



Forest Hill Church
presbyterian

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

The TOWER

JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year

2024



Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Pastor

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

WORDS FROM REV. DR. JOHN C. LENTZ, JR.

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from heaven!
Praise God in the heights!
Psalm 148:1

Happy New Year everyone!

Your Session has hired HolyCow! Consulting to work with the congregation of Forest Hill Church as we look ahead and discern what God is calling us to be and do. The outcome of this work will help us name and claim our mission, establish our priorities and answer the question: What will our staff look like? What will the future of FHC be? Furthermore, HolyCow! will help us assess our gifts, strengths, weaknesses and capacities. HolyCow! will help us take a look at our potential for growth in members, in giving, and in programs.



The first step in the process is having YOU fill out the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT). This can be done on-line or on paper. It takes 20 minutes.

Once the CAT is completed, the leadership team will work with our consultant, Elizabeth Hamilton, on next steps. The team will be reporting to the Session and giving updates to the congregation. We intend to be open and transparent about the results and next steps. This will not be a 'behind closed door' process. There will be opportunities for either Zoom or in-person conversations with our consultant and the leadership team.

The Congregation Assessment Tool will be made available to all congregants starting in January. We will be sending you a unique web link to complete the assessment online. We also make available paper copies of the CAT for those who prefer that format. The church leadership team has a lot of fun incentives planned to encourage your participation.

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of the congregational assessment and for helping to build Forest Hill's future.

Faithfully yours,

~Pastor John

The Members of the HolyCow! FHC Leadership Team are: Chiq Montgomery (chair), Barb Hansen, Jake Ezell, Nicole Lawrence, Nonie Stack, Ron Zimmerman, Kay Hogg, Pat Jenkins and Suzanne Siefert. Elizabeth Shaw and I will serve ex officio.

WORDS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

*“Through windows open to Jerusalem, on our knees praying, giving thanks to God.”
(based on Daniel 6:10)*

When you read this, the New Year will have arrived – Happy 2024! As we write in mid-December, we’re closing in on our 2024 Stewardship goal. We’re at about 95% of the \$725,000 needed for operations in 2024.

If we all consider what we can stretch to give, maybe we can even reach some of those “what if” goals outlined in the annual stewardship newsletter. If you haven’t yet had a chance to read the newsletter that was sent via regular mail, click the link below to read it:

<https://fhcpresb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2024-Stewardship-Campaign-Mailer-Newsletter.pdf>

And, if you haven’t yet had a chance to submit your commitment form, you can return the envelope that came in that mailing or click here to submit your form electronically:

<https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/dfa15499121>

We want to thank each and every one of you for the gifts of time, talent, and treasure you’ve given to the church in 2023 and will give in 2024. We got to give thanks together at our Harvest Celebration lunch in November. Take a look [here](#) to see some of the fun!



 **Forest Hill Church**
presbyterian

THROUGH THE WINDOWS: LOOKING INWARD, LOOKING OUTWARD

**THROUGH WINDOWS OPEN TO JERUSALEM,
ON OUR KNEES PRAYING, GIVING THANKS TO GOD.**
(based on Daniel 6:10)

3031 Monticello Blvd. Cleveland Heights, OH, 44118 | www.fhcpresb.org | 216.321.2660

Jenny Himmelman and
Keith Logan, Elders (stewardship@fhcpresb.org)

Sally Davis,
Kim Hill and Peter Williams, Elected Leaders

Adult Spiritual Growth

SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATIONAL HOUR – 9:15-10:15AM

Beginning: January 7

1. Galatians- The only book needed is your Bible. We offer these Bible studies in a hybrid format, either in person at the South Hall or remotely via Zoom.

2. Sabbath Rest - Everyday life is busier and more distracting. Time, it seems, is a shrinking commodity. God, though, offers tools to help us to be renewed and refreshed. These tools are called by several names -spiritual practices, spiritual disciplines or holy habits. As we tap into these practices, we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us. These holy habits take us to a place where we can become intimate with God. Join Ron Zimmerman [via Google Meets](#) in learning about the importance of establishing the spiritual discipline of Sabbath rest. The class will be based on the book- *Subversive Sabbath: The Surprising Power of Rest in a Nonstop World* written by A.J. Swoboda.

3. CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE CONTINUES-The Advent Contemplative worship has been received so well that we will continue. Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM in the Chapel. We will explore a variety of Contemplative practices and the opportunities they provide to deepen our spiritual growth and find peace. We welcome your participation and hope that you will be willing to share practices that you have learned as well. We want to create a cooperative experience that harkens back to early church gatherings. No sign-up is necessary. Come join us when you can.

Beginning: January 21 - From 4-5PM

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Sonji will sponsor a class discussion centered around women in the Bible who were an integral part of the Ministry of Jesus Christ. Each class will present a particular biblical woman. The discussions will be led by women in ministry. This is an opportunity to gain knowledge about women in the Bible. We will meet in person at the Church. The class will use the book titled, "She is Called: Women of the Bible (Study Series Volume 1)." At the first session, Sonji will have books that can be purchased. The book can be purchased on Amazon prior to class. This class is not for women only we welcome the participation of our Brothers in Christ.

If you wish to sign up, please use the following link: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/039aa5>.

Message from Church Growth

Interested in becoming a member of Forest Hill Church? Then check out our upcoming Exploring Membership classes! The classes provide a pressure-free and engaging way to learn about the Church's vision and core values as well as the many opportunities the church offers for growing in spirit, in service and in connection to others. Participating in the class is also a great way to grow the network of people who you know within the church community. Exploring Membership is a 2-class series with the next upcoming classes on **Sunday, Jan 14** (in person, after church, lunch and childcare provided) and **Jan 21** (Via Zoom after church or you can join a Zoom group at church with childcare).

If you are interested in registering or finding out more about exploring membership contact Mark Wedell at markwedell1212@gmail.com or complete the following form: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/98da6c8213626>.

Message from our Worship Committee

Hello Forest Hill!

Prior to COVID, when we worshipped in person, many of you were actively involved in serving as lay liturgists and communion assistants. Those activities were meaningful to many of you. We are eager to return to those practices. In review, lay liturgists assist the pastor by leading the call to worship, the opening prayer, and reading the selected scriptures for the day. Those who assist in serving communion speak the words of distribution while passing the bread and juice to those worshippers who come forward in front of the church.

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

Once we have a list of willing participants Linda and Jeanette will contact you in advance about scheduling, as well as providing you with instructions for these activities. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Linda or Jeanette.

Lay Readers for January

Jan 7, 2024 Scott Bissett

Jan 14 Leslie Clement

Jan 21 Carolyn Smith

Jan 28 Valeria Stutz



Family, Youth, and Children Ministries

GINGERBREAD FUN!

