

Black History Month is celebrated annually to celebrate Black culture, eradicate discrimination and encourage racial equality. For the past 13 years, Forest Hill Church has proudly presented a full month of Black History Celebration Events. All events are FREE and open to the public, although some events offer sweets and treats for sale.

Join us in celebrating our 2024 Theme:
Black Women: Crowned with Glory

February 18: Soul Food Potluck 3:30-7:00 PM-We've got the meats, you bring the treats! Soul food is feel-good food. What dishes made you feel good growing up? Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to the potluck and share the love as we celebrate Black culture. Please sign up here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/68261e>

February 25: A Time for Joy: Annual of African-American Music 6:30-9:00 PM- Join us for a celebration of the majesty of all that is Black music. This year we will honor many of the powerful and legendary Black women of song. Featuring Alexander Wright, Vocalist, Sterling Cozza, Pianist, Griffin Fink, Bassist, and Gabriel P. Jones, Drummer. Bake sale before and after the concert!

If you wish to volunteer for Black History Month, please click [here!](#)

Please fill out this Google form if you need a ride to Black History Month events:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScP8MZu7Z_B2vPJhTWWCyFeDRIHiciv0H7UtFugmq13_rx0Ow/viewform

~Black History Education Committee
blackhistory@fhcpresb.org

For more information, please contact Danielle Cosgrove at daniellecosgrove@gmail.com or call or text her at 216-513-3162.

If you wish to make a donation, you may send checks to the church. Please notate Black History on the memo line.



3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118
Office: 216-321-2660
Custodian Phone on Duty: 216-217-5257
Email: churchadmin@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

Lent 2024 Journey to Jerusalem Wilderness, Temptation and Call

As we continue our journey of faith, we will go through the wilderness and be tempted to lose sight of God's presence. Yet, as we continue, we will find a way, a truth and a life that gives glory to God and reveal to us our own calling and our belovedness as children of God.

Each Sunday we will explore the mystery of God's grace and be grounded in our identities as siblings of Jesus Christ. There will also be opportunities midweek throughout Lent to deepen our faith. Join us for the journey to Jerusalem.

Wednesday, February 21, March 6 and March 20 Supper and Contemplative Worship 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Life is busy with many distractions. Join us for a simple meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a contemplative service in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. Together we will pause from the journey and pray together, sing together, be in silence together, and seek God's presence together.

Sunday, March 24 Wilderness Retreat 1-4pm in the Chapel

Led by Sally Wile and Mary Ann Breisch. Through Scriptural stories, poetry, music and visual art, we will explore how the journey to Jerusalem inevitably finds us in the wilderness. We will reflect on how there, in the barrenness, God is revealed and we are transformed.

Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Supper at 6:00 followed by a service of worship to prepare us for the crucifixion of Jesus. Passages from the gospels remind us of the final meal with his disciples, his agony in the garden, his trials before he offers himself to the cross. After each reading the lights are dimmed until the Christ Candle is removed from the sanctuary.

Friday, March 29 Good Friday Community Service @ St. Pauls Episcopal 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.

We join other Christians in our community at St. Pauls for a service of remembrance. Brief homilies are offered on the "7 last words of Christ." The choir of St. Pauls will sing an oratory, prayers will be offered and hymns will be sung. You may come and go as your schedule permits.

Thanks to Jennifer Blakeney, Sally Wile, Mary Ann Breisch, QinYing Tan, Leslie Clement and Valeria Stutz for their vision and spirit leadership.



FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN
FEBRUARY 18, 2024 – 11:00AM



Harmonia Rosales, 'Our Lady of Regla,' Oil on Canvas, Courtesy Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art

You may also join worship online using this link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIZ_rMKOG1A

CENTERING WORDS

Let women's claim be as broad in the concrete as in the abstract. We take our stand on the solidarity of humanity, the oneness of life, and the unnaturalness and injustice of all special favoritisms, whether of sex, race, country, or condition.

