



Forest Hill Church
presbyterian

The Tower Newsletter

September 2026



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PASTOR'S COLUMN: GATHERED AGAIN

I still remember first grade. I don't remember my teacher's name – it was Washington Elementary School in Springfield, now long gone – but I do remember where my classroom was, where the windows were, and where the grand central staircase to the second floor was. (It seemed grand to this first-grader, anyway.)

Cover photo by Joe Frolik. The photo shows a few of the many hard-working volunteers at our Abundance Food Pantry.

September takes many of us back to such memories, sometimes happily, sometimes [cont'd on p. 3]

[cont'd from p. 2]

not so happily. September also brings us back together. Fall schedules resume. Programs restart. The rhythms of congregational life feel more familiar. There is something deeply spiritual about gathering again.

That's one of the reasons the annual church picnic happens in September at Forest Hill Church. The picnic reminds us that a church is not merely a collection of individuals who share beliefs. It is a community shaped by shared practices: worship, service, study, care, fellowship, food. When we gather, we remind one another who we are and whose we are.

We exchange information about ourselves. We catch up. We learn about the ups, downs, and ordinary events in each other's lives. We honor the line between sharing information that is helpful and sharing information that is not.

Gathering is not without challenge. We come with differing perspectives, experiences, and hopes for the future. And yet, the gospel calls us to remain at the table together — not because we agree on everything, but because we are bound by our love for God and God's creation, which includes each other.

In a divided world, the simple act of gathering across differences is itself a witness. It declares that community is possible, that reconciliation matters, and that God's grace is wider than our disagreements.

How might FHC bear such a witness?

Sunday lunch.

What if we invited communities of faith who

seem quite different from us — who hold different values, look at the world differently, express their faith in ways that we don't or wouldn't — to join us for lunch one Sunday a month (or quarter) for food, fellowship, and the chance for us to learn more about who they are and for them to learn more about who we are? The purpose would not be for either of us to change the other; the purpose would be to try to bridge a little of the ignorance gap on which assumptions, stereotypes, and bigotry are often based.

What do you think might happen? I'd love to hear your thoughts.

As we begin this program year, I invite you to consider how you will participate in the life of this congregation. Not as a consumer, but as a contributor. Not as a spectator, but as a partner in ministry.

May this season of gathering strengthen our bonds, renew our purpose, and deepen our commitment to being the church — together.

Faithfully,



Gene McAfee
Transitional Pastor



Note: Pastor Gene will be on study leave September 24–October 1. If pastoral emergencies arise, please contact the Rev. Carol Wedell at (216) 470-0152.

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 Forest Hill Church met on June 24 and July 12, 2026. Pastor Gene McAfee served as moderator for both meetings. The following is summary of the actions at each meeting.

Stated Meeting, June 24, 2026

The financial report for the period ending May 30, 2026, was received.

Session approved a policy for Vulnerable Adults. The policy states, in part, that all church members, church officers, nonmember employees, contractors, and volunteers of all congregations, councils, and entities of Forest Hill Church shall maintain the highest standards of safety, care, nurturing, and integrity in all interactions with vulnerable adults. This policy applies to all activities sponsored by Forest Hill Church that involve vulnerable adults. The entire policy will be incorporated into the church Operations Manual. The policy can be obtained by emailing the church office or contacting the Clerk of Session.

Appreciation was expressed for the support of events during PRIDE month. It was reported that a new, part-time custodian had been

hired. The funding goal has been achieved for replacement carpeting in Fellowship Hall. Various ministries reported on the continuing work to switch over to a new phone system, plan for outdoor worship and receive and evaluate Community Grant proposals. Greater Cleveland Congregations has launched a new campaign, “Not with Our Money”, to persuade a bank to cease making funds available for immigration detention facilities. A major gift has been pledged to fund Choral Scholars and the gardens.

Special Meeting, July 12, 2026

Session met with prospective members Carrie Gladstone and Yvonne Blanchard. After examination and discussion, both were joyfully received into membership.

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 Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 6–8 p.m. in South Hall.

FELLOWSHIP FESTIVAL

**Sunday, September 13,
after the worship service**

Enjoy your fellow members at the Fall Fellowship Festival!

This event is our biggest one of the year! On September 13, right after worship, come and join our delicious buffet of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs with many side dishes and desserts. Selections will be available for vegetarians and vegans.

There will be room for everyone in Fellowship Hall and the adjacent outdoor area. There will be a bounce house for the children which is always a treat. Plus other activities to enjoy!

