



Forest Hill Church
presbyterian

The Tower Newsletter

April 2025



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WORDS FROM THE REV. DR. GENE MCAFEE



“What’s happening?”
“Is anything happening?”
“Has anybody heard anything?”
“Where are we in the process?”

These are the sorts of questions any church in FHC’s position would be asking right now. It’s been eight months since John retired, two months since the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was approved at the congregation’s annual meeting, and there hasn’t been much news about the search for a new pastor lately. With the assistance of Elizabeth Shaw, Clerk of Session, let me give you an update.

In March, Session met for an all-day retreat that included a refresher on the transitional process from the Rev. Arvid Whitmore, our liaison to the Committee on Ministry of the presbytery. As Arvid reminded us, the transitional process for securing new pastoral leadership in PCUSA churches has three discrete components:

- securing transitional pastoral leadership;
- producing a Mission Study Report (MSR) to inform the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC); and
- assembling and supporting the PNC as it examines ministerial profiles of and interviews prospective candidates.

Each of these steps requires months of work, and all three are underway.

The Rev. Carol Wedell provided pastoral

leadership during the gap period between the end of summer pulpit supply and my arrival in January, so step one is in the bag.

Step two, producing a Mission Study Report, began with Session’s decision at its January meeting to appoint a Mission Study Committee (MSC) to undertake that work on Session’s behalf.

The MSC will consist of four to six members – drawn from the PNC and members of the congregation at large – with one of those four to six members serving as liaison with Session. Invitations and responses are being exchanged between Session and the congregation (including the PNC) now, with the hope that the MSC will be formed and announced within the next couple of weeks. Jennifer Blakeney, Scott Lafferty, Jean Reinhold, and Elizabeth Shaw were authorized by Session as an ad hoc committee to prepare the MSC slate. As is standard practice for all nominating processes, the names of individuals approached for service are confidential.

Once the MSC is formed, it will draw on various resources, including conversations with the congregation and church consultants, to produce its Mission Study Report. The Committee will

- look at the church’s history and values,
- examine the populations that we serve and how cultural shifts impact our church life and mission,
- develop a vision for our future,
- examine roles, responsibilities, and relationships of our leadership as we carry out our mission, and
- assess financial health and stewardship.

That process will take a few months.

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Finally, step three, the examination of candidates by the PNC, will begin after the Mission Study Report has been approved by Session and the presbytery's Committee on Ministry. While regular updates on the PNC's progress will be provided to Session and the congregation, the names of candidates must remain confidential. That process will also take some months.

So that's where we are in the transitional process, FHC: assembling a Mission Study Committee to produce the Mission Study Report that will inform the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee. Things are moving along, pretty much as they should.

Meanwhile, the mission and work of the church continues to go forward with the support and leadership of dedicated congregants, ministries, and groups, for all of whom I am very grateful.

If you have any questions about the process, please be in touch with Elizabeth or me. And, as always, please keep FHC in your prayers as we make our way toward the future God has waiting for us.

In service to Christ and Christ's church,



Gene McAfee, Transitional Pastor

Note: Pastor Gene will be on vacation April 21-28. If pastoral emergencies arise, please contact one of the following people.

April 21-24: The Rev. Carol Wedell (216) 470-0152

April 25-28: The Rev. Sally Wile (216) 374-9306

FAMILY FAITH EVERY DAY **Strengthening Faith Practices at Home**

Families in our congregation who have children ages birth to three are invited to join an exciting new project that is designed to strengthen faith practices at home.

Forest Hill is one of 17 congregations in the U.S. and Canada chosen to participate in a three-year program called Family Faith Every Day, a comprehensive initiative designed to nurture faith practices in families with young children. Family Faith Every Day is funded by the Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative of the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Amy Wheatley, the program director, will be inviting parents of young children (ages birth to three) to participate in parenting circles that will meet eight times during the coming year. In our gatherings, we will learn simple, meaningful faith practices that can be incorporated into daily life at home and share feedback on our use of these practices. Parenting circles will also provide an opportunity to build connections and community with other Forest Hill families.

We are grateful (and excited!) for the opportunity to partner with Family Faith Every Day to strengthen and expand our ministry to families of young children. For more information about the program, please contact Amy Wheatley ce@fhcpresb.org and see: <https://chalicepress.com/pages/family-faith-every-day>.



FAMILY, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN MINISTRY

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13

FAMILY PALM PARADE! Children of all ages and their parents/grandparents are invited to join our joyful procession as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Families will gather in the back of the sanctuary at 10:55am and process through the sanctuary waving palm branches during the opening moments of worship.



LITTLE CRESCENDOS CHILDREN'S CHOIR, directed by Julie Minder, will sing in worship on Palm Sunday. Children rehearse with Julie from 12:00-12:15pm on Sunday mornings following Sunday School. All ages are welcome!



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20

CHILD CARE for little ones (birth to 5) during Easter worship is available in Rooms 201-203.

YOUNG PEOPLE (ages 6+) join their families for Easter worship at 11am. Sunday School and Youth Group do not meet today. Young children are invited to pick up a special worship activity bag as they enter the sanctuary.

