



The Tower

September 2019

"Being the Beloved Community"

So much language today, religious and otherwise, is couched in negative slogans and **ANTI**-language. But, Jesus calls the Church to be an attractive and attracting community—a light that draws others to the Living God. Said another way, to be **"The Beloved Community."** The principles of the Beloved Community were identified in the aspirational goals of the Civil Rights Movement by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and are also found in the writing of Howard Thurman.



In conversation with the session, staff, and ministry leaders, Pastor John and I have identified "Being the Beloved Community" as our theme for the new church year, and are convinced that God will continue to do a new thing through our commitment, in all aspects of our ministry and mission, to God's clarion call. Therefore, this is a *Kairos* moment in which to assess and clarify our witness. Juxtaposed against the vitriol of our time, may we demonstrate a witness of love and of unity in our diversity?

Arthuree Wright maintains that the beloved community manifests and protects agape love as a guiding principle and is expressed in the following ways:

- Offering radical hospitality to everyone; an inclusive family rather than exclusive club;
- Recognizing and honors the image of God in every human being;

- Exhibiting personal authenticity, true respect, and validation of others;
- Recognizing and affirming, not eradication, of differences;
- Listening emotionally (i.e., with the heart) - fosters empathy and compassion for others;
- Tolerating ambiguity - realizes that sometimes a clear-cut answer is not readily available;
- Building increasing levels of trust and works to avoid fear of difference and others;
- Acknowledging limitations, lack of knowledge, or understanding - and seeks to learn;
- Acknowledging conflict or pain in order to work on difficult issues;
- Speaking truth in love, always considering ways to be compassionate with one another;
- Avoiding physical aggression and verbal abuse;
- Resolving conflicts peacefully, without violence, recognizing that peacefully doesn't always mean comfortably for everybody;
- Releasing resentment and bitterness through self-purification (i.e., avoidance of internal violence through spiritual, physical, and psychological care);
- Focusing energy on removing evil forces (unjust systems), not destroying persons;
- Being unyielding in persistence and unwaveringly committed to justice;
- Achieving friendship and understanding through negotiation, compromise, or consensus - considering each circumstance to discern which will be most helpful;
- Righteously opposing and taking direct action against poverty, hunger, and homelessness;
- Advocating thoroughgoing, extensive neighborhood revitalization without displacement (within the Church - working toward responsible and equitable growth, discipleship, and worship);

- Blending faith and action to generate a commitment to defeating injustice (not forgetting that injustice can also be found within the Church);
- Encouraging and embracing artistic expressions of faith from diverse perspectives;
- Fostering dynamic and active spirituality - recognizing that we serve a dynamic God who is not left behind by a changing world or people, and that a passive approach will not work;
- Gathering together regularly for table fellowship to meet the needs of everyone in the community;
- Relying on scripture reading, prayer, and corporate worship for inner strength;
- Promoting human rights and working to create a non-racist society;
- Sharing power and acknowledging the inescapable network of mutuality among the human family.

This is a wonderful invitation for Forest Hill Church to broaden and deepen the wonderful ministries we already offer, while opening to new possibilities.

May it be so. Grace and Peace,
Pastor Veronica Goines

Update from Pastor Goines

For the past 24 years my vacations have taken me on 3,000 foot down-hill slaloms on Mount Tantalus in Oahu; deep sea snorkeling in Cancun; kayaking in Alaska, and rafting in Kauai, among other adventures. But this year my vacation unfolded in a different kind of adventure. I returned to the San Francisco Bay Area to visit my family: daughters Nicole and Amber, sons in law, Codany and John, and grandson, Axe (Axel), who turned 18 months during my visit.

While with my family, we had a baby shower in anticipation of the impending birth of Amber and John's second child, a girl. Daughter Nicole and I attended a concert event in tribute to the late Curtis Mayfield, my son-in-law,

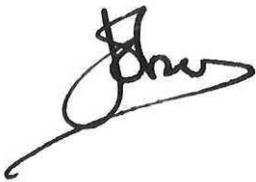
Codany Holiday, was the featured artist. In my second week, Axe had his first hair-cut. Most precious for me was the joy of anointing and blessing Axe in a prayer of dedication to God--a precious moment. I was nourished by time with my family.

In returning to the Bay for the first time since I relocated late December, I wondered if I would be caught in the gravitational pull of the majestic mountains, plentiful bays, rolling foothills, statuesque bridges, and the endless horizon of the Pacific Ocean--all I've loved for more than 40 years. But to my surprise and discovery, less than two weeks in I was feeling a gravitational pull alright-- but a pull back to Cleveland, and to my new home-- a most unexpected and welcomed compelling.

