



Forest Hill Church  
presbyterian

# The Tower Newsletter

## September 2025



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*Cover photo by Laura Schultz*

## PASTOR'S COLUMN: TERRA BEATA

I don't know if "What I Did on My Summer Vacation" is still a feature of returning to school for primary-age children, but one of the things I did with my summer vacation last month was to meet a young Christian in Lorain whom I will likely never meet again, and that's okay. Our meeting, providentially provided, was the result of his whistling and my recognizing.

Greg, my friend from Houston, Chloe, my beagle mix, and I were walking near the jetty in Lorain Harbor on a Saturday morning. I heard someone whistling the familiar and beloved hymn, "This Is My Father's World," and it turned out to be an undergraduate in Harvard College who was visiting two of his friends in Lorain. He was lying on his back, looking up into a beautiful summer sky, and having an experience of God's creation that must have paralleled the experience that Maltbie D. Babcock had had when he was inspired to write those well-known words celebrating God's creation in the 1880's.

As our shadows fell across the young man's face, he stopped whistling and looked up at us, and so I asked him, "What church do you go to?" and now it was his turn at recognition. He smiled, sat up, and engaged Greg and me in a wonderful conversation for the next twenty or so minutes. He was thrilled to know that Greg and I had both attended Harvard Divinity School and that both of us had worked for Harvard College. He was even more pleased to learn that we are both ministers. His plans to become a medical doctor sprang directly from his faith that God calls each and all of us to service in God's beautiful world – "terra beata" in Latin, the name of the tune to which "This Is My Father's World" is sung.

As Greg and Chloe and I walked away, I said to Greg that none of us could have seen that coming, that none of us could have planned that encounter as part of our vacation, and yet meeting that young man – I'd forgotten his name before we left the jetty – turned out to be one of the high points of our trip to Lorain.

Clubs, sororities, fraternities, secret societies, underground and resistance movements – they all have their own codes, symbols, signs, rituals, and insider language for members to communicate with each other. The church, I was reminded, also has ways for its members to communicate with one another without using words.

As the clouds continue to gather in this time of fear-driven confusion, uncertainty, and cold-heartedness, we will need to be listening for God's voice calling to us in the kindest, simplest, and most open-hearted of ways – in a whistled hymn tune, for instance. As Babcock put it in his hymn, "That though the wrong seems 'oft so strong / God is the ruler yet." Embedded in that beloved hymn celebrating God's creation is the unyielding affirmation of a pillar of our Reformed faith – that regardless of who is in charge of our or any other human-made government, God is still in charge of God's "terra beata," God's beautiful world.

Thanks be to God.

Faithfully,



Gene McAfee  
Transitional Pastor





## FAMILY, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### Get to Know Our Childcare Staff

Forest Hill Church is blessed to have four paid staff members who provide loving care for our youngest children on Sunday mornings. In addition to having years of experience working with children and families in a variety of settings, our caregivers have passed criminal background checks, completed child abuse prevention training, and are certified in first aid. They participate in annual professional development led by the Family, Youth, and Children's Ministry. Many young families who have joined our church in recent years were drawn to FHC because of the safe, welcoming, and loving care that their little ones experience here, thanks to...



**Bee Brennan-Parks (they/them/theirs; she/her/hers)**

Bee grew up in Cleveland Heights and is the oldest of four in their family. They were homeschooled their whole life but attended Lakeland Community College for the last three years of high school and graduated with an Associate of Arts Degree at the same time they received their high school diploma. Bee received their B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Kent State University in 2022. They have been babysitting since they were 12 and have been a nanny for the past seven

years. Bee lives in Stow with their wife, Delia, and their two cats, Eva and Raymond. They enjoy playing board games and card games with family and friends – current favorites include Rummy, Boggle, and Wingspan. They also like to knit, make art of all kinds, and put together puzzles. Bee loves books – last year they listened to 121 audio books and read three physical books. Not surprisingly, one of Bee's favorite things to do on Sundays at FHC is reading books with children!