EASTER EGG HUNT AFTER WORSHIP - Children ages birth to 8, accompanied by a parent or grandparent, are invited to join us on the front lawn for our annual Easter egg hunt! We'll have special treats for older children, too.



Children Learn about Parables Jesus Told



Young People Serve as Lay Readers in Worship



Pastor Gene Leads Youth in a Study about “The Faith of Jesus”



Getting to Know You

Pastor Gene and sixty-five children, teens, parents, and grandparents gathered for lunch together after worship on Sunday, March 2. Families got to know Pastor Gene a bit better (and vice versa!) while enjoying tacos and conversation. Each family made a poster for the pastor with “Three Fun Family Facts,” and Pastor Gene responded to questions posed by our young people. We learned that he has a dog named Chloe; he was a teacher; that his favorite color is blue, and his favorite number is three (The Trinity!).

Thank you to all the families who attended, to FYC Ministry hosts, and to Morag Keeffe for preparing a terrific lunch!



MUSIC MINISTRY

Feel the beat, find your rhythm, and connect with the community! **Join us for our Drum Circle led by Don Davis**, every second and fourth Sunday of the month at 12:30.

Drumming is a powerful way to engage your body, release emotional stress, and experience the joy of making music together. Whether you're a seasoned percussionist or have never picked up a drum before, all are welcome! Come immerse yourself in the

energy, let the rhythms move you, and leave feeling refreshed and uplifted.

We look forward to drumming with you!



A NOTE FROM THE RESONANCE PROJECT ON LENTEN REFLECTIONS

On March 15, Forest Hill Church's sanctuary became a space aglow with candlelight and filled with the reverence of music and poetry. Irwin Shung offered a deeply meditative program of Rachmaninoff and Franck. His performance was interwoven with original poetry — written as a reflection on his journey through Rachmaninoff's preludes.

As we continue through this Lenten season, we share one of these poems with you, hoping it brings a moment of stillness and contemplation, just as the recital did for those who were present.

*The hearth is empty,
The snow-hid sill heavy just beside,
Brittle the frost-frayed panes.
Out on the barren ridge,*

*One hears it: the ancient thrum
Of our naked ambition,
Staked ruinously by the thought of metal things,
Stretched thin before sick-seared gusts
of the ever-quicken word.*

*Of a sudden, I look out across the vale.
With a sigh, a tremble, a rush:
Just now — its majesty revealed —
The silver fir has fallen.*



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Vision Statement of Session:

By 2027, Session will courageously embrace the transition by:

*Being spiritually led, more diverse, and more fully prepared to serve
Living into individual gifts
Connecting with and across ministries, and
Communicating openly and actively with congregants, all as a Matthew 25 Church and Beloved Community.*

The Session of FHC met on February 26, 2025. Pastor Gene McAfee was the Moderator.

The Call Process - Sharon Core, General Presbyter, Presbytery of the Western Reserve (PWR), and Arvid Whitmore, Committee on Ministry, PWR, gave a presentation on the transition period and the process of calling a new pastor for the church following the retirement of Pastor Lentz in 2024. The major steps are:

1. Select a transitional pastor, (Completed in December 2024, via an agreement executed with Pastor McAfee)
2. A Mission Study Committee to develop a Mission Study. The components of a Mission Study include church identity, context for ministry and purpose and planning.
3. After the Mission Study is approved by both Session and the PWR, the Pastor Nominating Committee carries out the search and call process for a new installed pastor.

The Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2025, was received.

Steve Sedam, Chair, Endowment Committee, introduced the FHC Endowment, including the

purpose, relationship to Session, endowment value, spending rule, funds available for 2025 and process of selecting and approving grants. Aspirations for 2025 are:

- Working cooperatively with Session, the Endowment Committee will apply the 4% spending rule to allocate funds for special projects and critical budgetary needs of the church in 2025.
- In cooperation with the Stewardship Ministry, expand awareness of the FHC Endowment and planned giving opportunities to support FHC in perpetuity.

Justice Ministry reported that the Immigration Task Force has drafted a policy for Immigration Control Enforcement (ICE) Encounters. The draft includes guidelines on complying with laws, responding to ICE visits and notifying appropriate FHC authorities.

Trustees have re-established a team to review safety and security procedures for the church. This is a continuation of work that was started several years ago but paused during the COVID pandemic.

Session agreed to form a Mission Study Committee. A small group will review recommendations from Session, develop a list of candidates, invite four to six people to be on the committee and present the slate to Session for approval.

Submitted by Elizabeth J. Shaw, Clerk of Session.

Congregants are invited to observe meetings of Session. While observers are not able to actively participate in discussions or decision-making, they can see firsthand how Session coordinates the work of the church. The next meeting will be Wed., April 23, 2025, 7:00-9:00pm in South Hall.