Thank you for so warmly welcoming me home. I hope you had a fun and renewing summer. Grace and Peace as we prepare for yet more adventure and discovery in our new church year.

~Veronica

Words from Pastor John



Dear Friends,

On Sunday, September 8, Forest Hill Church begins its program year for 2019-2020. The theme for this year will be: "Being the Beloved Community." We will seek to walk in the light of Christ by opening the doors and welcoming one and all, claiming the Spirit by celebrating the gifts of everyone, and witnessing to God's gracious activity in the church and the world.

Education and choir programs start at 9:30 and worship is at 11:00. After church the Deacons will host their annual Fall Fellowship Spectacular with food and games. ***Spoiler Alert! *** There may be a dunk tank so you may have the opportunity to dunk some of your favorite church leaders!

That first Sunday of the program year is always magnificent. The choir is back in full and the music will lift the roof! Anne Wilson has a full program scheduled for singers of all ages.

The Adult Education program will be offering two classes at 9:30 am. A Kerygma Bible Study series on the book of Job will begin with a talk from Rev. Dr. Goines about the theological and pastoral impact of Job. The book of Job is a fascinating, rich and deep theological reflection on God and human suffering. You can sign up for this class by contacting Ms. Pat Seeders. A video series entitled: "Saving Jesus" will also be shown. Discussion will follow the 20-minute video presentation.

Rev. David Wigger has been spending the summer preparing education and fellowship programs for Family, Youth and Children. This year we will welcome a Youth Director Intern to help with Middle and Senior High programs.

An Exploring Membership Class will begin on Sunday, Sept. 22 right after church. Revs. Goines and Lentz and the members of the Church Growth team will lead a three-week course covering the mission of Forest Hill, what it means to be a Presbyterian, ways to get involved in the life of this church. All are welcome and there are no obligations to join (Although we would love it!)

World Communion Sunday is celebrated on Oct. 6 and the celebration of Stewardship commences on Sunday, October 13.

There are service teams (Pantry and Labre feeding programs) and small group fellowship programs beginning in October: "Breadmaking: The Spiritual Practice of Gratitude, Presence and Care," led by Chris Henry and Deanne Lentz with a special guest starring role of Bill Finn! A small group will read White Fragility, a very important book about moving beyond racism. There will also be a six-session yoga class offered. Another Prizm group will be formed as we explore more deeply issues of race and privilege.

A group of Forest Hillians will journey to Alabama in October as part of the Civil Rights History Pilgrimage tour. They will walk over the Edmund Pettis Bridge and visit the memorial to the victims of lynching.

These are just a sample of all the ways to grow your faith at FHC! As you can tell the Spirit is alive at Forest Hill Church. Share the news, bring friends, and don't miss a Sunday! COME AND SEE!

~John

Adult Education with Pastor Lentz

“Saving Jesus” led by Rev. Lentz and others! 9:30 am. Sunday mornings in the Beal Room (upstairs next to chapel).

Saving Jesus is a 12-session DVD-based small group exploration of a credible Jesus for the third millennium. Join a host of experts for a conversation around the relevance of Jesus for the 21st century. Some of the experts include: Marcus Borg, Walter Brueggemann, Yvette Flunder, John Dominic Crossan, Brian McClaren, Diana Butler Bass and Sister Helen Prejean.

- Sept. 8 Jesus Through the Ages
- Sept. 15 Who Was Jesus?
- Sept. 22 What Can We Know About Jesus (and How)?
- Sept. 29 The World into which Jesus was Born
- Oct. 6 Jesus' Birth: Incarnation
- Oct. 13 Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition
- Oct. 20 Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God
- Oct. 27 Jesus' Ministry of Compassion
- Nov. 3 Who Killed Jesus?
- Nov. 10 The Atonement
- Nov. 17 The Resurrection of Christ
- Nov. 24 Why Jesus Is Worth Saving

Adult Education: The book of Job

Adult Ed will kick off their study of the book of Job with a combined class led by Rev. Goines in South Hall on September 8th at 9:30 am. Then starting September 15 it will be led by Pat Jenkins and Laury Larson in Bodwell Hall and Kathryn Eloff and Tom Zych will lead a class in South Hall. There was never a time when the book of Job was more relevant. It wrestles with life's most perplexing questions: Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do good things happen to bad people? Come join us as we try to answer many questions as we attempt to live a life of faith. Resource books are still available for \$18.00 and there will also be an opportunity to do a book study when the Kerygma study is finished.

~Pat Seeders

Music Notes



Dear FHC Friends,

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir!