**Willie Jackson, Jr. (he/him/his)**

Willie was born in Washington, D.C., and spent his childhood in Baltimore, Maryland. The Jackson/Bissett family moved to Cleveland in 2019, and they soon joined FHC. Willie began working with children when he was 15 at summer camps in Baltimore and Wisconsin, as well as Hawken Summer Camp. After graduating from Shaker Heights High School in 2024, Willie joined City Year Cleveland. As an AmeriCorps member at City Year, he developed leadership skills as he supported the academic growth of 2nd graders at Harvey Rice Elementary School in Cleveland. This year, Willie works in several early childhood settings, serving as a lunch/recess aide at Ludlow School, providing after-school care [cont'd p. 5]

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at Ruffing Montessori, and teaching at the Little Gym. Willie enjoys playing guitar, writing poetry, drawing, and hanging out with friends. He loves animals and has owned bunnies, guinea pigs, turtles, geckos, cats, and dogs. Snakes are his favorite! Willie's playful nature engages FHC kids in all kinds of make-believe, and you can often find him playing hair salon or restaurant with happy "customers" on Sunday mornings.



**Tracy Long (she/her/hers)**

Tracy was born and raised in Cleveland and is the youngest of three girls. She attended John Adams/Maple Hts. High School. For over twenty years, she has been a nanny for local families. She is currently working part-time as a nanny while building a business and a brand. Her new venture, Ms. Shirley's Compassionate Companions, offers a variety of caring services for the elderly or needy and is named after her beloved mom. Tracy has been providing childcare at FHC for 17 years. During this time, she has loved seeing children she's cared for grow into teens and young adults. Tracy remembers every child and family she's known at FHC! As many of our children will tell you, Tracy loves to laugh, and she plays a mean game of UNO. When she's not with children, Tracy enjoys backyard barbecues and movie nights,

cabining with family and friends, and pickles (dill, not sweet!) On fall Sundays, Tracy is almost always wearing her favorite color, orange. She's a die-hard Cleveland Browns fan – win, lose or draw!!



**Katherine Wheatley (she/her/hers)**

Katherine grew up in Lakewood where she still lives with her family. She was unschooled from preschool through high school, an experience that gave her a love of learning and many lifelong friendships. Katherine began taking classes at Cuyahoga Community College during high school and received an Associate of Arts degree in 2020. She graduated from Cleveland State University in 2023 with a BSW in social work, specializing in hospice. Katherine was raised in the United Methodist Church, where she loved her youth group and liturgical dance. Completing babysitting class was her dream at age 12, and she continues to enjoy caring for young children. Katherine also has a passion for working with older adults and volunteered weekly for six years at a care facility for people with dementia and memory loss. In her free time, Katherine enjoys being with friends, reading, and spending time by the lake. One of Katherine's favorite parts of Sunday mornings at FHC is talking with children and hearing their reports on fun things they did during the previous week.

## FALL PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



**Begins September 14!**

Our Family, Youth, and Children's Ministry offers young people and their families a safe, affirming, and inclusive space to grow in relationship to God and one another. We seek to nurture and celebrate the faith journeys of children, youth, and families through creative programming that engages the mind, body, and spirit and provides opportunities to love and care for others.

### **Childcare (Birth to Four Years)**

**10:45am – 12:15pm (Rooms 201 & 203)**

Four staff members provide loving care for our youngest children. Our childcare rooms are full of toys that support exploration, make-believe, creativity, and fun. We eat a snack together and hear a story, play instruments, or create with playdough. Parents and grandparents are always welcome to stay and play with their children. The worship service is live streamed in the childcare rooms.

### **Children (Preschool through 5th Grade)**

**11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)**

Children begin the morning in worship with their families and leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders following the Children's Welcome.

**11:20am Children's Gathering  
(Education Wing Classrooms)**

We gather to build friendships and

community! We share joys and concerns over snacks. We create art, play games, write puppet shows, or build with Legos as we explore the stories of God's people. We think about how we can live as followers of Jesus in our homes, at school and in our community.

### **Middle School and High School Youth (6th through 12th Grade)**

Young people in grades 6–12 have opportunities to participate in the life of our church through worship, service, learning and fellowship. Stay tuned for our fall calendar of events!

**For more information, contact Amy Wheatley, Director of Family, Youth, and Children's Ministry, at [ce@fhcpresb.org](mailto:ce@fhcpresb.org).**

## THE RESONANCE PROJECT

### **Resonance Returns to Forest Hill Church!**

We're so excited to share our new season with you! After a joyful first year—complete with sold-out premium seating, a feature in *Cleveland Classical*, and an invitation to play at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo—the Resonance Project is back with a fresh lineup of music and artists for 2025–2026!