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH (ASG)



**Atonement: Reimagining
God's Will for Reconciliation**
March 23-April 6, 9:15-10:15am
Meet in South Hall or join virtually

During Lent, we contemplate the mystery of God's human presence in Jesus, Christ's sacrifice, and the path to renewing and restoring a close relationship with God. Christians (and others) have used the word "atonement" to describe how the breach between God and humanity can be mended, but it's a word that is hard to define and even harder to understand. We have thought about, described, and squabbled over what atonement means, how it happens, and how to apply it to our lives for two thousand

years. It is at the core of our understanding of the meaning of the incarnation and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, but we may not engage directly with this challenging idea. This three-part series will address the desire and need for restoring our relationship with God, how the idea of atonement has been expressed and believed over the centuries, and will conclude with an exploration of new ways of thinking about God's love, mercy, and presence as we prepare for Good Friday and Easter morning.

Scriptural Contemplation
April 13 and 27, 4:00-5:00pm,
in the chapel

We will read a selection from the lectionary for the following week with brief periods of silence followed by sharing and praying for each other. This has been a very beautiful spiritual and connecting experience. Sharing a simple song in our acoustically awesome chapel adds to the experience.

Find other ongoing classes on the church website: <https://fhcpresb.org/adults/class-sign-up/>

WORSHIP

If you are interested in being a lay reader for worship, please contact Linda Martin at martin3386@ameritech.net or (216) 280-4049. If you wish to assist in serving communion, contact Jeanette Nemcek at jet0830@aol.com or (216) 789-6740.

Lay Readers for April
April 6: Diane Doyle
April 13: Derry Stauffer
April 20: Chenoa Stock
April 27: Valeria Stutz

To contribute flowers for Sunday worship, use this form: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/Flowers>

Easter lily orders are due by April 14.
To order, use this form: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/Easter2025>



KING! JACKSON!: A MUSICAL

Saturday, April 26, 2:30pm-5:30pm
FHC Fellowship Hall

RacialEquityBuddies are pleased to once again partner with Leonard Di Cosimo, President of the Cleveland Federation of Musicians, AFM Local 4, to present to the community — free of charge — the musical *King! Jackson!*, followed by a jazz concert!

The *King! Jackson!* musical explores the friendship and partnership between Mahalia Jackson and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Jackson was an American gospel singer, widely considered one of the most influential

vocalists of the 20th century and a close friend and confidant of King.

Mahalia shouted to Dr. King and changed history. Dr. King's prepared remarks for the March on Washington did not include nor reference Dr. King's dream. While King was delivering his remarks, Mahalia shouted and exhorted, "Tell them about the dream, Martin!" Trusting Mahalia's instincts implicitly, King put aside his text and launched into "I Have a Dream," which would become his most famous speech. Without Mahalia, there would not have been that speech, not that historic day!

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Local 4 Music Fund and Music Performance Trust Fund

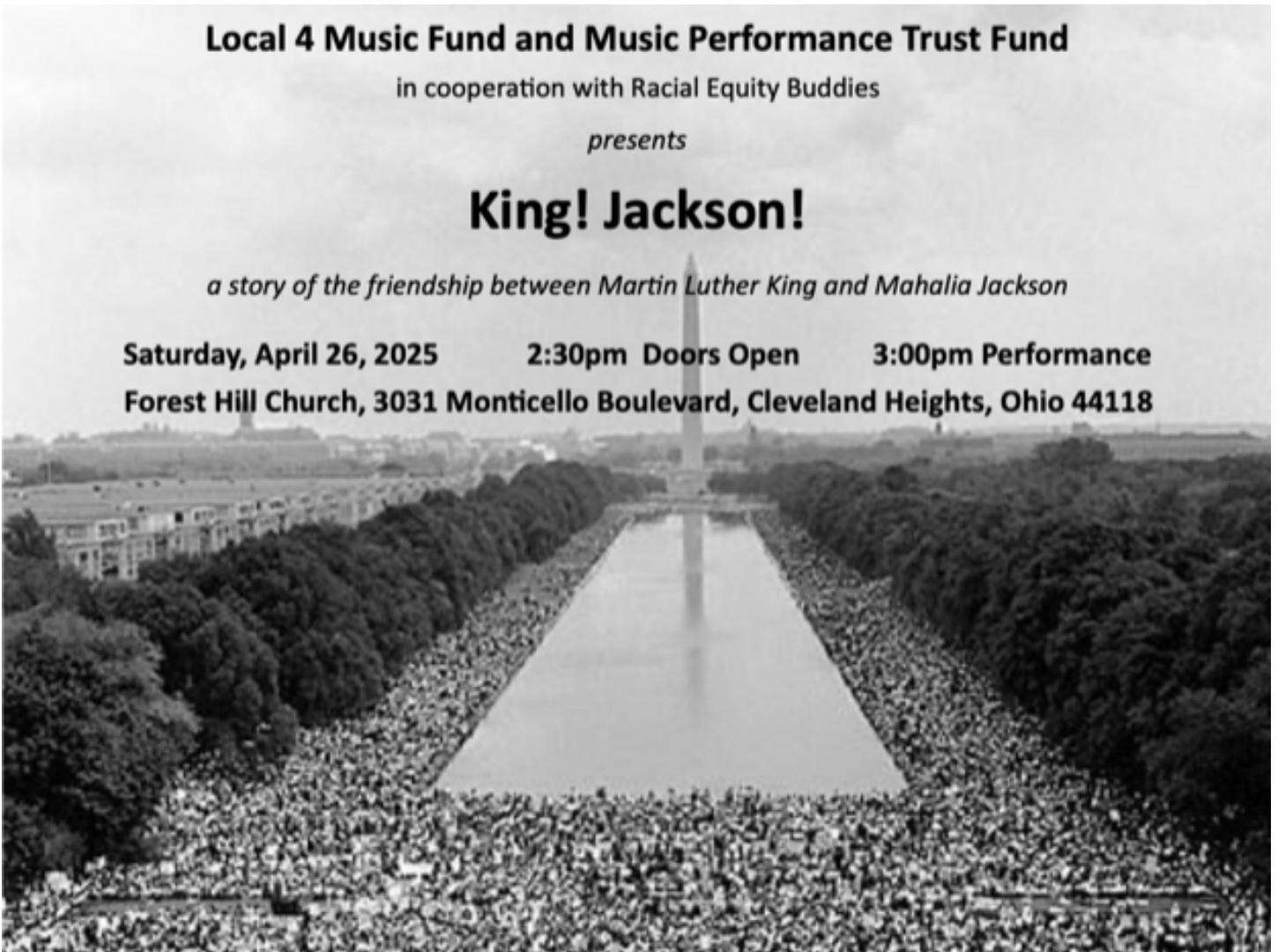
in cooperation with Racial Equity Buddies