Our second annual **Gingerbread House Event** in December was so much fun! One hundred twenty people of all ages filled Fellowship Hall with joyful conversation, laughter, and lots of creativity. The decorated gingerbread houses were FABULOUS!

On behalf of the Family, Youth and Children's ministry, thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to this event, which benefited Family Promise of Greater Cleveland. Thanks to your generosity, we will donate over \$1,300 to Family Promise, supporting their programs and temporary shelter for families facing homelessness in our city.

~ Amy Wheatley

Director of Family, Youth and Children

ce@fhcpresb.org



Message from our Deacons

“VILLAGE IN THE HEIGHTS” COULD BE HELPFUL TO YOU

Earlier in the year, Pastor Lentz encouraged the Deacons to find local sources for care of church members who are aging in their homes but may need periodic assistance. As we set about looking for such services, coincidentally, we were contacted by an organization called “Village in the Heights.” It seems to offer much of what we were asked to find.

Village in the Heights is a non-profit, membership organization whose mission is to help “older Heights Area residents to have healthy and active lives as they live in their own homes” by offering a variety of services that support independent living as well as affording social opportunities.

Part of a much larger nationwide “movement,” known as Village to Village, Village in the Heights’ purpose is to enable residents of Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, University Heights, South Euclid, Beachwood and Lyndhurst to find fulfillment and even community when remaining in their homes. For a small annual membership fee (\$200 a person, \$350 for partners) the organization engages its members as volunteers, (“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”) sometimes offering services, other times using services that may require assistance, thus avoiding a professional tradesman.

Examples from their literature include transportation (last-minute or longer trips, changing light bulbs or flipping mattresses, moving furniture, providing computer assistance, and preparing tax forms. Events mentioned on their monthly calendar include exercise such as chair yoga or walks in Acacia, breakfast and lunch in restaurants, informative lectures on topics such as advance directives or larger cultural matters, and drawing with pastels. All personal services whether at-home or transportation are provided by thoroughly screened and trained volunteers. Some services may also be offered on a fee-paid basis at discounted rates. But most services are free for the price of annual membership.

Although the organization does not have its own website, numerous articles may be found online from various publications, and it does have a Facebook presence. Also, FHC members seeking further information may contact its offices, located at 1611 South Green Road in South Euclid, at 216-512-1844.

In line with diversity policies of FHC, Village in the Heights publishes its own DEI statement that stipulates that its programs are inclusive and welcoming to all, regardless of “race, color, religion/spiritual belief, gender expression, age, national origin/ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, sexual preference, or political affiliation.”

Since Village in the Heights so closely parallels what Pastor Lentz urged us to find, the Deacons are pleased to share this information with church members who may wish to pursue membership in this organization on their own.

~FHC Deacons
deacons@fhcpresb.org

Message from our Trustees

CALLING FOR MINORITY VENDOR REFERRALS

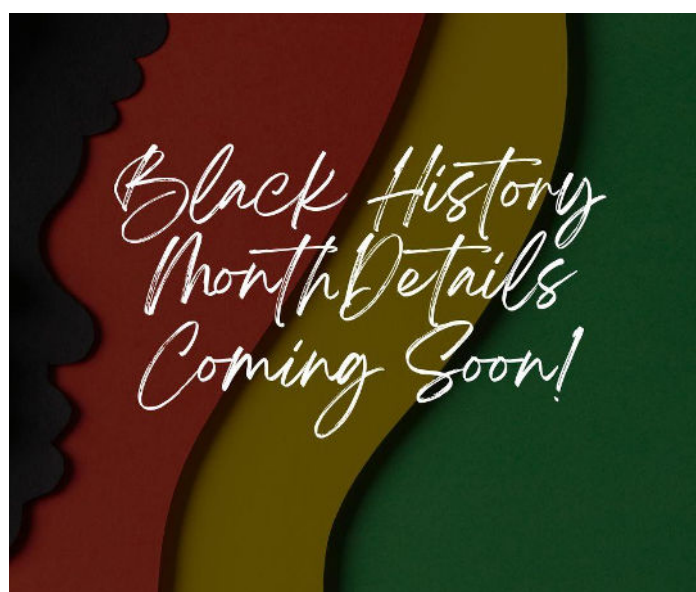
As part of the Creating Racial Equity audit, the Trustees finalized a revised “Minority Vendor Purchasing Policy” that affirms the church’s policy of equal opportunity for those wishing to participate in providing goods and services and that the procurement process supports the church’s racial equity goals. For our purposes, a minority business or enterprise (MBE) is one whose ownership is at least 51% owned or held by persons who are members of a racial ethnic minority group (i.e. Black or African American, Asian American or Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Native American including Aleuts).

Although the General Assembly’s affirmative action goal is that MBE vendors supply at least 10% of the combined annual dollar value of all purchased goods and services, excluding utilities and government expenditures, the Trustee ministry set a 2024 goal of 20%. To date FHC has exceeded that goal by having 21% of controllable expenses coming from minority owned businesses. We require that all solicitation of bids includes at least one minority owned business.

To further the Trustees MBE actions and goals, the ministry is requesting your help to add more potential MBEs to our qualified vendor lists for future solicitation of goods and service. We are always looking for quality vendors to provide supplies, equipment, and services (electrical, carpentry, plumbing, painting, architecture, insurance, cleaning, landscaping, etc.) to the church. **Please send all MBE vendor referrals to Laura Schultz, church administrator (churchadmin@fhcpresb.org), Ann Donkin, building manager (Adonkin@fhcpresb.org) and Jeff Smith, Elder Trustee (jeffsmith2756@gmail.com).** Indicate the name of the company, contact, phone number, and goods and/or services provided. Your help is greatly appreciated.

~Trustees Ministry
trustees@fhcpresb.org

Message from Black History Education Committee



~Black History Education Committee
Blackhistory@fhcpresb.org

Racial Equity Buddies

Racial Equity Buddies* Mission & History (racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org)

Racial Equity Buddies was created only months before the pandemic. We are committed to individual and structural change. Racial Equity Buddies ("REB") partners with other anti-racist groups, and participates in and publicizes anti-racist events and meetings sponsored by ourselves and others. REB does not attempt to duplicate efforts already being addressed by other groups. Rather, we seek to support other anti-racist organizations, publicize, attend, and make efforts to funnel volunteers to such organizations. The pictures below show some of our members supporting anti-racist activities called by other organizations.

