



Forest Hill Church
presbyterian

The TOWER

MAY 2020

WORDS FROM PASTOR VERONICA

Eugene Peterson (*Living the message: Daily Help For Living the God-Centered Life*) points out that what a lot of people call hope is in reality something different. It's wishing, not hoping: and wishing and hoping are not the same thing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. Goines', is located to the right of the first paragraph.

“Wishing,” says Peterson, “is something all of us do. It projects what we want or things we need into the future. Just because we wish for something good or holy we think it qualifies as hope. It does not. Wishing extends our egos into the future; hope grows out of our faith. Hope is oriented toward what God is doing; wishing is oriented toward what we are doing.”

Peterson goes on to say that we can picture wishing as though it were a line coming out from us with an arrow on the end, pointing into the future, pointing toward that thing we most want to possess. Hope is just the opposite. It's a line that comes from God out of the future, with its arrow pointing toward us.

“Hope,” he continues, “means being surprised, because we don't know what is best for us or how our lives are going to be completed. To cultivate hope is to suppress wishing—to refuse to fantasize about what we want, but live in anticipation of what God is going to do next.”

Friends, we certainly wonder what God is now doing, and what God wills to do through us. In a time of social distancing, through live-streamed worship, we witness to hope and not wishful thinking, as we pray, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." God's arrow reaches us from the future— eternity and points us to a future that is sustained by hope. For now, "...*always be ready to answer everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.*"

I Peter 3:15

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Veronica

WORDS FROM PASTOR JOHN

Dear Friends,



We enter month 2 of social isolation due to COVID-19. It has been a surreal time; a time like no other. I have been praying a lot. At the end of most of my personal prayers I add "...keep us mindful of the needs of others and thankful for the blessings we have received." It is important to be mindful of the needs of others. Besides those who have died and those who are currently sick with the virus, many have lost their jobs, facing eviction, and have had their retirement savings cut in half. I do not want to forget the fact that this virus is hitting the most vulnerable populations hardest. The virus has had a disproportionate effect on the African-American community, on the immigrant and Native peoples. We who have privilege can protect ourselves more easily than many. Our concerns must move us to action both now and in the future. When we do all come back together, what will have changed? Will we have the power to makes the changes necessary? This crisis is making me mad. I hope I stay mad. We are called to maintain our prophetic fury at the injustice of it all.

We are, however, also called to give thanks. I am thankful that I have figured out Zoom and Google meet. I am thankful for the time to record "15 minute Pastor Talks."

I am grateful for my partnership with Veronica Goines. I am grateful for Bader, Kurt, Deedee, and David who know how to Livestream services. I am grateful for Anne and the music that fills and uplifts. I am grateful to Antoinette who comes to work every day and keeps the work of the church moving. I am grateful for the Deacons and those who make phone calls, and masks, and deliver groceries and check-in. I am grateful to every ministry of the church who is leaning into this time with renewed vigor, faith, hope and love. I am grateful to you who are maintaining your generosity to the church and seeking to support those in need. I am grateful that I am using the car less and walking more.

I am grateful for doctors and nurses and first responders, for grocery store workers and for those who prepare food and fill all the service jobs. Be mindful and be thankful. You can do both. Keep safe and stay well. Wear your mask and wash your hands.

PS For members who are 70 and older, please stay home. The Deacons have names of young people who are willing to go grocery shopping. We want you to be safe and we want others to be safe too. Let your Deacon know what we can do for you! We love you.

~God bless you, John

Music Notes



As of this writing (April 15th—hmm, tax day), I continue to plan the music for our Zoom 9:30 AM meetings (done from home) for church school families and the 11:00 YouTube live stream services from the sanctuary. Some days I wake up, thinking this new reality is just something out of a science fiction movie, but alas...

Amidst our private despair at the state of the world and the medical and economic grief we are all experiencing at some level, there are glimmers of beauty and hope. I wish everyone could hear the 9:30 meetings with the children. There is so much excitement as we share songs and stories and scavenger hunts and God jars and art shows. Who would have ever guessed that David Wigger, Tara Beverly and I could come up with so many ideas to implement over the Zoom platform!