The 2019-2020 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

Chancel Choir (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 5th beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Our first choir Sunday is September 8th (rehearsal at 10:30 AM--service at 11:00 AM).

Sine Nomine Choir (grades 6-12 plus interested college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 15th after worship in the Chapel. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps😊) and there will be a candy bribe😊.

Descant Choir (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 8th at 9:30 AM in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday until 10:10, and then the children will have a snack and go to their Christian Education classes.

Voices in Bronze (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our hand bell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 12th at 6:20-7:15 PM in the bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.

Forest Hill Steel Drum Band (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.

* * * * *



The “Orcha-Band” will be back to play for worship on September 1st. If you would like to play, let me know so I can send you the music. Children who can manage a hymn melody are most welcome.

Our choir librarian, Nancy Grube, has retired from her duties, and on behalf of the choir, I'd like to thank her for her many years of excellent service. It

was such a pleasure to have Nancy in the choir room going through the folders, numbering the new music, filing the music, and entertaining me with her stories. She will be greatly missed! Any volunteers for filling this position? 😊

I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/8), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the "regulars" in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord---Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

From the Deacons Desk: Forest Hill Kick-off— September 8!



Forest Hill's traditional fall festival will take on a whole new look this year- on the front lawn! It will immediately follow the 11:00 worship service.

Please come gather as the **beloved community** as we transition to a brand new program year in the life of our church!

You can look forward to a tailgate lunch that will include seasonal roasted corn-on-the-cob with specialty toppings. There's something for everyone.

There will be ample reason to stay:

- Relaxing conversation on the lawn, sharing our stories of summer
- Corn hole games
- Giant Jenga, Connect 4, and Checkers
- Apple Pie Contest
- Heights Library Book Bike
- And....DUNK TANK!

Yes, Pastor John has agreed to take a dip if you hit the target and dunk him! He's hoping it's a warm day!

We are looking for Apple Pie Bakers! If you know you will be bringing a pie for the contest, please contact Elaine Turley (elaineturley60@gmail.com) so we can plan to have enough pies!

Some table seating will be provided on the lawn, but please bring a lawn chair if you can.

Most importantly, join us. You'll be so glad you did.

~The Deacons

The E-Stewardship church

During FHC Sunday Worship Service at a time not too far off. At a time when those who come to church to worship God draw largely from a population that no longer uses paper money.

The Pastors say, "The Ritual of Friendship / Offering is our time to give thanks to God. God asks for what is good. God asks for justice. Forest Hill Church is a community of witness inviting one and all to the building of the Beloved Community of Christ. God has smiled on you. Join us in providing your resources and yourself. For every generous act overflows its original bounds through the unbounded grace of God."

"The morning offering will now be taken. Welcoming to all people of widely differing lives of financial stewardship, Forest Hill Church is a welcoming E-Stewardship Church. Many of our faithful members, dedicated to the work

of God live their life abundantly without cash. On page seven in your bulletin you will find several methods for making your offering to God's work while we pass the offering plate."

"You may text your offering to the dedicated E-giving number on that page."

"You can scan the nearby QR code."

"You may log-on to the highlighted address to our FHC website giving page."

"Raise your hand, an usher will come to you with a credit/debit card reader."

"You can use the Giving App. downloaded on your phone."

"Our tech-savvy ushers are available to assist if needed."

*Ha-le-lu-jah! We sing your praises, all our hearts with gladness are filled.
Ha-le-lu-jah! We sing your praises, all our hearts with gladness are filled.
Now she sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt, strong in faith, free of doubt.*

Tell-to all the joyful good news.

News of Our Church Family

Many Thanks!

I just want to thank those in the congregation who made meals, stopped to visit, provided transportation, sent cards, said a prayer or even just thought of me briefly while I was confined to my recliner and unable to drive following my foot surgery. It is wonderful to be a part of such a caring and supportive congregation. I am grateful to be back among you!

Peace and Blessings,
Mary Ball

Dear FHC Friends,

As many of you know, Kathy and I married this summer (with Kurt Haas giving one of the scripture readings!). Kathy then moved up to Shaker Heights and now we are settling into our new blended life. Kathy worshiped in the Catholic tradition her entire life, so like many Protestant/Catholic couples, we found the Episcopal worship style to be a comfortable blend of

our two church backgrounds. We will miss Forest Hills Church tremendously – particularly the people (like you, John Dugard! J). You all have provided a warm and caring church home to me, Brian, and Kathy for the past 3 years, and for that the three of us are very thankful. You have been faithful to your Godly calling, which is a beacon to all throughout Northeast Ohio. You are making a difference! We will miss you all, but hope to come back and see you from time to time. Feel free to drop us a note at 3045 Huntington Road, Shaker Heights 44120.