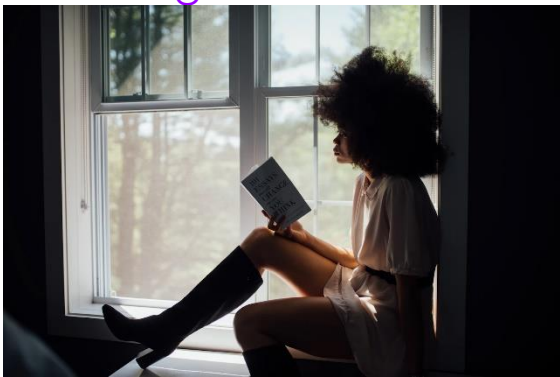


Buddies Susan Lafferty & Quentin Smith at a vigil called by BLM, Cleveland for Tyre Nichols on January 29, 2023. Middle pix shows Kathy Flora, Andrena Sharp-Jones, and Quentin Smith at a union event opposing issue 1.

At its core REB is composed of many dyads, or "buddies," who commit to meeting consistently to engage in confidential, honest discussion on difficult equity issues like racism. The dyads are autonomous and independent. They report to no one. They are only accountable to one another. There is, however, a steering committee to develop larger meetings designed to assist the growth, vigilance, and awareness of the paired buddy relationships.

The Equity Book Club

“Of all our studies, history is best qualified to reward our research. And when you see that you've got problems, all you have to do is examine the historic method used all over the world by others who have problems similar to yours. And once you see how they got theirs straight, then you know how you can get yours straight.” Malcolm X



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We hold five book readings and discussions a year. Applying the above Malcolm X quote, our book club is akin to a think-tank designed to increase awareness of racial injustice, both past and present, with the goal of learning from the past to take action in the present. Our reading (**The Color Of Compromise, The Truth about the American Church’s Complicity in Racism**, Jemar Tisby) has led to a reparations task force to design a “repair” program for the church’s complicity in northern Jim Crow, specifically in Cleveland Heights. The discussion of the book, **One Person, No Vote** spurred our activism to defeat Issue 1, in August 2023.



Above: the Racial Repair and Reparations Task Force of Forest Hill Church. Task Force Co-chairs Marina Grant & Sonji Kenyatta are in front. Back row left to right: Jeannine Gury, Quentin Smith, Mark Chupp, and Danielle Cosgrove. All have REB and participate in the book club.

From Awareness to Vigilance: “Education should lead to Informed Action and that should lead to Liberation, Justice, and Repair”



Above Photo: Building Bridges With Our Muslim Brothers & Sisters. In August 2023, Buddies of FHC participated in Tea Time For Peace at The Community Congregational Church of Chesterland with our Muslim neighbors. From left to right: Kermit Lind, Quentin Smith, Jeannine Gury, our Muslim neighbor, and Melanie Alban. All, save for our Muslim friend, have racial equity

buddies and are active members of the book club. **Standing In Solidarity** with The Community Church of Chesterland that was firebombed in March 2022. Below photo: Left to right, Barry Stees chair of the Social Justice Action Ministry at Federated Church, Rayba Johnson a member of REB and Forest Hill Church, Pastor Jess Peacock of Community Church of Chesterland, and Quentin Smith of Racial Equity Buddies and Forest Hill Church.

Building Safer Communities For All was a community forum held on Dec. 2, 2023, and is an example of REB partnering with other groups/organizations to support anti-racist events. That forum was sponsored by Racial Equity Buddies, the Federated Church of Chagrin Falls, and the Community Congregation of Chesterland. This program was also designed to encourage involvement and support for other anti-racist organizations and activities. Panelists represented, Black Lives Matter, Cleveland, The Jail Coalition, SURJ, and Black On Black Crime Inc. Just shy of 100 people participated in that event.



Top: people gathered/listening. Bottom left: PM panel. Ethan Khorona speaking. Seated: Kareem Henton & Barry Stees. Bottom right: AM panel. Art McKoy speaking. Seated moderator Rev. Heidi Barham & LaTonya Goldsby

Movies & Cultural Events

REB tries to incorporate the entire human spirit into our programs. Community forums, book readings/discussions are important aspects of our program. So too, are movies and cultural events. This past September we partnered with Federated Church to view and discuss the groundbreaking movie, **I Am Not Your Negro**. That same month, the Community Church of Chesterland and REB showed and discussed **Best Of Enemies**, a dramatic movie based on true events demonstrating the power of buddy and cross-racial relationships.



Above left: We gathered at the Community Church of Chesterland to view and discuss the movie, **Best of Enemies**. At the right, we are at Federated Church in Chagrin Falls to watch and discuss the film **I Am Not Your Negro**. Lisa Vahey (foreground) explained the buddy program to the gathering.

UPCOMING CULTURAL EVENTS

On April 27, a live performance honoring the indigenous people of this land will be held at Forest Hill Church. Stay tuned. For more information email us at racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org.

Remaining Book Club Schedule

All Book Discussions Are Held Via Zoom, Saturday mornings 10:30 to noon. Email racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org if you wish to participate.

- Jan 27: **The History of White People**, Nell Irving Painter
- March 9: **The Politics of Jesus**, Obery M. Hendricks, Jr.
- April 20: **Poverty By America**, Matthew Desmond
- June 8: **You Sound Like A White Girl, The Case For Rejecting Assimilation**, Julissa Arce

The Original Racial Equity Buddy Steering Committee



From left to right: Vikki Novak, Chiq Montgomery, Lisa Vahey, Quentin Smith, Kermit Lind, and Elizabeth Shaw.
 * **Racial Equity Buddies was formed in 2019 after a presentation by Dr. Mark Joseph at Forest Hill Church.**

Mark is the Leona Bevis and Marguerite Haynam Associate Professor of Community Development at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University and the Founding Director of the National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities.

Racial Equity Buddies and the Equity Book Club were begun by the Black Caucus under the leadership of Elizabeth Shaw & Quentin Smith. Today, REB and the Equity Book Club stand on their own.

A Dramatic Reading of the Play THURGOOD Comes To FHC

Saturday afternoon, January 20, beginning at 3 pm at Forest Hill Church the accomplished local actor Greg White, who was understudy to the play Thurgood, by George Stevens last fall at the Allen Theater in downtown Cleveland, will give a dramatic reading of the same play. In 2014 Mr. White starred in the production of **Thurgood** that was put on by the Ensemble Theater (see picture below). That performance arguably assisted Greg being named BEST ACTOR by Cleveland Scene 2015. [Best Actor 2015 | Greg White | Arts & Entertainment | Cleveland \(clevescene.com\)](#)

Please email racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org if you plan to attend. There will be light refreshments provided before the performance. Afterwards, tables of six to eight will discuss the reading, the life of Thurgood Marshall and his relevance today.