This season has something for everyone: a solo recital by Stephen Tavani, Assistant Concertmaster of The Cleveland Orchestra; the U.S. premiere of a newly rediscovered work by 18th-century composer Marianne von Martinez in our season opener, *In Her Circle* with CLE *Concierto*; and colorful, specially curated concerts to celebrate Lunar New Year and other festive moments throughout the year.

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At The Resonance Project, we want classical music to feel welcoming, inspiring, and accessible. That's why every concert includes pay-what-you-can tickets; there's always a place for you here.

### 2025–2026 Season at a Glance

- **October** – *In Her Circle* (CLE Concierto)
- **November** – *Homeland* (Stephen Tavani, violin and Dan Overly, piano)
- **February** – *Lunar New Year Recital* (Ann Yu, violin and Irwin Shung, piano)
- **March** – *Chez Madame Singer* (Poima Trio)

- **April** – *Goldberg Variations* (Irwin Shung, piano)
- **May** – *A Candlelight Recital: Laments and Lullabies* (CLE Concierto)

We'd love for you to join us and be part of the music. Tickets and full details are available at [RMseries.com](https://www.rmseries.com).



## MUSIC MINISTRY

### Come Make Music with Us!

At Forest Hill, music is at the heart of our worship. From singing and ringing to drumming and dancing, we celebrate God's love through joyful sound. As the psalmist says, we praise Him with voices, instruments, and rhythm!

We'd love for you to be part of our music ministry. No matter your age or experience, there's a place for you:

#### 🎵 Chancel Choir

Our Chancel Choir is the heart of music-making at Forest Hill, leading worship every Sunday from September (Kickoff Sunday) through May (Pentecost). We share not just music, but also laughter, prayer, and fellowship. Rehearsals are Thursdays, 7:30–9:00pm, beginning September 11. All voices are welcome!

#### 🔔 Voices in Bronze (Handbell Choir)

A fun-loving and supportive group that rings with joy! We rehearse Thursdays at 6:15pm,

starting September 11. No experience needed—just a willingness to learn.

#### 🌱 Little Crescendos (Children's Choir)

Our youngest musicians rehearse every Sunday after Sunday School with Julie Minder and sing in worship once a month. A wonderful way for children to grow in faith and music!

#### 🥁 Drum Circle

Join Don Davis once a month to play our beautiful Senegalese drums. No sheet music, just rhythm, community, and joy!

#### 🎵 Pickup Choir

No rehearsal, no pressure—just show up and sing! Pickup Choir is for anyone who loves to sing, whether you're in the Chancel Choir or not. On the last Sunday of each month, we meet at 10:15am to learn an easy anthem together, then share it in worship that same morning. It's a joyful, low-stress way to make music, meet friends, and lift your voice in praise. All ages and experience levels are welcome!

# FHC Fall Fellowship Festival

**Sunday, September 14, 2025**

following the 11am worship service



- Bounce House
- Games
- Picnic Lunch

Hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie options will be provided.

Please bring a side, salad, or dessert to share.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall!

**All FHC members and friends are encouraged to attend as we kick off the program year!**





## MISSION STUDY COMMITTEE

The Mission Study Committee needs your help! Pastor Gene dedicated his July Tower article to the transitional process of new pastoral leadership with a focus on the Mission Study Committee (MSC) and its members. The MSC, along with guidance from Arvid Whitmore representing the Presbytery of the Western Reserve, has been charged with capturing a snapshot of Forest Hill Church. The end product, the Mission Study, contributes to the Nominating Committee's creation of a Ministry Discernment Profile – think the church's "resumé" – which is then viewed by potential pastoral candidates.

While some of the Mission Study includes objective information such as a brief history of the church, membership demographics, and church finances, the most important aspects of the study will come from engaging you, the congregation of Forest Hill Church, in focusing on three main components:

1. Identity – Who are we as a church?
2. Context for Ministry – Who are our neighbors?
3. Purpose and Planning – What is God calling us to do?

The Mission Study Committee has been meeting throughout the summer and will be hosting the following events this fall to focus on this important work:

### **Sunday, September 14, Kick-Off Sunday**

Find our table at the picnic to provide initial input: *What draws you to FHC? How would you describe FHC to others?*

### **Sunday, September 28**

After-Church Luncheon and Small Group

Discussion: *How would you tell FHC's past story? FHC's future story?*

### **Saturday, October 4, 10:00-11:00am**

Discussions on Zoom (for those unable to attend other events in person): *How would you tell FHC's past story? FHC's future story?*

### **Sunday, October 26**

Worship led by the Mission Study Committee for collective discernment of our purpose and mission as a church.