It's a new beginning for the school kids and many programs are starting up again after the summer break. Visit with friends and meet new ones.

We would greatly appreciate it if you would volunteer to help serve food for

a short shift of time. Also we would love you to sign up to bring a side dish or a dessert. When we all pitch in, it's a wonderful time of fellowship.

To volunteer to help, contact Kitty McWilliams at kittymcw@gmail.com or 216-299-5957.

Remember! The worship service begins at 11 a.m. that Sunday!



FAMILY, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Fall Programming for Children and Youth begins September 13

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 nurture and celebrate the faith journeys of children, youth, and families through creative programming that engages mind, body, and spirit and provides opportunities to love and care for others.

Childcare (Birth to 5 Years)

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. (Rooms 201 & 203)

Three experienced, paid 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 (K–5th grade)

11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)

Children begin the morning in worship with

their families and leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders following the Passing of the Peace. On the first Sunday of each month, children join the congregation for worship and communion.

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 world.

Middle School and High School Youth (6th–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, please contact Amy Wheatley, Director of Family, Youth and Children's Ministry at ce@fhcpresb.org.

Family Youth and Children's Ministry Receives Presbytery Grant

Planting Seeds of Social Justice

A \$2,000 grant from the Presbytery of the Western Reserve will support a new pilot project for FHC youth, "Planting Seeds of Social Justice," based on Matthew 25:35-40.

"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.

"Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'"

"Planting Seeds of Social Justice" will be a core of our programming for middle school youth (6th–8th grade) and will include opportunities for congregation members to support and join our young people in some of the project activities.

The multi-year project will be organized in units that focus on "the least of these" identified in Matthew 25: people who experience hunger, poverty, illness, incarceration, homelessness, and those who are marginalized as strangers. Each unit will include opportunities for learning, service, and advocacy.



In order to frame the project around scripture and encourage reflection on Jesus' words in Matthew 25, each unit will begin with a visit to a Matthew 25 sculpture, created by artist Timothy Schmalz and installed in locations throughout Cleveland by the Community West Foundation.

The sculptures illuminate the themes of each unit: **When I Was Hungry and Thirsty** (First Presbyterian Church), **When I Was Naked** (Malachi House), **When I Was Sick** (Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital), **When I Was a Stranger** (Re:Source Cleveland), **When I Was in Prison** (Wholeness Project), and **Homeless Jesus** (St. Malachi Parish.)

This project will begin this fall. It is my hope that it will be a meaningful way for young people to reflect on the Matthew 25 scripture and follow Jesus' call to care for others.

~ Amy Wheatley, Director, Family, Youth and Children's Ministry

MUSIC MINISTRY



A New Season of Music

The Music Ministry is excited to begin a new season of music and fellowship this September! We'll gather for a potluck fellowship dinner on Thursday, September 10, from 6:30–7:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us for this opportunity to reconnect after the summer and meet others in our music ministry.

Chancel Choir

Our beloved Chancel Choir leads worship and sings anthems throughout the September–May season. This year's repertoire includes "O Love," "My Heart Be Brave," "Festival Sanctus," and a new arrangement of "O Come O Come, Emmanuel."

Interested in singing with us? Come to our first rehearsal and give it a try! Music will be provided, and no prior choir experience is necessary. Come share your voice, build community, and help us make beautiful music together.

First rehearsal: Thursday, September 10 | 7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Voices in Bronze

The Voices in Bronze bell choir is a monthly staple in worship at Forest Hill Church. This

fun and welcoming ensemble brings the beautiful sound of handbells to our services throughout the year.

Whether you're an experienced musician or simply curious about ringing, we'd love to have you join us. Come and discover the joy of making music together!

First rehearsal: Thursday, September 17 | 6:15 p.m. | Bells Room

Celebrating the Music of Mary Ann Breisch

We are delighted to celebrate our own Mary Ann Breisch, whose sacred song "What Are We to Do" has recently been published by the Convergence Music Project (CMP).



Mary Ann's composition is now available for purchase through the CMP, an organization dedicated to making new and meaningful sacred music accessible to churches, choirs, and communities.

We invite you to support Mary Ann and discover her music by visiting the CMP website, where "What Are We to Do" is now available for purchase: <https://convergencemp.com/products/425>

Please join us in congratulating Mary Ann on this wonderful accomplishment! We are grateful for the ways she shares her musical gifts with our community and beyond.

THE RESONANCE PROJECT

Resonance Returns for Its Third Season!