GREG WHITE (understudy for Thurgood Marshall) has performed at several theatres in Greater Cleveland, including Karamu House, Dobama Theatre, Ensemble Theatre, the Beck Center, and Cleveland Public Theatre. For the past three summers, he has portrayed the characters of Carl B. Stokes and Jessie Owens for the Historical Gateway Corporation's Take-A-Hike program, a tour through Cleveland to hear the story of these historical figures. Regional: Dominique Morriseau's *Sunset Baby* (Kenyatta) at Dobama Theatre; *Voodoo Macbeth* (Banquo), *Death of a Salesman* (Will Loman), and *Water by the Spoonful* at Ensemble Theatre. In 2018, he was recognized as Best Actor in Scene Magazine for his performance in *Thurgood* and for Superior Achievement by the Cleveland Critics Circle for his performance of Chris Christopherson in Eugene O'Neill's *Anna Christy*. [CPH Kicks Off 2023-2024 Season With The Tour-De-Force Play, THURGOOD | Cleveland Play House | 216-400-7000](#)

Racial Equity Buddies, The Social Justice Advocacy Ministry of Federated Church in Chagrin Falls, The Community Church of Chesterland and Ensemble Theater are thrilled to offer you this opportunity to watch Greg White give a dramatic reading of the play **Thurgood**.

This reading is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Outreach Ministry of the PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN RESERVE.

LABRE AT FHC

The Beginning:

Labre, originally an East Cleveland outreach ministry under the auspices of our church, served in East Cleveland for more than a decade—first with the Salvation Army street-canteen and then as a sponsoring partner at Our Family Home Center, a drop-in community center at the corner of Euclid and Lee Road. But in January 2020, Our Family Home Center was destroyed when a van crashed through its front wall, and since that time, Labre ministry leaders have been seeking new mission partners. More recently we worked with Pastor Anthony Mattox at the Empowerment Church in East Cleveland, assisting with outreach projects and helping to restore their historic building on Euclid Avenue.

Something New:

Then last spring, a new opportunity for ministry emerged at North Presbyterian Church, one of the last urban churches in our Presbytery. North Church has its origins in the mid 19th century, thriving for many years in an historic building at the corner of Euclid and East 40th Street, a building now empty. In its struggle to exist and without a building of its own, North has been “adopted” by both the Presbytery of the Western Reserve and by Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, a social service agency located just a few blocks east of the original North church. In the new LMM building, North has its own entrance, a dedicated worship space and common room, and it has access to a large, industrial, multi-purpose kitchen. North Church’s members, less than a hundred of them, are mostly men and women who are experiencing deep poverty and homelessness. Many of them come from the nearby shelters and off the street. The longtime pastor of North Church is the Reverend Charles Hurst. For more information about North Presbyterian Church follow this link:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/urbanministry/north-presbyterian-sharing-space/>

Labre 2024:

As it happens, about a dozen Presbyterian churches throughout greater Cleveland partner with North Church. These congregations offer material support in the form of food and fellowship on Sunday mornings, and in addition some churches offer financial support to help pay the rent, compensate Pastor Hurst, and simply keep the lights on. Last June (2023), our church joined the other partnering churches. Throughout June we worshipped at North and helped prepare and serve the noon meal, which is offered by the partnering church each Sunday. Then last August (2023), we applied for, and North Church subsequently received, a \$3000 community grant from Forest Hill Church, and we have followed up that gift by pledging to serve one Sunday per month (attending worship and providing the meal) throughout 2024.

Labre at Forest Hill Church has always been a Matthew 25 ministry, a ministry intended to serve the least fortunate among us. Won’t you join us in 2024? We will need both food providers and on-site volunteers to bring friendship and hospitality to folks who desperately need it. If you would like me to add your name to the Labre volunteer list, simply email Jack Breisch at jackbreisch@gmail.com.

CELEBRATIONS

While there are many Earth Care issues to be concerned with---extreme weather, drought, floods, pollution, climate change, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, and the effects of all of these on local human populations, it's easy to be discouraged. However, in this new year of hope and nature's upcoming seasonal revival, let us focus on some current positive environmental successes in the United States, prompted by actions from Earth Justice, a major environmental NGO:

- In the Western Arctic, the massive Peregrine oil exploration project has been squelched, which would have negatively affected indigenous communities, wildlife transits, increased pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, (through methane release),
- In California, new regulations which restrict the use of neonicotinoid pesticides which are devastating to honeybees and other pollinators will go into effect in 2024. Pollinators are vital to the agriculture responsible for much of the nation's food-stocks which are grown in California.
- Copper mining leases in the Minnesota Boundary Waters wilderness have been cancelled with a twenty-year ban, thus protecting water quality and wilderness land for recreational purposes only.
- In Maui—in addition to the wildfire troubles—the endangered native u'u (Hawaiian Petrel) seabird has its natural flyway interrupted by lighting pollution from a local resort's bright lights. The lights cause flight disorientation which results in injury and death. After being sued, the resort has agreed to implement protective measures for this unique species.
- In New York, an energy company planned to burn dirty methane gas (which still results in emissions), but instead has opted to repurpose their site to facilitate offshore wind power, in a transition to clean energy.

Of course such successes can be fleeting and there is so much continuing work to be done. We can do our part by supporting national and local environmental actions, protecting streams and rivers, conserving water and energy, planting pollinator habitat, and of course the usual recycling and proper disposal or non-use of plastics where avoidable.

~Dave Neff, Earth Care Leader



MISSING IN BROOKS COUNTY

On Sunday January 21, 2024, The Immigration Task Force will be presenting a film, “Missing in Brooks County”, which chronicles the work being done by Eddie Canales and the South Texas Human Rights Center. The documentary, which is about 90 minutes long, will be shown in South Hall after our Sunday Worship Service.

When fifteen Forest Hill Church pilgrims traveled to the Southern Border of Texas in February 2023, we met with a number of volunteers and other workers who have been and continue to provide amazing assistance to migrants on both sides of the Texas/Mexico border. One volunteer was Eddie Canales, who founded the South Texas Human Rights Center.

Eddie Canales began advocating for migrants in 2012. He and others became aware of many migrants who went missing while traveling to the U.S. Based upon the outreach of multiple families seeking help in locating their loved ones, and the discovery of many bodies of those who perished as they traveled in difficult terrain in Brooks County, Texas, Eddie established the South Texas Human Rights Center (STHRC). The Center’s mission is “to end death and suffering along the Texas/Mexico border through community initiatives.”

Eddie and his volunteers receive information regarding lost migrants and research to try and locate those missing. Sadly, many of the missing perished due to dehydration, heat exposure, disease, and snake bites. STHRC works with forensic experts to locate and identify those who have gone missing and/or died. In an effort to prevent deaths, Eddie and volunteers have placed barrels with drinking water along roads and private property in Brooks County. At the time of our visit in February, our team assisted in placing the 161st water barrel.