In Christ,
- Bob Fox

Care Group (Group Leader-Chris Bell): The Nazareth Care Group will assist our pastors in meeting members' needs during **September**. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will then be passed on to the Care Group leaders.

Care Group (Group Leader-Sue McCauley): The Jericho Care Group will assist our pastors in meeting members' needs during **October**. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will then be passed on to the Care Group leaders.

Thank You to all office volunteers!

The office volunteers and TOWER assembly team– Betty Clark, Pat Jenkins, Ellen McChesney, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, and Kathy Hanna-Stauffer. Thank you all!

Flower donations are needed! Are you interested in donating a flower arrangement in honor or in memory of someone? The arrangements are \$45 each and you may donate the flowers (the deacons will find a recipient) or you may take them home. **Please email office@fhcpresb.org if you would like to take this opportunity to help beautify the sanctuary.**

Social Groups and Circles

Women of Forest Hill Church and Iris Circle

We will be touring the **Morgan Art of Paper Making Conservatory (1754 E 47th street Cleveland, Ohio 44103)**, which is a working studio and gallery. The tour will be **Tuesday, September 17th from 1:30-2:30 p.m.** We will meet at 12:45 pm in the church parking lot near the pool and car pool to this event. Driving directions will be handed out. **Please contact Doris Bartlett at grkitty6@aol.com or 216 382-5663 to RSVP for carpooling.**

Pacesetters-Hold the Dates!

- Metro park Hike and Picnic Sat Sept 21 morning/noon
- Movie Night, Saturday Oct 26 evening

Address Changes:

Nancy Burcham
26300 Village Lane
Suite 114
Beachwood, Ohio 44122
Cell: 216-233-8864

Sundays in September

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 9:15 | Childcare begins |
| 9:30 | Continental Breakfast
Adult Education
Descant Choir Rehearsal |
| 10:30 | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| 11:00 | Worship Service |
| 12:15 | Coffee & conversation |

Staff Emails

Antoinette Richardson

Bookkeeping

Ann Donkin

Stavros Gazis

Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines

Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.

Peg Weissbrod

Rev. David Wigger

Anne Wilson

Administration

Finance

Building Mgr.

Head Custodian

Co-Pastor

Co-Pastor

Outreach

Family, Youth, Children

Music

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CE@fhcpresb.org

annew@fhcpresb.org



TOWER deadline: **8 am** on September 12

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

Check out the website

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www.fhcpresb.org

Come and see!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 pm AA: Progress not Perfection 7:00 pm AI Anon: Now There's Hope 7:30 pm AA: Borton Group Boy Scout Trp. #403	12:00 pm Abundance Pantry 5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class Small Plates	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 pm Staff Meeting AA: Wednesday Women's Group	1:30 pm English Dance 4:00 pm ICE vigils 5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 pm Voices in Bronze 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	9:30 am AI Anon: Hand in Hand	
September 1, 2019	September 2-Office Closed	September 3 1:00 pm-Pantry Lunch 7:00 pm-Hts. Friends of Immigrants Meeting	September 4 7:00 pm-Bible Study: Speak Life	September 5	September 6	September 7 8:00 am - Men's Group 11:00 am - Baby Shower
September 8 11:00 am-Service Returns to 11 am 12:00 pm-Fall Kick Off! Meet and Greet with Church Growth	September 9	September 10	September 11 7:00 pm-Ministry Meetings	September 12 8:00 am-TOWER Deadline for October 7:30 pm -Swim Club Meeting	September 13	September 14
September 15 12:00 pm-BP Check Black Caucus Meeting	September 16	September 17	September 18 7:00 pm - TransFamily Meeting	September 19	September 20	September 21 9:00 am - CEIRS
September 22 12:30 pm-New Member Class	September 23	September 24	September 25 7:00 pm - Session Meeting	September 26	September 27	September 28 9:00 am-CEIRS
September 29 12:30 pm - New Member Class 2:00 pm-Hallelujah Rehearsal 5:00 pm-Urban Farm Meeting	September 30	October 1 1:00 pm-Pantry Lunch	October 2 7:00 pm- Bible Study: Speak Life	October 3 7:00 pm- Board of Trustees	October 4	October 5 8:00 am-Men's Group 9:00 am-CEIRS

"THE BELOVED COMMUNITY"



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Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines, Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastors
Rev. David Wigger, Interim Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries
Anne Wilson, Director of Music