We're excited to welcome The Resonance Project back for its third season! What began as a small concert series has grown into a wonderful way for our church and wider Cleveland Heights community to come together through music.

We're also thrilled to share that The Resonance Project has been awarded an ArtSTART Grant! This support will help us continue bringing exceptional musicians and creative programming to our community.

Thank you to all our church members for your interest, encouragement, and support of Resonance. Your enthusiasm has helped the

series grow and makes it possible for Forest Hill Church to be a welcoming home for musicians, audiences, and neighbors.

This season features Scottish Baroque music, French Baroque dance, a program inspired by the Cleveland Museum of Art's *Ten Kings of Hell* exhibition, a Dvořák chamber recital with The Cleveland Orchestra musicians, and the final piano works of Brahms, Beethoven, and Schubert.

We hope you'll join us, bring a friend, and continue to make Resonance part of our community!

For the full season schedule, visit rmseries.com.



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting weekly since late January. The committee

consists of (in alphabetical order by last name) Chris Bell, Bader Boland, Antoinette Franklin, Kurt Haas, Katie Hall, Rayba Johnson, Chiq Montgomery, Dean Sieck, Mark Wedell, and Peg Weissbrod. Kurt and Mark serve as Co-Chairs, and Arvid Whitmore faithfully attends as the liaison to the Western Reserve Presbytery Committee on Ministry. Our task is to locate a sole pastor and head of staff who will be Forest Hill Church's next "called" pastor, meaning she or he will be installed and serve the church for the foreseeable future.

The first part of our work involved writing five separate documents that would comply with the PCUSA's expectations and serve as information about FHC to prospective applicants. This work is more extensive than it may seem and occupied us until June when we began to interview candidates. There are three possible sources of prospective candidates: the denomination's computer match system known as the Church Leadership Connection (CLC); "Self-referral" which means the candidate contacts us with a voluntary application; and "Outside References," which could come from individuals familiar with our church who happen to know someone who may wish to apply.

We have looked at referrals from trusted sources, candidates who self-referred themselves, and automatic referrals from the PCUSA. Of those, we have talked to several

promising candidates. The CLC has, to date, provided us with 74 possible applicants. Each of these has a code number which serves as the entrée to several separate documents written by the applicant about such matters as their skills for ministry, ministerial accomplishments, and how they handle failure.

In addition, an applicant provides information about their education, ministerial posts served, and unpaid professional service and connections, as well as personal references. All of this material must be read for each applicant by each of your PNC members. Beyond that, often we are able to use employment data to find the applicant on the internet and listen to one or more sermons.

Most of the applicants we have pursued have been self-referred. To date, we have interviewed six applicants on Google Meet; one has withdrawn, and we have determined not to pursue two more. One or more of these provided references which necessitated phone interviews. Of course, the process goes on, and we may yet encounter more who are appealing.

We are indebted to our co-chairs, Kurt and Mark, for keeping us supported with their computer expertise. Mark has provided numerous Excel records of all of the votes we have taken on individual applicants and other progress, and Kurt has kept us organized by providing regular weekly agendas and smoothly running meetings. Through these means, we are able to keep tabs on our progress with the large screen in the library. Chiq Montgomery keeps thorough minutes of each meeting. Since all of our meetings [cont'd on p. 11]

[cont'd from p. 10]

are hybrid (both in-person and online) there are relatively few absences. Members have joined from locations throughout the U.S. and perhaps beyond. Arvid Whitmore has also been invaluable to our work as he offers occasional wise counsel as he sees fit.

The work goes on, so each Monday evening church members may trust that your PNC is continuing the process that will result in new pastoral leadership for Forest Hill Church.

Submitted by Dean Sieck,
on behalf of your PNC

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH (ASG)

Bible study coming this fall!

Reading Isaiah in Times of Crisis
Sundays, September 20-November 22,
9:15-10:15am.
Meet in South Hall.

We turn to the Prophets for many reasons: comfort, inspiration, instruction, warning. We also turn to their message when we feel we have few other ways to hear God's word in a loud and angry world. The Prophets often spoke most directly when the people faced a real crisis, whether the people knew it or not. Most of all, we turn to them for word that God remains with us, that even in the harshest judgment of our wrongs, there remains hope that with God's love, our hopes will bear fruit. In this study, we will look at key moments in the Prophet Isaiah's teaching that reveal God's perspective and will, especially in times of crisis and doubt.