Anna Julia Cooper *A Voice from the South, by a Black Woman of the South*, 1892

PRELUDE

Traditional Spiritual
"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

WELCOME

INTROIT

Arr. Patricia Sanders
"I'm Gonna Be Ready"
Voices in Bronze

CALL TO WORSHIP

To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls. **Our God, in you we trust.**
We will give you thanks and praise. **With songs and prayers, we will magnify your name.** Come let us worship and bow down. **We will worship the Lord with gladness. We will come into God's presence with singing!**

*OPENING HYMN 656

"We've Come This Far by Faith"

Written by Albert A. Goodson in 1956 for the Radio Choir of the Fellowship Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois where he served as the minister of music. An organist and pianist, Mr.

Goodson toured with Mahalia Jackson and has been a prominent figure in the development of African American gospel music.

(Choir will sing the verses and all will sing the refrain)

[Refrain]

We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord; Trusting in God's holy word, God's never failed me yet. Oh, can't turn around, we've come this far by faith.

v. 1 *Don't be discouraged when trouble's in your life. He'll bear you burdens and move all misery and strife. That's why we've...* [Refrain]

v. 2 *Just the other day I heard someone say. He didn't believe in God's word; but I can truly say that God had made a way, And He's never failed me yet. That's why we've...*

[Refrain]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us for forgetting. Forgive us for covering up unpleasant memories instead of telling the truth so that we can be set free. Forgive us for blaming others instead of taking responsibility for our own complicity. Forgive us for words that hurt and comments that cut. Forgive us for being so sensitive that we take umbrage at the slightest correction. Forgive us for not changing the systems and structures that bar any and all of your children from reaching their highest potential. Have mercy on us. Lord, you demand that we do better.

A TIME OF REFLECTION AND SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Despite our sinfulness, God forgives. Despite our brokenness, God heals. Despite our unrighteousness, God is loving and righteous. This is good news! We will do better! Today is a new day to rise up and walk the way, the truth and the life of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **AMEN.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

HYMN NO. 588



I Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

CHILDREN'S WELCOME

Amy Wheatley
Children are invited to leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders to go to Sunday School.

ANTHEM

"I Sing Because I'm Happy/His Eye is on the Sparrow"

Chancel Choir

This is a gospel style-interpretation of the hymn, "His Eye is on the Sparrow," and was performed and recorded by the Georgia Mass Choir in 1996.

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Mark 1:9-15 (Page 812)

After the readings

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 456

"Kum ba Yah"

This African American spiritual, first recorded in the 1920's seems to have originated somewhere in the southern United States. It enjoyed renewed popularity during the folk revival of the 1960s and became a standard campfire song.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

"Waiting in the Wilderness"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

To participate in our online Friendship Register, please leave a comment in the Live Chat box listing the names of those participating in this morning's Live Worship or email the office.

OFFERING

By texting: 216-400-5300

You may give online with PayPal, Credit or Debit Card:

www.fhcpresb.org

Or you may also mail a check to the church office.

Make Your Commitment (Pledge) For 2024 at www.fhcpresb.org

OFFERTORY

Arr. by R. Walters
"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"
Laura Otis, soprano

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN NO. 379

"We Shall Overcome"

Though now associated primarily with the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century, this spiritual most likely dates from the days of the slave trade. Some historians suggest that it might have been a work song aboard ships carrying enslaved people.

*BENEDICTION

HYMN NO. 600

"Amen"

POSTLUDE

Loes
"This Little Light of Mine"

Originally written by Harry Loes around 1920s as a children's song, "This Little Light of Mine" came to be an anthem of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s.

We thank Marina Grant for serving as Lay Leader this morning.

AN INVITATION YOU WILL WANT TO ACCEPT

Jesus sent his disciples to an upper room where all was prepared for Passover. He took bread and wine, giving a part of himself, in the Communion – a sacrament to us, forever. Be some of those who prepare and serve the bread and cup, a privilege and an honor. Sign up for a Communion Sunday. Call or text Jeanette Nemcek, 216-789-6740 or email her at Jet0830@aol.com. No prior experience necessary!