presents

King! Jackson!

a story of the friendship between Martin Luther King and Mahalia Jackson

Saturday, April 26, 2025 2:30pm Doors Open 3:00pm Performance
Forest Hill Church, 3031 Monticello Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118



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Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, Mahalia does not receive the recognition that other male artists who worked with King received. Yet, arguably, she was closer to King and more supportive of his work than most other artists. On April 26, we celebrate and recall her contributions to the human rights struggles.

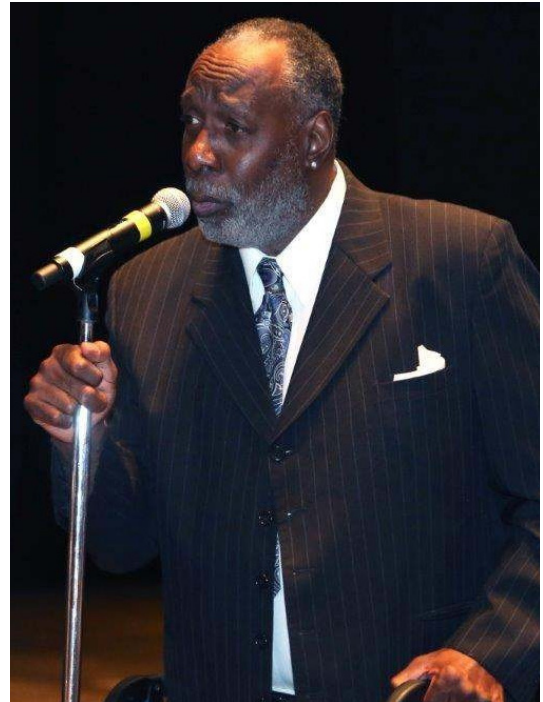
After the 40-minute musical, we will be treated to a jazz concert hosted by WKHR 91.5 FM's Ron "The Jazz Man" Davis and featuring Shirley Cook.

Light refreshments provided.

To reserve a seat or make an inquiry, email racialequitybuddies@gmail.com.



Shirley Cook is a sultry, smoky, and internationally acclaimed jazz singer from Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Cook has been bringing her improvisational jazz vocals to the Cleveland music scene for over 36 years. She's been noted by the *Plain Dealer* as having a "deep alto voice reminiscent of the late Carmen McRae." Also, by the *Call & Post* for being a "dynamic jazz vocalist who has her own style with ballads and tempos." Ms. Cook's captivating and highly interactive performances have a way of making you feel like she's singing to you and only you. Through her music, Ms. Cook shares her personal experiences in hopes that people will be able to connect and see themselves in her music.



Ron "The Jazz Man" Davis has performed with Harold Melvin and The Blue Notes and Clifford Davis. He has worked with the Melting Pot Jazz Orchestra, The Edna Duffy Dance Troupe, The Eddie Baccus Quartet, and Gabriel's Horns. He is active fronting his ensemble and with his radio show on WKHR 91.5 FM. Davis maintains a long association with the Cleveland TOPS Swingband as a singer and Director of Marketing.

JUSTICE MINISTRY

What's Justice Ministry Up to Now?

This year, we want to provide information about volunteer opportunities. We, as a congregation, do a great job of sharing our wealth through grants and donations to various causes, and we have a good number of people who share their time, talents and hearts as well. This is something we are very grateful for, as those actions help to fulfill our promise as a Matthew 25 congregation.

There is no doubt that in this stressful time, we as Christians are being called upon to act out our faith even more energetically. Walking with others in times of difficulty is deeply important and that is part of the Mission of the Justice Ministry.