To sign up, go to:

<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/710b26>

RACIAL WELLNESS GAP WORKSHOP

**Saturday, September 26, 9–11 a.m.,
in Bodwell Hall**

Presented by the Ministry of
Adult Spiritual Growth of FHC

This two-hour workshop is an interactive session in which participants will experience and make decisions based on various fact-based scenarios built around government policies since the Civil War which have perpetuated racial inequity, wealth and wellness gaps still felt today.

This workshop intends to call participants to heightened awareness and actions to reduce these gaps and advance racial justice in our community and society. Particularly, discussion will explore practical and local steps individuals and congregations can take to help assure fair and equitable access to voting in the upcoming election cycle.

This workshop is presented in partnership with Fairmount Presbyterian Church and the Race Action Network of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve.

Coffee, tea and light snacks will be provided at 8:30 a.m., prior to the start of the workshop.

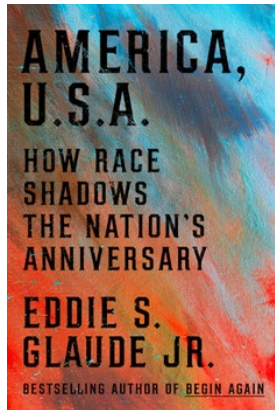
To sign up, go to:

<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/a22e48>

RACIAL EQUITY BUDDIES

Check out these upcoming events for September, October, and November for Racial Equity Buddies (REB)!

To participate in any of these events, email racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org.



**Saturday, September 26,
10:30 a.m.–Noon,
via Zoom**

**Book Discussion on
*America, U.S.A.:
How Race Shadows the
Nation's Anniversary*
by Eddie S. Glaude Jr.**

This *New York Times* bestseller is our first book discussion of the year. Facilitators Cynthia Lehman and Quentin Smith are both on the REB Steering Committee.

[Click here](#) for a YouTube video of the author Eddie S. Glaude Jr. discussing his book.

Here is an excerpt from a book review by Jeremy Rutledge of *The Post and Courier*:

Glaude starts with the stress. "I know," he writes, "and most Americans know but refuse to admit, that we are not who we say we are." As we celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary this summer, the patriotic displays betray our unease. Yet this Fourth of July is not unique. Glaude lays out others that were equally tense — 1876, 1926, and 1976 — as he approaches 2026. In each instance, he shows that the story the country told itself and the truth of the matter were two different things. We proclaimed liberty and justice in a place where countless souls lived and died under a brutal system of chattel slavery. The irresolvable contradiction ran deep.

**Saturday, October 10, 1–4 p.m.,
at the West Shore Unitarian
Universalist Church**

John Brown: The Dulcimer Diaries

This performance is a musical about the abolitionist John Brown and how the abolitionist message remains relevant.

The institution of slavery divided our nation between those who owned slaves and those who believed that it was a sin against God. There is a deep parallel between the political polarization of the mid-1800's and the issues that are being addressed in our country today. While the reasons for this current division are different from those in the 1800's, the reality is that this nation is polarized along political lines.

John Brown: The Dulcimer Diaries will focus on this division through the eyes of John Brown, his life, and the events that led him to his raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859. While Brown is the main subject of this musical/radio play, the many people, black and white, who supported and influenced him in his battle against slavery will have their stories told as well.

The play is written by our own Treva Offutt, the music by Craig Matis. Both contributed to the lyrics.

The doors will open at 1 p.m. This event is being co-sponsored by Undoing Oppressions of the West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, REB, Lakeside Presbyterian Church, and Lakewood Black Caucus.

[cont'd on p. 13]

[cont'd from p. 12]

**Saturday, November 14, 2–5 p.m.,
at Forest Hill Church**

***The Religious Origins of White Supremacy:
The Doctrine of Discovery***

The documentary will be followed by a discussion and a cultural performance.

[Click here](#) for a Facebook video about the Doctrine of Discovery. It includes the doctrine's impact on the African continent and its people, as well as the Americas.

In the most devastating sense, the Doctrine of Christian Discovery (DoCD) legitimized exploitation, extraction, and enslavement globally. It enshrined these practices as the basis of U.S. property law still cited today as recently as 2005 (in *Sherrill v. Oneida*) and 2020 (*McGirt v. Oklahoma*).

MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS

**If you borrowed any of these items,
please remember to return them.**

- *Meditations on the Cross* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *A Circle of Quiet* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *Luke's Portrait of Paul* by John Lentz
- *What's Faith Got to Do with It* by John Lentz
- *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen
- *Spiritual Direction* by Henri Nouwen
- *A Book of Psalms* by Stephen Mitchell
- *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* by Kathleen Norris
- *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived* by Steven K. Scott
- *The Interior Castle* by Teresa of Ávila

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

On October 4 we will celebrate World Communion Sunday. During the season leading up to this, we will be preparing for World Communion Offering. This is a new way for Presbyterians to “love kindness” expressed in action, often involving mercy, faithfulness, and steadfast commitment.

Racial justice, gender justice, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith engagement are the important causes supported by this Offering. Through this Offering, we join with other congregations in supporting the wider church in this work. The table is set, and all are invited! Please plan to give generously!

*What does the Lord require
of you, but to do justice,*

...to love kindness

and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8



**WORLD COMMUNION
OFFERING**



CAMERON LIBRARY NEWS

The American Library Association celebrates Banned Books Week this year October 4–October 11. Banning books in schools and tax-funded libraries is nothing new in America, but the rate at which states are practicing banning is alarming. Fiction and nonfiction give us entertainment and meet our informational needs. When books are banned, it removes the freedom to read.

Tax-funded institutions are the primary targets of banning. Withholding funds and threatening staff with jail are not uncommon. In Ohio, funding has dropped significantly by this General Assembly, so threats to further depletion are critical to many libraries to continue to serve the public. Church libraries and other privately-funded community libraries are free from this threat and are becoming one of the last places people can find books that some would call dangerous.

To honor the fact that in a democracy people have the right to read any and all books that meet their needs, we have chosen, after consulting with Pastor Gene, to recognize our freedom to read. In doing this, Zivile Khoury and I are working on a display for October that highlights banned books. We have a number in our collection, and they will be available to check out by signing the card in the back of the book and dropping it in the red check out box.

Books are banned for a variety of reasons, including race, gender, politics, language, violence, religion, and many others. Sadly, this practice denies people the right to read books and print material that fills the need to know, understand, learn, and be

entertained. As adults and as families, we should determine what is appropriate reading in our homes. Parents should consider what is appropriate for their children. Ideas should never be fodder for others to judge and limit. Our reading needs change over time, as do our interests. Libraries should exist to meet those needs. When they are threatened in public institutions, churches and private libraries must step up to give people the freedom to read. Our church library supports that view, and we have a small but growing collection of books that are banned or challenged by the public.

We hope that you will find time to look at the display in October and support the idea that a democracy that thrives is based on an educated and diverse citizenry.

A few of the titles we are highlighting in our collection include:

- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told to Alex Haley
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
- *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Qur'an*
- *The Holy Bible*

Submitted by Claudia Zimmerman





**GREATER
CLEVELAND
CONGREGATIONS**

**Building Power.
Transforming Communities.**

GCC JUDGE CANDIDATE ACTION:

FOCUSING ON PRETRIAL JUSTICE



DATE:

Thursday, September 17, 2026



TIME:

7:00 – 8:30pm



LOCATION:

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Cleveland
21600 Shaker Blvd,
Shaker Heights, OH 44122



Over two out of three people in our jail aren't serving a sentence – they're in jail awaiting trial because they can't afford bond.

Join us to learn about November's Common Pleas Court candidates – the judges who will preside over felony cases – and the issues people face after arrest, then **let judges know we want fairness.**



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE
& GET INVOLVED**



OUR COMMUNITY. OUR COURTS. OUR POWER.



**EASTSIDE CITIZENS
EMPOWERMENT
FOUNDATION**
PRESENTED BY
PRESIDENT
NATHANIEL MARTIN

**REV. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.**

MALCOLM X

**VOTERS
MADNESS
YOU MUST
VOTE**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2026
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
FOREST HILL CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN
3031 MONTICELLO BOULEVARD
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44118

CARL STOKES

LOUIS STOKES
MALLRONDA EDELLA MURPHY
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REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED

PLEASE
BRING A FRIEND

FOR MORE INFORMATION, YOU CAN CONTACT
NATHANIEL MARTIN, PRESIDENT OF
EASTSIDE CITIZENS EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION
216-417-4808

OUR VOICES
OUR FUTURE

WE DID IT!

*Thanks to everyone who contributed
to achieve our goal of new carpeting
for Fellowship Hall!*

Solutions have been studied, bids received,
a vendor chosen, a committee formed and
samples are being collected. There are
other improvements in the room under
consideration before we can install.



GCC UNIVERSITY



SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday, October 24, 10 a.m.,
at Forest Hill Church**

This is an opportunity to learn more about
GCC's organizing power and how you can
become engaged in the work of seeking
social justice in the greater Cleveland and
Cuyahoga County area.