We hope you will plan to attend. Members of the ITF will provide updates of the work of STHRC and answer any questions you may have. **NOTE:** Because the documentary includes difficult information and images, it may not be appropriate for everyone.

Please see Nonie Stack if you have any questions about this event.



2023 COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY RESULTS

In November, the Communications Team asked our cherished members and friends to complete a survey to gather your insights on the church's communications. Your willingness to participate and share your thoughts has been immensely valuable to us, and we are grateful for your active engagement in this process.

At Forest Hill Church, we understand the importance of effective communication tailored to the diverse needs of our congregation. Your input provides us with the necessary guidance to enhance our communication strategies, ensuring they resonate with each church community member.

We are excited to share that the survey highlighted your appreciation for the flexibility and control over how you receive church communications. Here are some of those highlights:

Demographics

We received 107 responses to our survey, including five paper copies. Most respondents were members (90.5%) and predominantly female (75.0%). By comparison, the Forest Hill active member demographics reported to the Presbyterian Church (USA) for 2022 were also predominantly female (64.8%).

Eighty-seven percent of the survey respondents identified as white and 10.5% identified as Black/African American/African. Eighty-four percent of the Forest Hill active members reported to the PCUSA identified as white and 14.1% as Black/African American/African.

In terms of age, 34.9% of the survey respondents were 75 and older; 38.7% were 65-74; and 15.1% were 51-64. None identified as younger than 31.

In the statistical report, 38.7% of FHC's active members were 70 and older; 27.0% were between 56-70, 17.0% were 41-55; and 7.3% were 40 and under. (Statistical report source: Breeze database)

Quantitative Results

The traditional communication media were the most popular: 78% always or often read The Week Ahead email; 62% always or often read the Tower; and 78% always or often listen to the worship announcements. The majority of respondents rarely or never read Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or Nextdoor.

The traditional media were generally rated as "Extremely" or "Very Effective": The Week Ahead email (77%), Tower (62%) and worship announcements (79%)..

Qualitative Results

Comments included:

Overall Communication

"Would like [communications] more concise..."

"...The issue now is a high level of activity & events competing for announcement space. Congregants don't always get their info to the office with enough lead time. ..."

"There seems to be too much at times...."

"Very effective, but texts come too often...."

“Mixed. Some things are well publicized, some things are so over publicized that it loses effectiveness, other things seem to get no press.”

“...Greatly appreciate the huge amount of time and effort taken to communicate with us as church members. There is a ton of information and a wide diversity in ages and comfort levels with technology. How to thread this needle is very tough...”

“I find church communication highly useful and effective. Although I don't currently attend in person, with the help of streaming, I still feel quite connected to our church.”

The TOWER

“In addition to monthly happenings, include overall financial status of the church and aspirations of each board and progress towards them.”

“Get paper copies to most of the congregation. Many don't read it on email. I know this sounds old fashioned, but I think more would read it if they got it in the mail.”

“Encourage the use of the email version to limit the need for paper copies”

“Items repeated week after week could be shortened”

“Often I have already read the information in the weekly email”

“Make it more concise, table of contents, make it look like a newspaper”

The Week Ahead email

“Make them shorter. Don't have the same thing in every week”

“There is much repetition from week to week. Perhaps put new items first, then mark repeat/recurring items as such?”

“a table of contents up front to let the reader know what The Week Ahead is addressing.”

“Maybe group all the repeating events together, at the end, under the heading "On Going Events." And put the news things in the beginning, so the lazy among us can concentrate on what's new.”

“I always try to read The Week Ahead, but find the format confusing, as there is no space between the end of one announcement and the start of another. It feels like a lot of information squeezed in, making it difficult to read. I like that it is emailed, but I think a different format should be used to make each announcement distinct and more clear.”

Website

“Much easier to follow than the old one; less cluttered. The opening shot of John walking out the front door to say "Hi" is a great intro. Still sorting out whether it has what I'm looking for.”

“Mostly good except John walking out the door-scary and don't get it, looks more like chasing people away.”

“MUCH improved!! Especially appreciate keeping topics timely and updated. Love seeing photos.”

“Just loving it! Would like a live link to the Google calendar there”

“Love, love, love it! Very user friendly. Love the design and all the pictures. The important thing now is to keep it up to date. This will take everyone in every ministry, every program, every event being committed to doing this.”

“The calendar available does not really show all of the events happening on a given day which makes planning more difficult.”

“A calendar of regular, repeated events at the Calendar link would be helpful. I have to search through the tower to see this currently. Also, for people who are looking for AA-type meetings there is no easy way to find this information on the website.”

Conclusion

We are thrilled that you find it "cool" to have the ability to customize the way you connect with us. Did you know that you can choose how you receive our communications? If at any point you wish to make changes or opt out of a specific method, feel free to reach out to the church office. Your preferences matter, and we are here to accommodate your communication needs.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who took the time to contribute to the survey. Your feedback is instrumental in helping us create an environment where everyone feels connected and informed. Together, we continue to build a more vital and more vibrant community.

Wishing you a season filled with love, joy, and the warmth of fellowship.

~With sincere gratitude,

Communications Team
Antoinette Richardson, Laura Schultz,
Kurt Haas, Kay Hogg, Melanie Alban

**Results of
Communications Survey**



GCC 2023 AND PREVIEW OF 2024!

As we begin 2024, we look back on some of our successes for 2023:

- 1) Through our Battle for Democracy and Neighborhood Captain initiatives, GCC reached out in neighborhoods in several low propensity voting wards in the City of Cleveland and inner ring suburbs to engage voters to Vote No on Issue 1 in August 2023, helping to defeat an effort to reduce Ohio voters' ability to amend the Ohio Constitution and thus reduce the power of our democracy. Issue 1 would have raised the requirement to pass a voter initiated constitutional amendment to 60% and would have doubled the number of signatures required to place an issue on the ballot in the first place.
- 2) In the Fall, GCC leaders met with County Executive Chris Ronayne regarding his commitment to GCC to address Cuyahoga County's high rate of discretionary bindovers of mostly black youth to adult court. In response, the County Executive included \$650,000 in the proposed 2024-25 County budget to fund increased staffing for the Juvenile Public Defenders' Office, which statistics demonstrate provides better outcomes for our youth. Although the proposed \$650,000 was not included in the final budget approved by the County Council, the Council has committed to look further at the issue and the outlier status of Cuyahoga County regarding youth bindovers. We will continue to monitor this issue and the County's response to this issue.

2024 – Planned Actions/Initiatives (For both the January 30 and February 20 events, we count on Forest Hill Church to once again turn out in significant numbers to support these important actions!)