We are going to select one focus for

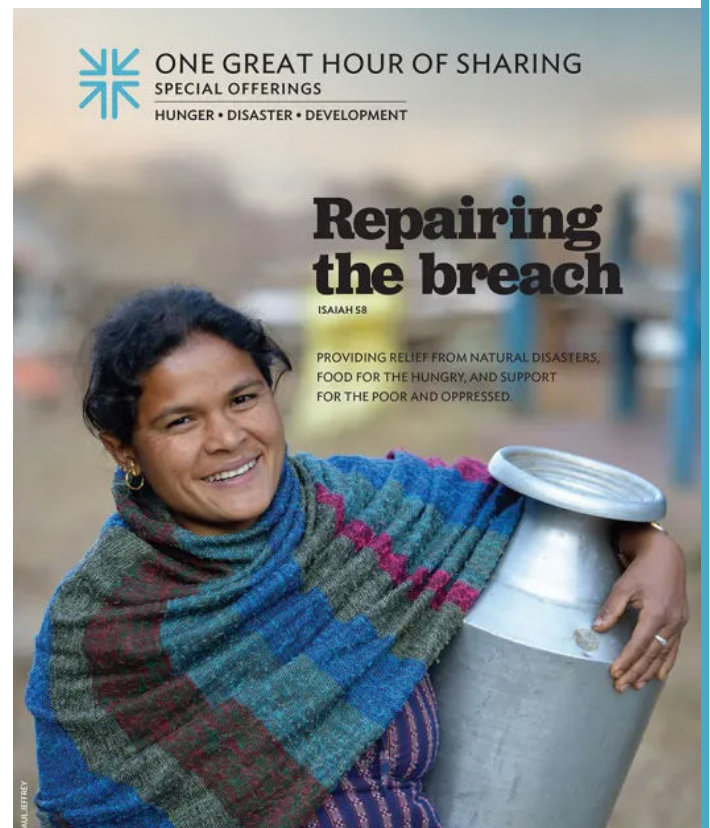
congregational support every few months this year. There will be suggestions for books to read if you want to learn more, opportunities for learning together, and suggestions for volunteering if you want to share some of your time, both long term and short term. Consider that time to be part of your pledge to Forest Hill to support the strength of the community.

To see volunteer activities, use this link: <https://fhcpresb.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Volunteer-Opportunities-at-LMM.pdf>

If you want to learn about local organizations working with homeless persons or to see a reading list of good books on homelessness, use this link: <https://fhcpresb.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Resources-for-the-Unhoused-in-Cleveland.pdf>

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

Please consider supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering this Lenten season. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promotes development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assists in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please be a part of this effort that supports programs in over 100 countries!



EASTSIDE CITIZENS' EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

Wednesday, April 9, 5:00-6:30pm
FHC Fellowship Hall

It's Jazz and Poetry Month! Please bring a friend! Refreshments will be provided.

If you have any questions, contact Nathaniel Martin at 216-469-9581.

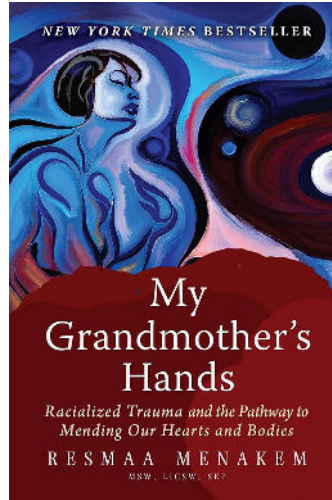


Miles Davis



Gwendolyn Brooks

RACIAL EQUITY BOOK CLUB



Saturday,
April 19,
10:30am-
12:00pm
via Zoom

*My Grandmother's
Hands: Racialized
Trauma and
the Pathway to
Mending Our
Hearts and Bodies*
by Resmaa
Menakem

Persons interested in reading and discussing books that further individual and collective knowledge about racial equity issues are invited to join the discussions. For more information, or the Zoom links, email racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org.

The First Congregational Church of Hudson (UCC) and the Ministry of Adult Spiritual Growth of Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian are sponsors of the Racial Equity Book Club and Racial Equity Buddies program.



EARTH CARE CONGREGATIONS



Dealing with Plastics

We all know what a pollution problem for the environment is a result of discarding used plastic articles. The following information, created by Tom Denbow and our friends at Church of the Covenant, says it all, with suggestions on reducing home usage.

Dave Neff
FHC Earth Care Leader



What Can Members Do to Reduce Home Plastic Use

Facts About Plastic Waste

Only about 9% of all plastic produced gets recycled, which means the rest is sent to landfills or ends up as litter, all too often ending up in our lakes and streams. This not only pollutes our environment, but also poses a significant threat to wildlife. While changing the use of plastics in our households can feel overwhelming, taking small steps to decrease our choices involving plastics will help reduce demand and associated pollution.

Making a small change to reduce plastic waste can make a big difference over time, benefit our ecosystem, and help stem climate change!