For more information, contact Judy
Sockman at jrsockman478@gmail.com, or
[click here](#).

FOREST HILL CONNECTS

Game Party Night
Friday, September 25, 6:30 p.m.
5645 Hartshire Dr., Willoughby

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

To RSVP, contact Mark Wedell at 216-501-0019 or markwedell11212@gmail.com.



Please bring an appetizer, snack, or dessert to share. Sparkling water, tea, and coffee will be provided. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the fun!

SQUARE DANCE



Sunday, October 4,
in Fellowship Hall
after the worship
service

We are putting together a Family Square Dance, and the whole crew is invited — so bring the kids!

Whether you are a seasoned pro who knows their allemande left from their do-si-do, or you have never stepped foot on a dance floor, this is all about having fun together.

The wonderful folks from the Broken Wheel Square Dance Club will be providing a caller and acting as our teachers, so no prior experience is necessary. We will be kicking up our heels and dancing for about 90 minutes,

so come ready to laugh, learn, and dance!

We will kick things off with a delicious potluck lunch right after the service. Please consider bringing something to share: hearty appetizer, fresh salad, or dessert. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided!

There is no cost to attend, but a free-will offering is greatly appreciated to defer the cost of the caller. Wear casual clothes and comfortable shoes for dancing.

Come join us for great food, wonderful fellowship, and lots of laughs. We can't wait to see you and the kids there!

If you have any questions, contact Jane Wiener or the church office.

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

SCAM WARNING REMINDER

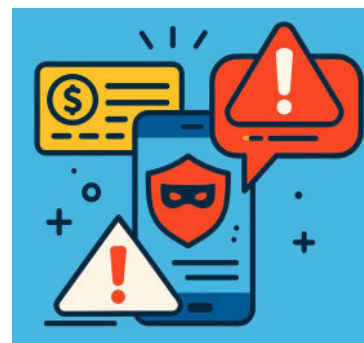
Please remember to be cautious of any email or text that looks suspicious. If it appears to come from a church staff member, but you don't recognize the phone number or email address, it's probably a scammer. Please read the email address carefully, and not merely the sender's alleged name. If an email 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.

Do not give out your personal information, such as how much money you make, how much you owe, or your bank account, credit card, or Social Security number. Do not click on a link from an unknown source. 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.

Remember that if an email or text looks suspicious, it probably is.



FALL WORSHIP

Worship at 11 a.m. will resume on September 13, the day of our fall kickoff.



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 – Dean Sieck

September 8 – Diane Doyle

September 8 – Brian Klein

September 8 – Karen Long

September 9 – Dan Fuller

September 10 – Carrie

Gladstone

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 28 – Jessica Klein

September 29 – Brian Misch

September 29 – Larissa

Ungemach

September 30 – Sharon Leary

CALENDAR

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00pm - Personnel Committee	3	4	5
6 10:00am - Worship Service	7 Labor Day - CHURCH CLOSED	8 7:00pm - Trustees Meeting	9 5:00pm - Eastside Citizens Empowerment Foundation 7:00pm - Ministry Meetings	10 7:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11 5:00pm - Praying with Others	12 9:00am - Immigration Task Force 10:00am - Native Plant Sale 10:00am - Fiber Fellowship
13 11:00am - Worship Service 12:00pm - Fellowship Festival	14	15	16	17 Deadline for the October Tower 1:00pm - Communications Committee Meeting 7:00pm - Forest Hills HOA Meeting 6:15pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 9:15am - Bible study 11:00am - Worship Service	21 7:00pm - Deacons Meeting	22	23 6:00pm - Session Meeting	24 5:30pm - Finance Committee Meeting 6:15pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	25 5:00pm - Praying with Others 6:30pm - Forest Hill Connects Game Party Night	26 8:30am - Racial Wellness Gap Workshop 10:00am - Presbytery Meeting
27 - Labre Ministry at North Church 9:15am - Bible study 11:00am - Worship Service 12:15pm - Safety Committee Meeting	28	29	30			
Regularly scheduled events meet every week unless noted	9:00am - Bulletin and Email Deadline 6:00pm - AA: Progress Not Perfection 7:00pm - Al-Anon: Now There's Hope 7:00pm - Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting 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	1:30pm - English Country Dance	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	carolwedell@gmail.com	

**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 October Tower: 9:00 a.m. on September 17, 2026
Deadline for The Week Ahead email: 9:00 a.m. 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).