**We strongly encourage all to attend each in-person event (or the Zoom event, alternatively) as each will have a different focus.** The more information we receive, the better we can represent Forest Hill Church and find a pastor that best fits our dynamic worship and faithful ministries. Please mark your calendars and be on the lookout for reservations for the September 28 luncheon.

**This is a chance to have all voices and opinions heard.** However, you don't need to wait for these events to give us your input. If you would like to speak with any member of the Mission Study Committee about your joys, concerns, and perspectives on the future direction of Forest Hill Church, you are welcome to approach any of us in person, or contact the church office if you need assistance getting additional contact information.

The Mission Study Committee

Kurt Haas, Jessica Kelley, Karen Long, Chiq Montgomery, Treva Offutt, and Ahren Stock

## ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH (ASG)



**The “Other”  
Prophets – Challenge  
and Comfort in  
Troubled Times  
Sundays, September  
14-November 30,  
9:15-10:15am.  
Meet in South Hall.**

When we as a people face a present and future that stirs doubt, fear and anger, we turn to many sources of wisdom and influence to decipher our times and discern a path forward. As people of faith, we look for God’s word wherever we think we can hear it. But we are not the first troubled generation, and our Scriptures contain stories of those who faced crises and looked to God to make sense of where the world seemed to be going, and to find purpose and hope. At the same time, many of us remain insulated in our day to day lives from calamities both near and far. Our Scriptures also show us God’s word to the comfortable. The words of the Biblical prophets remain a timeless witness to both of these yearnings, as much today as when they were first recorded. This fall we will study the texts of three of those prophets – Amos, Micah and Habakkuk – as both compelling insights into the Jewish communities into which they spoke and as words that echo into our own times. All are welcome. No book other than your Bible.

Register here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/76a8af>

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

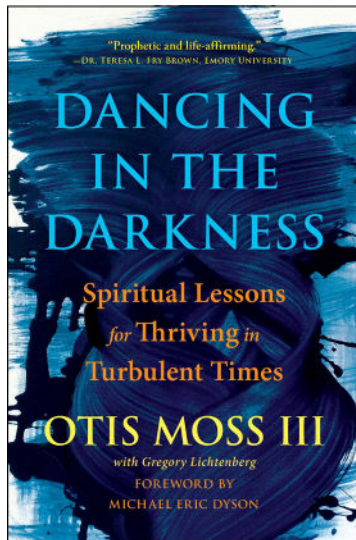
## CELTIC CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

**Tuesday, September 16, 7:00-8:30pm.  
Meet in South Hall.  
Presented by Liz Nau.**

Please join us for an introduction to Celtic Christian Spirituality. We will learn about some of the history of the ancient Celtic peoples and the wide impact they had on Europe as they migrated westward. We will also learn about some of the important symbols and traditions that were held dearly, as well as aspects of daily life that reflected a deep spiritual awareness and attentiveness. And in the Celtic tradition, there will be some interesting stories along the way! All are welcome to attend.



## RACIAL EQUITY BOOK CLUB



**Saturday,  
September 27,  
10:30am-  
12:00pm  
via Zoom**

***Dancing in  
the Darkness:  
Spiritual Lessons  
for Thriving in  
Turbulent Times  
by Otis Moss III***

Our facilitators for this book are REB steering committee members Darlene Nichols and Ruth Twaddell. For the Zoom link, send a request to [racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org](mailto:racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org).

Michael Eric Dyson writes the foreword, which should whet your appetite to read the book and join the discussion.

“A young lady was complaining to her mother about her troubles... The mother led her daughter to the kitchen and filled three pots with boiling water. In one, she placed raw carrots; in the second, a raw egg, and in the third, coffee beans”.

The mother, upon removing each from the pots, noted: “The carrots had been strong, hard, and unbending, yet emerged soft and weak. The egg had been fragile, its liquid interior protected by a thin shell, and yet its inside was hardened by the heat. The consistency of the coffee beans remained the same, but instead of being altered by their surroundings, they changed the water in which they were boiled to produce coffee with a rich aroma... Which are you?” the mother asked.

Dyson uses that story to explain the African American experience in America. He writes:

“Black folks have been coffee bean people who practice a black coffee spirituality. We have throughout our history been thrust into various bodies of hostile water - into the Atlantic during the slave trade, and in the case of the young martyr Emmett Till, into the Mississippi’s Tallahatchie River. And each time we have transformed waters of hatred and brutality into healing streams of moral and social redemption...”