- Every year, 500 billion plastic bottles are produced globally.
- There are more than 150 million tons of plastic waste in the ocean.
- By 2050, ocean plastics will likely overtake the number of fish.
- In 2020, we generated more than 500 million tons of plastic waste, 900% more than in 1980.
- Single-use plastics have an average useful life of 12-15 minutes and can take up to 500 years to disintegrate.

Ideas for Reducing Home Plastic Use

- Take a cloth bag when you go shopping. If you must use plastic, see if you can substitute paper bags or make sure you recycle plastic bags (most grocery stores accept them).
- Shop at a local farmers market. Farmers markets are a great way to buy fresh, local produce without plastic, as long as you remember to bring your own cloth bags.
- Replace plastic containers with glass or steel or aluminum containers.
- If you use plastics (especially bottles, tubes, etc.), please recycle them according to your local recycling services.
- Avoid cosmetics that use microplastics (<https://freeappsforme.com/free-skin-careingredients-checkers/>).
- Buy “natural” fabrics like cotton, hemp, and linen. Processing these materials is far less water-intensive than synthetic fabrics like polyester and nylon, and they will last longer and reduce microplastic generation, which ends up in our streams and Lake Erie.

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- Buy less clothing and wash clothes only when necessary. A single wash can cause 700,000 bits of microplastics to be released into the environment.
- Use a refillable water bottle; steel or aluminum bottles are best.
- Use DIY cleaning products—use a mixture of one part vinegar and three parts water as an all-purpose spray cleaner (storing it in a reused spray bottle). Other options: <https://www.thespruce.com/diy-household-cleaners-8672198>.
- Try natural beeswax-coated cloth wraps instead of plastic cling film (<https://www.beeswrap.com/>).
- Compost food waste to avoid plastic garbage bags.
- Switch to shampoo bars and bar soap; liquid soaps require plastic containers and use more energy.
- Go with metal razors and shaving soap (wood handle bristle applicator); it is more expensive but lasts much longer and reduces the use of plastic disposable razors and throwaway toothpaste tubes.
- Rethink your deodorant; when possible, buy deodorant that comes in biodegradable, compostable, or recyclable packing.
- Choose wooden combs; they are hard to find but out there.
- Swap out your plastic toothbrush and use a bamboo brush with natural fibers.
- Switch to silk dental floss, which usually comes in plastic-free packaging.
- Use dry toothpaste to reduce the number of plastic tubes that must be thrown out.
- Switch to chewable mouthwash, although be careful—products can't be swallowed.
- Use natural sponges; most are plastic; walnut or coconut sponges are good alternatives.
- Switch to laundry strips, although be

careful—some use plastics as a backing for the soap.

Information Sources:

<https://earth.org/ways-to-reduce-your-plastic-waste/>

<https://www.recyclecoach.com/blog/30-ways-to-use-less-plastic-at-home>

The fundamental biblical mandate for creation care comes from Genesis 2:15, where God places Adam in the garden to “till it and keep it” (NRSV). A better translation from the Hebrew is “to serve it and to preserve it.” In Genesis 1:26–28, God blesses humankind with dominion over the earth. Human “dominion,” as intended in Genesis, is best practiced in care for creation. In Christ, “all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17), and “every creature under heaven” is to receive God’s good news (v. 23). According to Revelation, God’s work in the world is to “make all things new” (21:5), to bring about a new creation that does not destroy the old but transforms it, renews it. If the church is the sign of the new creation, then the church must lead the way in caring for creation.



STYROFOAM COLLECTION

Sunday, April 27, 1:30-4:30pm
 Lee Road Branch of Heights Library
 (2345 Lee Road)

The Cleveland Heights Green Team is collecting your clean EPS foam for recycling. See the graphic below for specifics on what kind of styrofoam can be recycled.

#6 EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE FOAM (STYROFOAM)



LOOK FOR THIS SYMBOL



WE ACCEPT:
 FOAM PACKAGING
 FOAM COOLERS
 MEAT TRAYS
 EGG CARTONS

RIGID FOAM ONLY



**ANY COLOR
 MUST BE CLEAN AND DRY
 REMOVE LABELS AND TAPE**



WE DO NOT ACCEPT:
 FLEXIBLE FOAM PACKAGING
 PACKING PEANUTS
 PIPE INSULATION / POOL NOODLES
 INSULATION BOARD



The key to successful recycling is **CLEAN** material.

If you wouldn't eat off of it, it's probably not clean enough to recycle.
 All foodservice materials must be cleaned as you would any item used in food preparation.

GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS (GCC)



GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS

GCC Wants Your Input!
Pizza Party and Listening Session
 Sunday, April 27, 5:30-7:00pm
 FHC Fellowship Hall

You are invited to a pizza party and listening session sponsored by GCC. We want to hear what you think GCC should be working on right now. We are in a time where so much is changing and happening around us. As a broad-based LOCAL organizing group, GCC understands the importance of listening and connecting during times like these. So, for a brief period, we will be listening to each other and preparing for how to act in these stressful times. We value your input. Come share your hopes and dreams for the year ahead!