John, Veronica and I and two singers per week (carefully socially-distanced) have worked hard to offer worship services to inspire and calm our FHC families during this time of crisis. Yes, it's very different, and we've had some technical glitches here and there, but every week gets a little better, I hope you will agree.

This is usually the month that I announce the May Cabaret, the Descant Choir annual party at Forest Hill Park, the close of the choir season and the start of the Summer Choir season. Everything is up in the air now, but we'll all help each other out and hang in there, with God's help.

~Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson
Organist/Director of Music
annew@fhcpresb.org
216-321-2660, ext. 208



Family, Youth, and Children Ministries

Virtual Sunday School via Zoom

Pre-K through 12th Grades

9:30-10:10 am on Sundays

We are not publishing the Zoom link for security purposes, but if you are interested please send a note to ce@fhcpresb.org and ask for the meeting info.

FHC Storybook Bible Time

We are continuing our story-time videos from Holy Week, but moving a weekly rollout. (And recording from home.) Please check out the FHC YouTube Channel and the "Storybook Bible Time" playlist: tinyurl.com/FHCbibletime



to

Call for Drawings

Also, we are seeking drawing to be used for our YouTube thumbnail art. If you are interested, please send in a drawing related to storytelling or the Bible in general. Scan and send it to ce@fhcprebs.org.



The Pathways Podcast

Our "childish theology" podcast continues with a combination of the audio from our Sunday School and family discussions.

bit.ly/pathwayspodcast

To stay up-to-date on all FY&C virtual programming, please sign-up for the Christian Education newsletter at bit.ly/ceNewsletter.



If you've been using some of your time indoors to explore Breeze, here are few things you might want to try.

Fill in the blanks

If you haven't already, go to your Profile and:

1. Add a profile picture (it's very helpful to the co-pastors and staff)
2. Double-check your contact information, especially your email address and cellphone so we can reach you.
3. Add your emergency contact person and let us know who (if anyone) has a key to your home.

Complete your church involvement information

This is the area that needs the most attention. Some members who have served multiple times as Deacons or Elders may be sad to find their service not recorded. Please don't be sad—just help us correct the mistake. You can edit it this section yourself or tell us what needs to be added.

Don't get left behind

Add these addresses to your safe sender's list or in the approved domains/emails portion of your e-mail account to ensure you'll receive emails from the church sent through BREEZE.

- no-reply@breezechms.com
- email.breezechms.com
- breezechms.com
- fhcpresb.org

Need a hand? Call 216-291-2586, email pegw@fhcpresb.org, or text 216-288-3398. Because remember—we're all in this (Breeze) together!

~Peg Weissbrod

GCC Update

We wanted to provide a brief update regarding Greater Cleveland Congregations' (GCC) push for Cuyahoga County to create two Mental Health and Addiction Crisis and Diversion Centers. At the February 27 Public Meeting, several County officials, including County Executive Budish's Chief of Staff, Bill Mason, committed to making the Diversion Centers a reality. GCC joined (and is the only community organization in the group) a coalition, which includes Metro Health, Care Source Insurance, the Gund Foundation and United Way, to respond to the County's request for information (RFI). The RFI process outlines the essential components that the Diversion Centers need to have – pre-booking mental health and addiction treatment in an offsite facility from the jail. The County is expected to put out a request for a formal proposal (RFP) in May. When the RFP is issued, the Coalition will respond and submit a proposal looking to make the Centers a reality. We will keep you informed as more developments become available.

~Scott Lafferty, GCC Core Team leader



Recycling---Myth?

We have been traditionally taught the 3 'R's of resource management---Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle. Of course, metals have been recycled since WWII. It's easy to recycle ferrous-based scrap from a mix, sorting with a magnet. And brass, bronze, copper and zinc have color. In the past two or three decades, aluminum beverage cans also have been recycled—although only to about 65%. But what about plastics? In the past 50 years plastic articles have taken hold of our everyday life--- food and beverage packaging, all sorts of household cleaning material and cosmetic product containers, many other things, and throw-away shopping bags. Which you have to use now in many retailers, instead of the re-usable FHC cloth bags and others,

because of the possibility of carrying in potential coronavirus contamination!