“Black folk have consistently proved to be coffee bean people who change the character of the cultures we inhabit, transforming a nation built on violence and bigotry into a land flowing with wild aspiration to make the dream of justice a steady truth...”

“Like the coffee bean, Black folk have added flavor and fragrance to a society often bitterly opposed to Black intelligence and humanity. Black spiritual striving has pushed America closer to becoming a nation inspired to close the gap between its noble ideals and its too often sorry practices. Black people have spilled blood in the soil of American society, and from that soil has sprung a more vigorous imagination about the possibilities of democracy. In this book, Moss beautifully shares the contents of a robust and reflective black coffee spirituality that can once again save the soul of America, with prophetic grief, sober redemption, catalytic forgiveness, baptized rage, edifying emancipation, sublime justice, and majestic hope.”

Persons interested in reading and discussing books that further individual and collective knowledge about racial equity issues are invited to join the discussions.



# FREEDOM SEEKERS: A TOUR OF LOCAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SITES

**Saturday, September 20,  
10:00am-2:00pm, Rain or Shine**

Join us as we traverse the grounds in Cleveland taken by those enslaved, as they sought freedom and human dignity. On our short journey, we will be visited by actors portraying historical figures of the period who will provide us with eyewitness accounts of the struggles and triumphs of that era.

Email [racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org](mailto:racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org) to RSVP.

**10:00am - Meet at Station Hope** (St. John's Church, 2600 Church Ave., Cleveland)

We will walk to Wendy Park, approximately one mile away, which served as a launching point for Freedom Seekers meeting boats bound for Detroit or Buffalo. Along the way, we will be met by actors portraying historical characters who will recount stories of that

era. We will have an opportunity to interact with them.

Rain site: Stella Maris, 1320 Washington Avenue, for an indoor presentation.

**12:00pm - Carpool to and tour the Cozad-Bates House** (11508 Mayfield Rd., Cleveland Heights)

The Cozad-Bates House is the only pre-Civil War home remaining in University Circle. An interpretive center, it highlights the area's history as a center of anti-slavery activism and honors those seeking freedom through indoor exhibits and outdoor installations. The Cozad-Bates House is included on the Ohio Historical Underground Railroad Trail.

**1:00pm - Lunch provided and discuss the day's events**

"The past is not dead; it isn't even past." How is the history of the Underground Railroad relevant today?

[cont'd p. 13]



*Freedom Seekers*



*Routes to Freedom*

[cont'd from p. 12]

Sponsors: Racial Equity Buddies of Greater Cleveland, Ohio Freedom Path, Restore Cleveland Hope, The Spot Youth Empowerment Organization, and Eastside Citizens' Empowerment Foundation