- 1) **January 30, 2024 – Action with Cleveland Mayor, Justin Bibb** - Mayor Bibb made commitments at GCC's 2021 Campaign Action to address endemic problems in Cleveland neighborhoods. This action will highlight successes of the Neighborhood Now initiative. In addition, GCC will raise concerns regarding the Mayor's neighborhood pledge, in light of recently announced development plans for Downtown Cleveland. **Location:** Shiloh Baptist Church, E. 55th and Quincy Ave; **Time:** 7:00 PM – In person and Zoom.
- 2) **February 20, 2024 – Candidate Forum** for Judicial and County Prosecutor candidates prior to the March 19, 2024 - Primary Election. This action will feature candidates for contested judicial seats and the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's race addressing issues of concern to GCC and its members, particularly issues of pretrial criminal justice and youth bindovers. The forum is scheduled for 7:00 PM at a location to be determined.
- 3) **Fair District – Anti-Gerrymandering Campaign** - GCC's Battle for Democracy and Neighborhood Captains plan to support the initiative for a constitutional amendment to reform Ohio's gerrymandered voting districts by creating a citizen-led redistricting board that excludes elected politicians to draw voting district maps. Look for information in the coming months on how you can assist with the petition drive to place this critical constitutional amendment on the November 2024 ballot.
- 4) **May 7-9, 2024 – Leadership Training in Community Organizing**. GCC will host this national training program in Cleveland, focused on the essential elements of faith-based community organizing work, building power, and working for systemic change. Detailed information will be forthcoming in the coming months regarding specific locations and times for this important training opportunity, which will be open to anyone interested in developing leadership skills, particularly in the context of collective, community-based social justice work.

~GCC Core Team

Scott Lafferty
Diana Woodbridge
Kathy Hanna-Stauffer
Nonie Stack
Judy Sockman
Ron Register

RIP MEDICAL DEBT

GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS (GCC) RIP Medical Debt

Burdensome medical debt prevents millions of Americans from achieving financial stability and subjects them to emotional anguish. A 2019 study found that 35% of Ohio adults struggled to pay their medical bills. More than 60% of

bankruptcies in America have medical debt as a root cause. Being sick is not a crime, but medical debt turns it into one. The punishment is often incessant calls from bill collectors, diminished credit scores, financial ruin and bankruptcy.

GCC is launching a medical debt relief campaign that is open to GCC member congregations and supporters to contribute toward a goal of eliminating millions of dollars of medical debt for persons in the City of Cleveland and throughout Cuyahoga County. We are collaborating with the nonprofit RIP Medical Debt, which uses donations to buy large bundles of medical debt that is forgiven with no tax consequences to donors or recipients. Learn more about how you can donate by visiting this website:

https://ripmedicaldebt.org/?p=46390&post_type=campaign&preview=1&ppp=56408fab95

If you can, make a Christmas contribution to RIP Medical Debt. We can really make a difference!

Grace and peace to you!
~ John



Satyam Dvivedi, is a member of Forest Hill Church who lives in India! He learned of us through Ann Williams. Satyam attends church by zoom every Sunday, and comes to Adult Ed classes. He completed the New Member classes and joined the church as a new Christian. His story is amazing and we are so blessed to have Satyam as a brother. He sent along these photos of him dressed as Santa passing out gifts to his colleague and spreading some Christmas cheer! God bless you Satyam!



FIBER AND FELLOWSHIP

We will be meeting from **10 AM -1 PM**
Upcoming Date: **January 13, 2024**
All are welcome- beginner to experienced. We are happy to teach. **Contact Carol Gifford for additional information. 216-598-9730 cmsgiff79@aol.com.**



Calling Volunteer Gardeners!!!
Have you always loved the Memorial Garden and Courtyard Garden? Do you like to play in the dirt? Now is a great time to volunteer to help us maintain these beautiful gardens.

Pat and Jim Seeders have been doing this work for a number of years now and would love to pass on their knowledge to some new volunteers. Contact the church office.

Building

HOLD YOUR NEXT SPECIAL EVENT AT FHC!

Did you know the church is available for your next baby shower, family celebration, concert or conference?

The fees are very reasonable. Fellowship Hall seats 200, but there are many smaller spaces available.

There are 2 kitchens, custodial help and free parking! The possibilities for your party planning are endless. Fees adjust for members and non-members.

Book your next event soon. For details contact Laura Schultz for more information or fill out a request here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/9894b2>.

FHC NEEDS YOU!

The Nominating Committee is casting its nets to find folks who would like to be a servant leader and get more involved at church.

We are looking for people who want to:

- Publicize and market the church
- Shape the programs for families, youth and children
- Organize adult education, spiritual growth and small groups
- Lead our justice and mission outreach
- Help get everything ready for worship on Sundays
- Prepare a meal and make friendly phone calls
- Watch over the building and grounds
- Join the Stream Team, sing in the choir, play softball, volunteer in the nursery, or create bulletin boards
- Join a book study with the Racial Equity Buddies
- Raise money and get people excited about the mission of the church
- Be a spiritual leader - become an Elder and help discern God's call for FHC.



Almost everything that happens at Forest Hill is led by members and friends of the church. Get involved. It is fun. You meet new people. You grow in faith, hope and love. You exercise your spiritual leadership muscles!

If you have questions, talk to Pastor John or to the members of the Nominating Committee: Sonji Kenyatta, Jeff Smith, Pat Jenkins and Chris Bell.

We would love to talk with you about getting more involved at Forest Hill.

**CALLING ALL PACESETTERS!
IT IS TIME TO PLAN FOR 2024!**

What is a Pacesetter?
Pacesetters began over 40 years ago as a social group of 20-30-year-olds at Forest Hill Church. Pacesetters, (now 50 -70 somethings) includes a mix of long-time and brand-new members, visitors, singles, and couples from FHC who gather throughout the year for a variety of activities, both social and service-related.

The arrival of Covid in 2020 brought so many changes to all our lives, including the loss of many social activities. So as we begin the year 2024...

All are Welcome to the Pacesetters Planning Party,
hosted by Scott and Sue Lafferty.

When: Saturday, February 3 at 6 pm
Where: 1969 Bromton Drive, Lyndhurst

Bring along your ideas of activities you would like to join with the Pacesetters in the coming year and an appetizer, salad or dessert to share.

Soft drinks and juices will be provided. Feel free to bring your own alcholic beverages.

No RSVP necessary! As we work to be a Welcoming Community, we encourage long-time Pacesetters to seek out a new member or visitor and bring them along on January 27th. AND new members or visitors to Forest Hill, take a chance and Come and See what the fellowship of this group looks like.

Questions? Contact Sue or Scott Lafferty at 440-669-4885 or 440-429-2937
or salaff@sbcglobal.net.