Please register here by April 21: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/GCCPizza>. Indicate if you will need childcare during the event. If you have any questions, contact Judy Sockman or the church office.



CHURCH SAFETY PLAN

The Forest Hill Church Safety Core Team has re-launched efforts to build a comprehensive Church Safety Plan. We're developing a plan that includes facility/use assessment, ongoing training and directives to achieve the safest possible use of Forest Hill Church facilities for all who worship, work or visit here.

Guiding our work will be input from the Pastor, Staff, Ministries, Members and Community Partners.

Currently, we are identifying a representative for each Ministry. Representatives will contribute input to the plan development, participate in initial training and be responsible for ongoing communication to their respective group.

If you have questions about the Forest Hill Church Safety Plan, or have experience in Safety Plan Development, email the Safety Core Team at safetycore@fhcpresb.org.

SPRING CHURCH WORK DAY



**Saturday
Morning
May 10th
9-12**

**Childcare
Provided!**

HELP! is needed for various tasks including: switching storms & screens, washing glass, gardening, painting and just getting organized. There's plenty to do inside if it rains - outside tasks will be rescheduled. Meet in the Jin Room to choose an assignment.

LUNCH together when we complete our tasks!

**Contact Jeff Smith - jeffsmith2756@gmail.com
to volunteer and to answer any questions.**

LABRE MINISTRY

In June 2023, Forest Hill Church's Labre Ministry joined about a dozen Presbyterian churches throughout greater Cleveland to offer North Presbyterian Church support in the form of food and fellowship on Sunday mornings. In addition, some churches offer financial support to help pay the rent, compensate the pastor, and simply keep the lights on.

We serve one Sunday per month at North Church (attached to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, 4515 Superior Avenue). This includes attending worship and providing a meal after the service. We need both food providers and on-site volunteers to bring friendship and hospitality to folks who desperately need it.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Jack Breisch at jackbreisch@gmail.com.



Labre volunteers serving at North Church on March 23, 2025.

SCI-FI SPECTACULAR: SCIENCE FICTION MOVIES IN CONCERT

See pianist Laura Schultz at the Maltz Performing Arts Center!
Saturday, April 12, 7:30pm

Experience the power and wonder of cinema's greatest science fiction scores performed live in a thrilling concert event. Prepare to be transported to galaxies far, far away with music from *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, *Jurassic Park*, *Interstellar*, *E.T.*, *Back to the Future*, and more! For sci-fi lovers and music fans alike, this experience will ignite your imagination and take you on a musical journey beyond the stars! Tickets are available at cinematicsymphony.org.

Cinematic
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Laura at the piano



REMINDERS ABOUT SCAM EMAILS AND TEXTS

This is a reminder to be cautious of any email or text that looks suspicious. If it appears to come from a church staff member, but it's from a phone number or email address that you don't recognize, it's probably a scammer. Please read the email address carefully, and not merely the sender's alleged name. If an email appears to come from a church staff member, but the email address is not their official staff email address, it doesn't mean the staff member has been hacked; it means a scammer is pretending to be them.

Scammers try tactics such as: asking you to secretly send money or gift cards, asking you for personal information, and asking for a copy of the church directory. If you receive such a request that is not part of an authentic ongoing conversation with someone you know, it's a scam.

Another church put together this message of things to watch out for:

“Scammers often try to get you to click on links in text messages or emails by promising you something. Scammers might:

- promise free prizes, gift cards, or coupons — but they're not real
- offer you a low or no interest credit card — but there's no deal and probably no card
- promise to help you pay off your student loans — but they won't
- send fake messages that say they have information about your account or a transaction — but they don't
- say they've noticed some suspicious activity on your account — but they haven't
- claim there's a problem with your payment information — but there isn't

- send you a fake invoice and tell you to contact them if you didn't authorize the purchase — but it's a scam
- send you a package delivery notification — but it's fake”

“The messages might ask you to give some personal information — like how much money you make, how much you owe, or your bank account, credit card, or Social Security number — to claim your gift or pursue the offer. Or they might tell you to click on a link to learn more about the issue. Some links might take you to a spoofed website that looks real but isn't. If you log in, the scammers would steal your username and password.”

Please remember that if an email or text looks suspicious, it probably is. Let me know if you receive such an email or text so that I have data about how often it is happening. You can email me at churchadmin@fhcpresb.org.

Laura Schultz

SHUTDOWN OF OLD WEBSITE

I'm sure you're all enjoying our new website! However, the new site doesn't include all the old posts and pages from the previous site going back to the '00s. Because of this, we have kept the previous site online at <https://legacy.fhcpresb.org>, but the time has come to take it down. We'll take it offline on June 30.

If you have anything on the old site that you want, now is the time to get it! If you need help, contact Kurt Haas at kurt@dangereddy.com.

CHORAL ARTS CLEVELAND CONCERT: STRAY BIRDS



See Ann Donkin
perform with
Choral Arts Cleveland
THIS SUNDAY!
Sunday, March 30,
3:00pm
The Cultural Arts
Center at Disciples
Christian Church
(3663 Mayfield Road)

This is the world premiere of a composition by local composer Mickey McGroarty, based on Rabindranath Tagore's poetry suite *Stray Birds*, accompanied by a woodwind quartet.