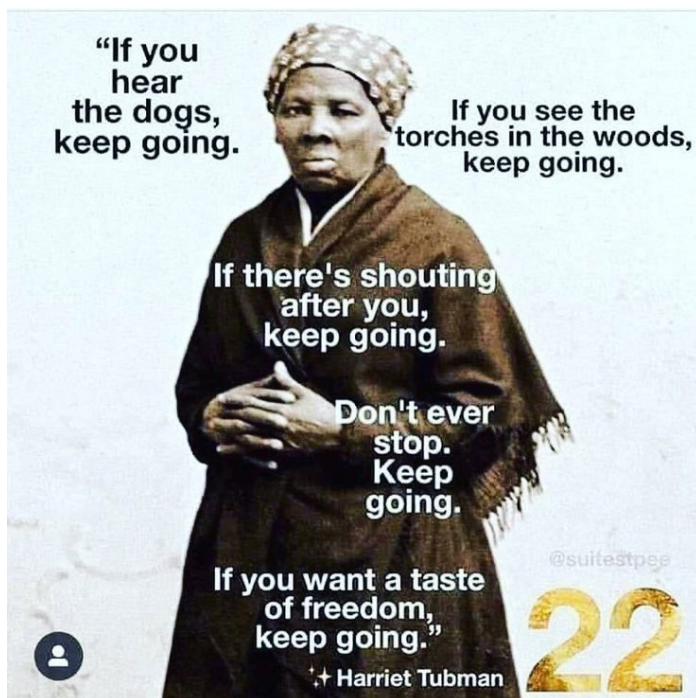
Slave Catchers

**CAUTION!!**

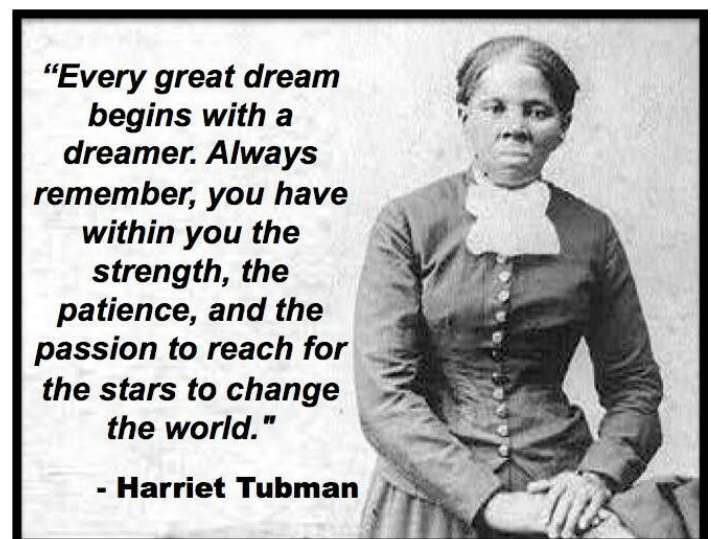
**COLORED PEOPLE**  
**OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,**  
You are hereby respectfully **CAUTIONED** and  
advised, to avoid conversing with the  
**Watchmen and Police Officers**  
**of Boston,**  
For since the recent **ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN**, they are empowered to act as  
**KIDNAPPERS**  
**AND**  
**Slave Catchers,**  
And they have already been actually employed in  
**KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING**  
**SLAVES.** Therefore, if you value your **LIBERTY**,  
and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Shun*  
them in every possible manner, as so many **HOUNDS**  
on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

**Keep a Sharp Look Out for**  
**KIDNAPPERS, and have**  
**TOP EYE open.**

**APRIL 24, 1851.**



The most famous and successful URR "conductor"





## NEWS FROM THE CAMERON LIBRARY



Many of you may have noticed the book cart by the Adult Spiritual Growth Bulletin Board. The goal is to make materials from the library more accessible to those are not able to go down to the library. The Camerons purchased the cart, and Ann Donkin assembled it. Currently it is housing giveaway items that are duplicates in the current collection. Feel free to make selections. In mid-September those items will be donated and replaced with items from the collection to check out. There will be pens and a box for the checkout cards. The collection will rotate to keep a fresh look.

Another generous purchase by the Camerons is a new printer that will allow adding of titles, date due card labels and call number labels to be done in house. Ann Donkin ordered the printer and Dan Shaner installed it on the network. The Mac computer in the library has a guest profile that allows people doing a search in the library to find additional sources and information. It can even be used to order materials from Clevnet.

The library is undergoing some changes and that's a good thing. The collection has been checked to be sure the titles that are recorded are actually in the active collection. Relatively few titles were missing and after checking against what was checked out, the librarians are confident that our list matches what is on the shelves. Our next step is to add the first three letters of the author's name to the

call number to make it easier to locate books within a particular section.

We are also interested in updating the collection. While some sources never go out of date, others on topics like social issues, sexual identity, and others change. That said, we are always looking for donations of books less than five years old and without handwritten notes. If you would like to donate books, audiobooks, or DVDs to the library, please set them in the basket under the table to the left of the door as you enter the library.

The collection is divided into these topics:

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| • Bible          | • Race, Faith, and   |
| • Bible Study    | Culture              |
| • Church         | • Social Issues      |
| • Church History | • Spirituality       |
| • Religions      | • Prayer and         |
| • Theology       | Meditation           |
| • Biography      | • Art and Creativity |
| • Classics       | • The Uhle           |
| • Poetry         | Collection donated   |
| • Fiction        | by Grace Uhle        |

### FIBER FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of Fiber Fellowship will be on Saturday, September 13, 10:00am-1:00pm. We will be exploring how to do English Paper Piecing in addition to our usual activities. If you are interested in joining, contact Carol Gifford or the church office for more information!

Also, we are collecting hats again this fall! Knitted, crocheted, store-bought, any kind! We are still determining where these will be distributed, maybe somewhere local. The container for collecting hats is in Fellowship Hall.