Kate, Kemp and Cindy on Cape Cod

A Race Against Time Volunteers make a huge difference in ACP’s ability to accelerate and advance MS research. They help us in a variety of roles, from office work to fundraising. Kemp Jaycox has organized many fundraising events in support of ACP over the past two decades, raising close to \$60,000. He recently published his memoir, “A Race Against Time,” and is donating part of the proceeds to ACP. Kemp hopes that his life story can inspire others to find resilience and purpose to help them face any challenges they may encounter.

Read more here:

<https://www.acceleratedcure.org/sites/default/files/images/ARaceAgainstTimev4.pdf>

January 2024 BIRTHDAYS

First Name	Last Name	Birthdate Month/Day
Lisa	Chuppa	January 01
Lisbeth	Andrews	January 02
Christine	Henry	January 02
Charity	Stock	January 02
Anne	Smith	January 06
Ethan	Gifford	January 07
Susan	Dunlap	January 08
Jennifer	Himmelman	January 08
Megan	Allen	January 13
Lauren	Miller	January 13
Nancy	Burcham	January 14
Sandra	Moran	January 14
Katie	Reed	January 14
Peggy	Sasso	January 14
Peter	Eloff	January 15
Mark	Joseph	January 15
Lisa	Vahey	January 15
Clayton	Minder	January 16
Scott	Peters	January 16
Sally	Davis	January 18
Anne	Caminiti	January 20
Zivile	Khoury	January 20
Jean	Reinhold	January 20
Bader	Boland	January 21
Sara	Shaner	January 21
Molly	Bergman	January 23
Pat	Seeders	January 24
Caleb	Wright	January 24
Linda	Martin	January 25
Noel	Ullom	January 25
Muriel	Dean	January 27
Elisabeth	Dolan	January 27
Diana	Woodbridge	January 27
Emily	Brock	January 28
Carol	Leslie	January 28
Patricia	Jeffreys	January 29
Kylie	Evans	January 31
Robin	Mervine	January 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted</p>	<p>6:00 pm -AA: Progress not Perfection 7:00 pm -Al Anon: Now There’s Hope 7:30 pm -AA: Borton Group</p>	<p>10:30 am -Abundance Pantry -Bulletin and Weekly email Deadline 7:00 pm GenderSphere</p>	<p>7:30 am –Bible & Bagels (virtual) 12:00 pm -Staff Meeting (virtual) -AA: Wed. Women’s Group 6:00 pm: AA Meeting</p>	<p>1:00 pm: English Country Dance 1:30 pm -English Dance 6:00 pm -Bell Choir 7:30 pm -Chancel Choir -Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9:30 am -Al Anon: Hand in Hand 5:00 pm Praying with others 6:30 pm Scottish Country Dance</p>	
<p>December 31</p> <p>New Year Eve Service</p>	<p>January 1, 2024</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>January 2, 2024</p> <p>Ann is out of the office</p>	<p>January 3, 2024</p> <p>Ann is out of the office</p> <p>7:00 PM: Personnel Meeting</p>	<p>January 4, 2024</p> <p>Ann is out of the office</p>	<p>January 5, 2024</p> <p>Ann is out of the office</p>	<p>January 6, 2024</p> <p>Ann is out of the office</p> <p>8:00 AM: Men’s Group 9:00 AM: Leadership Training</p>
<p>January 7</p> <p>EPIPHANY 9:15 AM: - Contemplative Practices in Worship -Galatians Bible Study -Sabbath Rest Class</p>	<p>January 8</p> <p>6:00 PM: Racial Repair and Reparations Meeting</p>	<p>January 9</p>	<p>January 10</p> <p>5:00 PM: Eastside Citizens 7:00 PM: Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>January 11</p> <p>TOWER DEADLINE 1:00 PM: Communication Team Meeting 5:00 PM: Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 PM: FHHO meeting</p>	<p>January 12</p>	<p>January 13</p> <p>10:00 AM: Fiber and Fellowship 11:00 AM: Birthday Party for Emmett</p>
<p>January 14</p> <p>9:15 AM: - Contemplative Practices in Worship -Galatians Bible Study -Sabbath Rest Class 12:30 PM: Exploring Membership</p>	<p>January 15</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>January 16</p> <p>6:30 PM: Creating Racial Equity Meeting</p>	<p>January 17</p> <p>7:00 PM: Session Meeting</p>	<p>January 18</p> <p>6:00 PM: Racial Equity Leader Summit</p>	<p>January 19</p>	<p>January 20</p> <p>10:00 AM: Melick Baby Shower 2:00 PM: Racial Equity Buddies Dramatic Reading</p>
<p>January 21</p> <p>9:15 AM: - Contemplative Practices in Worship -Galatians Bible Study -Sabbath Rest Class 12:15PM: ITF 12:30 PM: Exploring Membership 4:00 PM: Women of the Bible Class.</p>	<p>January 22</p> <p>11:00 AM: AMIS Meeting 6:00 PM: Racial Repair and Reparations Meeting</p>	<p>January 23</p>	<p>January 24</p>	<p>January 25</p>	<p>January 26</p>	<p>January 27</p>
<p>January 28</p> <p>9:15 AM: - Contemplative Practices in Worship -Galatians Bible Study -Sabbath Rest Class 12:00 PM: Annual Meeting 4:00 PM: Women of the Bible Class.</p>	<p>January 29</p>	<p>January 30</p>	<p>January 31</p>	<p>February 1</p>	<p>February 2</p>	<p>February 3</p> <p>11:00 AM: Seed Swap</p>

January 2024

TOWER DEADLINE!

**MARK YOUR CALENDERS! THE TOWER DEADLINE
IS JANUARY 11, 2024.**

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE!

**CHURCH LEADERS/ELDERS- MARK YOUR CALENDERS!
THE DEADLINE IS JANUARY 11, 2024.
CONTACT ELIZABETH SHAW FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Food Not Lawns Cleveland

Resilience by the Yard™



SEED SWAP

February 3 2024 - 11:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Forest Hills Church

3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Heights, OH

If you are interested in gardening, community, food security, permaculture, saving and sharing seeds, you should come to our 14th annual Seed Swap!

Bring saved seeds if you have them, or consider what you might swap for seeds in goods or services, but come anyway.

We will have starter seeds available and lots of information to share. We have signed the Safe Seed Pledge and will not knowingly share GMO/Monsanto-owned seed.

Please label the saved seed with as much pertinent info as possible. We will have envelopes and labels available.

Seed Savers who are willing will be with their seeds at tables to discuss traits, growing conditions, stories about them, and aspects of seed saving.

Donated seed will be available and asked to be considered a "loan" to be returned, if possible, at the following swap.