Join us for Holy Week as we remember the story of Jesus from Palm Sunday to Easter

April 13, 11:00am – Palm Sunday

Worship service with a palm procession led by the children

April 17 – Maundy Thursday

5:45pm Soup and bread potluck
7:00pm Intergenerational service

April 18, 12:00pm – Good Friday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

(2747 Fairmount Blvd.)

Three-hour ecumenical service of music, scripture, and preaching.

Come and go as your schedule allows.

April 20 – Easter Sunday

9:00am

Service of praise starting in the garden and moving to our chapel

11:00am

Celebration of Easter joy in our sanctuary with special music

BIRTHDAYS

April 1 – Bruce Cameron

April 1 – Brynn Keefe

April 4 – Madelaine Matej
MacQueen

April 4 – Jeremy Ryman

April 5 – Bob Jeffreys

April 5 – Sharon Shumaker

April 5 – Bobbie van Dijk

April 9 – Cora Bissett

April 10 – Nick Baumgartner

April 13 – Marcia Grant

April 14 – Gene McAfee

April 14 – Laura Peterjohn

April 15 – Jeannine Gury

April 15 – Amy Wheatley

April 17 – Bill Finn

April 17 – Ajah Hales

April 17 – Seth Ungemach

April 19 – Benjamin Stadler

April 20 – Kermit Lind

April 23 – Phyllis Baumgartner

April 24 – Hal Musick

April 24 – Dave Neff

April 24 – Jeff Smith

April 26 – Laura Stauffer

April 27 – Jon Hall

April 29 – Victoria Sampson

April 30 – Dan Shaner

CALENDAR

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00pm - Personnel Committee	3	4 5:00pm - Praying with Others	5 9:00am - 1:00pm VITA Tax Service 10:30am - Men's Group (virtual)
6 9:15am - Lenten Study: Atonement 12:15pm - Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal	7 6:00pm - RR&R Task Force Meeting	8 7:00pm - Church Growth Meeting (virtual)	9 5:00pm - Eastside Citizens' Empowerment Foundation 7:00pm - Ministry Meetings	10 7:00pm - Forest Hills Homeowners Association Meeting	11	12 9:00am - 1:00pm VITA Tax Service 10:00am - Fiber Fellowship
13 Palm Sunday 12:15pm - Nazareth Care Group Lunch 12:30pm - Drum Circle 4:00pm - Contemplative Scripture Study	14	15	16	17 Deadline for the May Tower 5:45pm - Soup Dinner 7:00pm - Maundy Thursday Service	18 5:00pm - Praying with Others	19 10:30am - Racial Equity Book Club
20 Easter Sunday 9:00am - Worship Service in the garden and chapel 11:00am - Worship Service in the sanctuary 12:30pm - Easter Egg Hunt	21	22	23 7:00pm - Session Meeting	24 5:45pm - Excell Parents Meeting	25	26 10:00am - Homeless Stand Down (at Public Auditorium) 3:00pm - King! Jackson!: A Musical
27 - Labre Ministry at North Church 9:15am - Earth Care Talk 12:15pm - Trustees 12:30pm - Drum Circle 4:00pm - Contemplative Scripture Study 5:30pm - GCC Listening Session	28	29	30			
Regularly scheduled events meet every week unless noted 11:00am - Worship service	9:00am - Bulletin and email deadline 6:00pm - AA: Progress Not Perfection 7:00pm - Al- Anon: Now There's Hope 7:30pm - AA: Borton Group	10:30am - 1:00pm Abundance Food Pantry	7:30am - Bible & Bagels (virtual) 12:00pm - Staff Meeting 12:30pm - AA: Wed. Women's Group 6:00pm - AA: Four Absolutes	1:00pm - English Country Dance 6:15pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10:00am - Al-Anon: Hand in Hand 6:30pm - Scottish Country Dance	

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Dr. Gene McAfee	Transitional Pastor	pastormcafee@fhcpresb.org	x201
Dr. QinYing Tan	Director of Music/Organist	music@fhcpresb.org	x208
Dr. Amy Wheatley	Director of Family, Youth, and Children	CE@fhcpresb.org	x206
Antoinette Richardson	Community Engagement Manager	office@fhcpresb.org	x202
Laura Schultz	Digital Communications Manager	churchadmin@fhcpresb.org	x200
Darlene Holt	Bookkeeper	finance@fhcpresb.org	x203
Ann Donkin	Building Manager	adonkin@fhcpresb.org	x214
Rev. Carol Wedell	Parish Associate		

**3031 Monticello Blvd.
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118**

Church Office: 216-321-2660

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

Email: churchadmin@fhcpresb.org

Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Deadline for the May Tower: 9:00am on April 17, 2025
Deadline for The Week Ahead email: 9:00am every Monday

Giving Options

Friends of FHC, you may give monetary gifts or donations by texting 216-400-5300, or see the online giving options at fhcpresb.org/give. You may also mail a check to the church bookkeeper (3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118).