## WORSHIP

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

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

### Co-Leaders for September

September 7: Karen Long

September 14: Cindy Newton

September 21: Nathaniel Martin

September 28: Pat Seeders



## 2025 CAMP LILAC RECAP



Camp Lilac is a week-long, residential camp specifically for trans and gender-diverse youth ages 13-17. Our program is designed so that campers emerge with an increased sense of confidence in their identities and a strong

community of peers and supporters.

We just wrapped up an incredible summer of camp, taking place across two weeks in west-central Ohio. Here's our 9th season by the numbers:

### 143 Campers

100% surveyed were glad they attended.

100% of caregivers surveyed strongly agreed camp was a beneficial experience.

### 78 Amazing Volunteers

We are endlessly grateful for the countless hours and talents our staff share with us to make Camp Lilac what it is!

### 205 Generous Donors

(and many uncounted but endlessly appreciated supporters at Prides and fundraisers!)

\$46,825 awarded in financial aid

28% increase in campers served by our POC Scholarship Fund

The real impact of camp is impossible to quantify. We can't count the friendships, inside jokes, or moments of bravery. However, we know that these memories inspire us, strengthen us, and mean the world to us. Whether you're a parent, camper, donor, or ally - thank you.

As a small nonprofit, individual donations help us to fund every aspect of camp. Please consider making a donation to help support our 10th season! Donations can be made here: <https://givebutter.com/camlilac2026>



## EARTH CARE CONGREGATIONS



### Pollution

Air and water pollution are plagues on a healthy earth environment, and they affect all of us creatures who inhabit God's creation. Very fortunately we in northeastern Ohio are blessed with better air and water quality, and a minimum amount of pollution, than many, many other parts of our country and the world have as a whole.

It is well known, and documented scientifically over several decades, that unfettered emissions of such industrial emitters are directly associated with chronic health concerns such as increased pulmonary disease, asthma, cancers, and other health defects in people exposed to and living in close proximity to such firms.

In America, the Clean Air and Water Acts, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have had historically positive effects on countering man-made pollution from industrial sources — refineries, chemical plants, coal burning power plants, cement plants and others, as well as from our vehicles. But the current administration wishes to weaken existing protections by reversing

the EPA'S own 2009 finding that greenhouse gas emission pollution is a threat to human health and safety. Indeed, the government now wishes to grant a pass of exemption to 200+ chemical firms to not have to comply with established air quality standards.

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and other responsible NGOs are actively combating such negative actions legislatively and in the courts as they previously have when complying with air and water quality standards have come under attack from specific polluting plants and industry associations.

Let our legislators know that you oppose any gutting or ignoring of EPA Anti-Pollution standards! Contact them by googling their name and contacting them by telephone, mail, or email.

Dave Neff  
FHC Earth Care Leader

### STEWARDSHIP

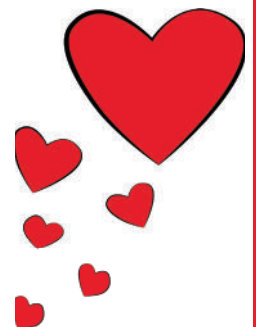
The Stewardship Ministry invites you to

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Sunday, November 2**

for our annual harvest celebration service and luncheon. Watch for the sign-up soon (and Morag will be cooking)!

We're looking forward to working with everyone to launch the coming year's stewardship season. Let's just say...

Love is in the air!





BELIEVE OUR DEMOCRACY MATTERS? JOIN US!

# PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

A FREE COMMUNITY FORUM!

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UCC -  
2592 W. 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET, CLEVELAND

9:30 AM - COFFEE & BREAKFAST

10:00 - 1:00 - PROGRAM & SNACKS

1:00-1:30 - NETWORKING

Learning includes a **welcoming keynote** from  
Dr. Ayesha Bell-Hardaway, Case Western  
law professor & Director of the Social Justice Institute  
and **panels of champions & experts** for democracy!



## TOGETHER, LET'S



Build knowledge - walk  
away with new, timely,  
actionable information!



Build urgency, know the  
actions you can take to  
support democracy -  
making the case for voting!



Build relationships,  
connection and care!

**FREE!**  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

## SPONSORS:

Racial Equity Buddies  
of Greater Cleveland

AMIS

AntiRacism for Equity at  
Plymouth Church UCC

Crooked River Zen Center

Eastside Citizens

Empowerment Foundation

Move to Amend

Presbytery of the Western Reserve

Showing Up for Racial Justice NEO

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry  
Federated Church

Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Cleveland

Details & registration  
(registration appreciated!)