Refreshments are potluck. Please bring a finger food/snack to share (and indicate if it is vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free or contains meat). Also, collecting non-perishable food donations for Abundance Food Pantry.

For more info, please visit FNLC, FNLC Saved Seed Inventory and the FNLC page on FB or email foodnotlawncleveland@gmail.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Staff Emails

Antoinette Richardson	Communications	office@fhcpresb.org
Laura Schultz	Administration	churchadmin@fhcpresb.org
Genetha (Nita) Clark	Finance	finance@fhcpresb.org
Ann Donkin	Building Mgr.	adonkin@fhcpresb.org
Custodians	Custodian	custodian@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.	Pastor	pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org
Dr. Amy Wheatley	Family, Youth, Children	CE@fhcpresb.org
Dr. Qin Ying Tan	Music	music@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Carol Wedell	Parish Associate	

3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

Church Office: 216-321-2660

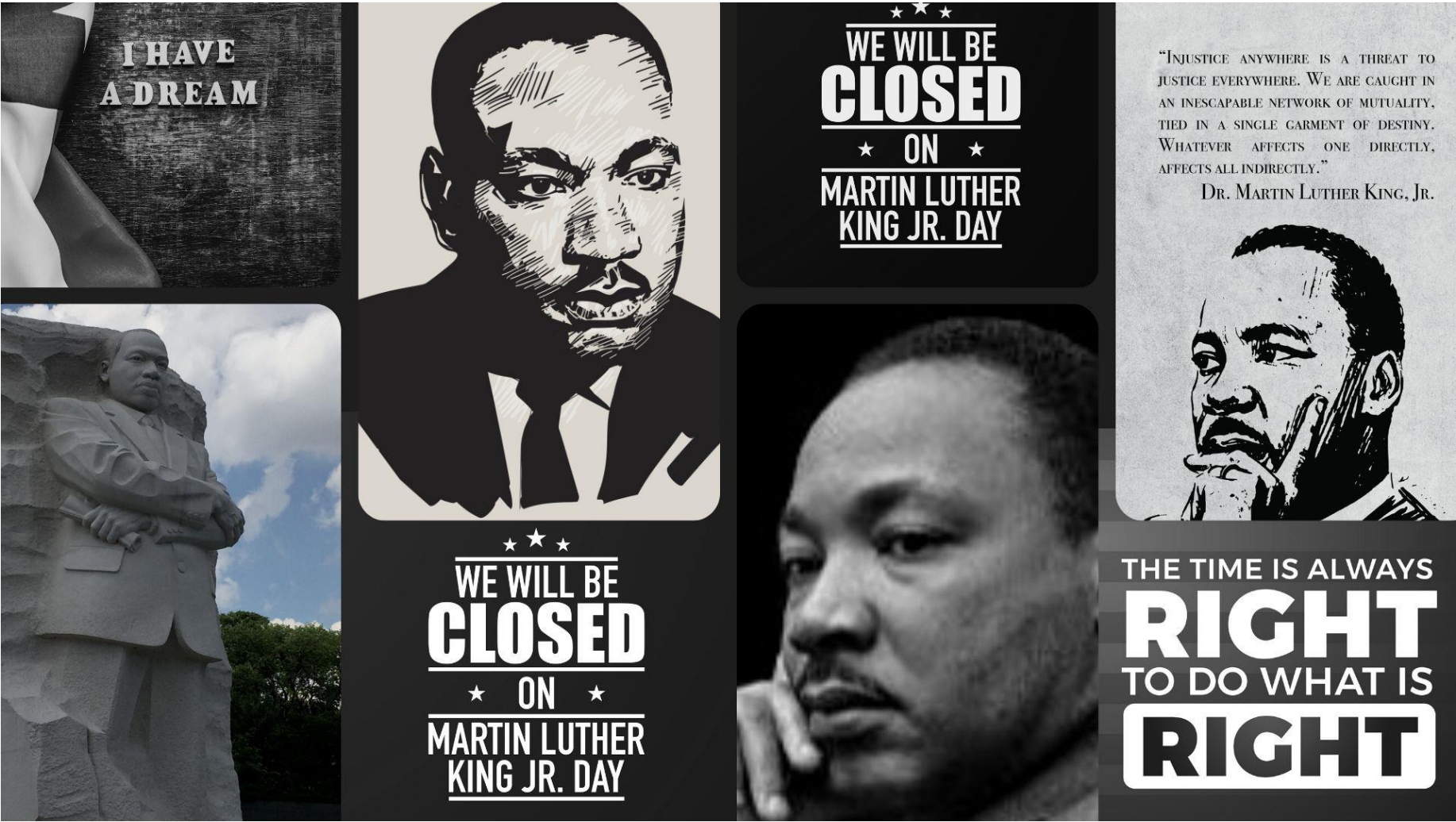
Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

Email: office@fhcpresb.org Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor
Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministry
Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music
Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate

February TOWER issue deadline: 8 am on January 11, 2024

Giving/donation options- Friends of FHC, during this time, you may give monetary gifts/donations by texting 216-400-5300 or give online using either [our BREEZE Giving Page](#) or [PayPal](#). You may also mail in a check to the church bookkeeper (3031 Monticello Blvd. Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118).



WHAT IS A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH?

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. How the vision unites all Presbyterians

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, we recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And we rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.

The invitation, open to any church or mid council, has three goals:

- Building congregational vitality by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples, actively engaged with their community as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.
- Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

Traits of the Beloved Community, a Working Document

1. Recognizes and honors the image of God in every human being
2. Recognizes and affirms, not eradicates differences
3. Takes the steps necessary to recognize and honor all voices, thereby fostering trust and embracing one another
4. Acknowledges limitations, ambiguity, lack of knowledge or understanding; listen and seek to learn
5. Speaks the truth in love, resolving conflicts peacefully and compassionately, without physical or verbal violence
6. Actively commits to justice through removing unjust systems without destroying people
7. Encourages and embraces artistic expressions of faith from diverse perspectives
8. Achieves friendship and understanding through negotiation, compromise or consensus, considering each circumstance to discern which will be most helpful
9. Blends faith and action to generate a commitment to defeating injustice (not forgetting that injustice can also be found within the Church)
10. Promotes human rights and creates a just society by meeting the needs of everyone in the community, sharing power and acknowledging the network of mutuality among all humans
11. Fosters dynamic and active spirituality through reliance on Scripture, prayer and corporate worship, recognizing God as dynamic and active in the world

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! Help Forest Hill Church get off to a great start by completing the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT). This is a very important time in the life of the church. The CAT will begin the process of setting a faithful course for our future.

PLEASE take 20-25 minutes to complete the CAT. From now until **January 23!**

Below is the link to your Congregation Assessment Tool:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FORESTHILLOH>

