of the goal number of \$725,000 for the church and congregation's budget for this year.

Way back in October, the Stewardship Ministry asked us to consider as a group the meaning of our theme passage:

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

We wondered, what does it mean to prosper, not wither, on the banks of the stream of our faith?

The answer you all have given – in the form of time, talents, and treasure – is amazing. This includes 184 families and individuals who have made a financial commitment for this year. That's just shy of our goal of 200 commitments, but we know that not everyone is in a situation to predict what they'll be able to give so far in advance. We know that we can anticipate additional spot giving during the year. Still, in response to a generous matching challenge gift, 30 individuals or families increased what they had originally committed.

As we go through this year together, your Stewardship Ministry is going to bring some concrete and specific information to you about just where these dollars are spent. We all know that it takes money to staff and maintain the building, to pay the utility bills, to work on the many important ministry projects going on. Sometimes, though, it's hard to visualize what all is going on – where this budget gets spent. I, for one, don't have any idea how much it costs to repair a leaking portico roof (happened last weekend), but I do think it would make me a better steward of our joint resources to hear.

So, as we wrap up the commitment season, please let us express our heartfelt gratitude to all the ways you support our congregation. Let's go forward with listening through the remaining weeks of Lent toward the joyous Easter season.

As always, we are honored to work alongside you.



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

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APRIL TOWER issue deadline: 8 am on MARCH 16

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).