<http://bit.ly/Sept6Forum>

OR scan here:



Questions/ideas? Email us: [racialequitybuddies@gmail.com](mailto:racialequitybuddies@gmail.com)

8/19/2025





## SUMMER WORSHIP

The last 10:00am worship service will be September 7. The service time will return to 11:00am starting September 14.

## SHINING STAR CLE

Church member and rising senior Henry Dyck has been selected as a finalist in the Shining Star CLE voice competition for high school students. The competition started with 165 students from ten counties. After three rounds, the judges selected the top ten finalists. Support Henry in the final concert at Playhouse Square on Sunday, September 7, at 7:00pm. Tickets are available here: <https://engage.mandeljcc.org/shiningstarcletickets>

## PACESETTERS



**Game Party Night**  
**Friday,**  
**September 12,**  
**6:30-9:30pm**

Join us for Game Party Night where we'll play some great party games that will have you laughing as much as competing!

Contact Mark Wedell at [markwedell1212@gmail.com](mailto:markwedell1212@gmail.com) or 216-501-0019 to RSVP, or

call the church office. The address is 5645 Hartshire Drive, Willoughby.

Bring an appetizer, snack or dessert to share. Sparkling water, tea and coffee will be provided.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the fun, whether you've never been to a Pacesetters event before or you're a Pacesetter event veteran (in which case, seek out a new member or visitor to bring along)!

## BIRTHDAYS

September 2 – Jeff Cameron  
September 3 – Bob Doyle  
September 3 – Darlene Holt  
September 5 – Cathy Ghiandoni  
September 5 – Dave Olson  
September 5 – Elaine Turley  
September 6 – Audrey Kellermeyer  
September 6 – Dean Sieck  
September 8 – Diane Doyle  
September 8 – Brian Klein  
September 8 – Karen Long  
September 9 – Dan Fuller

September 10 – Sylvia Herd  
September 12 – Missy Baumgartner  
September 12 – Steve Sedam  
September 12 – Peggy Yeager  
September 13 – Jim Seeders  
September 16 – Don Ungemach  
September 17 – Tweet Miah  
September 17 – Elizabeth Shaw  
September 19 – Leslie Clement  
September 19 – Lia Clement  
September 19 – Alex Jamieson

September 20 – Allan Khoury  
September 21 – Phuong Huynh  
September 22 – Michael Stawovy  
September 23 – Laurie Rose  
September 24 – Kathryn Himmelsteib  
September 24 – Ronald Klein  
September 28 – Jessica Klein  
September 29 – Larissa Boley  
September 29 – Brian Misch  
September 30 – Sharon Leary

# CALENDAR

## September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day - Church Closed	2	3 7:00pm - Personnel Committee	4	5 5:00pm - Praying with Others	6 10:00am - Native Plant Sale 10:30am - Men's Group
7 10:00am Worship service	8	9 7:00pm - Church Growth Meeting	10 5:00pm - Eastside Citizens' Empowerment Foundation 7:00pm - Ministry Meetings	11 7:00pm - Forest Hills Homeowners Association Meeting	12 6:30pm - Pacesetters Game Party Night	13 10:00am - Fiber Fellowship
14 9:15am - The "Other Prophets" Class 12:30pm - Fall Fellowship Festival	15	16 7:00pm - Celtic Christian Spirituality	17	18 Deadline for the October Tower 1:00pm - Communications Committee Meeting 5:30pm - Finance Committee Meeting	19 5:00pm - Praying with Others	20 10:00am - Freedom Seekers Tour
21 9:15am - The "Other Prophets" Class	22	23	24 7:00pm - Session Meeting	25	26	27 10:30am - Racial Equity Book Club
28 - Labre Ministry at North Church 9:15am - The "Other Prophets" Class 12:30pm - Mission Study Committee Luncheon	29	30				

<b>Regularly scheduled events meet every week unless noted</b>  Starting September 14: 11:00am - Worship service	<b>9:00am - Bulletin and email deadline</b> 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 Starting September 11: 6:15pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10:00am - Al-Anon: Hand in Hand 6:30pm - Scottish Country Dance	
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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Church Office: 216-321-2660

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

Email: [churchadmin@fhcpresb.org](mailto:churchadmin@fhcpresb.org)

Website: [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)

**Deadline for the October Tower: 9:00am on September 18, 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](http://fhcpresb.org/give). You may also mail a check to the church bookkeeper (3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118).