Today in many locales, cities contract for both waste and co-mingled recyclable curbside pickup. Perhaps some mechanized sorting ultimately does take place before trainloads of waste materials travel down the railroad track—to who knows where? Ocean? Landfill? Third world country? China and even lesser down-the-chain countries are no longer taking our comingled recyclables. And when they do, they harvest out the worthwhile components---usually larger items---and leave the rest for landfill dumps.

The problem with plastic recycling is that there are a plethora of plastic compositions, with special additives that are product-use specific that often prohibit technical/economic recyclability. The plastic industry has befuddled the public with the ubiquitous 'triangle' logo and numbers 1-7. Soft drink bottles are among the most recyclable containers, but much food packaging is not. Next month I will try to get a good explanation of the numbering system.

So what to do? Investigate what happens to your curbside pick-ups with your local government and urge for better sorting if at all possible. Do collect those awful flimsy plastic bags which you receive when shopping and which house everything from bagels to newspapers, and take them to a retailer that collects them (Giant Eagle for one). Maybe they wind up somewhere useful.

Better yet for this dilemma---reduce your consumption as much as possible---especially 'throw-away' water bottles. Who knew 25 years ago there would even be a market in the US for selling personal bottles of water—which has now become such a huge problem.

Dave Neff
Earth Care Leader

Abundance Food Pantry – More Progress!

Volunteers now distribute in a typical week, over 60 pounds of groceries to each of 300 households. In 2019, these groceries totaled about 420,000 meals worth of food. By working with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, we have been able to reduce our cost down to 4 cents per meal, and to select many healthy choices with over 40% now being fresh produce. We provide a food safety net for our neighbors in Hough, Glenville, Collinwood, East Cleveland, Cleveland Hts., University Hts., South Euclid, and Buckeye/Shaker Square, and we are now listed on the United Way 211 Help Line. We strive to make our pantry a welcoming experience by providing beverages, magazines, and books while waiting, by raffling off large items like hams and roasts, by allowing pantry guests to choose their own food items, and by encouraging guests who want to help us serve.



Once each month, we also prepare a hot meal and table hosts share both food and fellowship with our pantry guests. The youth groups started this tradition, and they still help provide the decorations for these events. We receive funding from United Way, Harvest for Hunger, FHC groups and individuals. We obtain the rest of our support from the FHC Justice and Mission Ministry.

A huge round of applause goes out to Paul Jennings and the food pantry team! You all come together and work so very hard each week. FHC wants to thank you all for going over and beyond for the community.

If you would like to donate to the food pantry you may mail in a check to Forest Hill Church (place pantry in the memo line of the check).

Are you interested in volunteering? Please email Paul Jennings (Jennings_paul@att.net).

Exploring Membership: Please join the church growth zoom call on May 16 from 9 am-12 pm and May 17 from 9 am-10:30 am. Come join, explore, or just learn more about us! Please RSVP to Angela (church growth ministry) at churchgrowth@fhcpresb.org to attend.

Sundays in May (events are pending)

9:30 am: Children's Worship
(Please join our YouTube channel for worship)

11:00 am: Worship
(Please join our YouTube channel for worship)

Giving/donation options- Friends and family of FHC, during this time, you can give monetary donations using our website (www.fhcpresb.org) and clicking the PayPal link. You may also mail in a check to the church bookkeeper (3031 Monticello Blvd. Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118).



Forest Hill Church is looking for a full-time Director of Christian Education. Please follow the link to read the [job description](#) located on our website (www.fhcpresb.org) and send resumes to dcsearch@fhcpresb.org.

Staff Emails

Antoinette Richardson	Administration	office@fhcpresb.org
Genetha Clark	Finance	finance@fhcpresb.org
Ann Donkin	Building Mgr.	adonkin@fhcpresb.org
Stavros Gazis	Head Custodian	custodian@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines	Co-Pastor	pastorgoines@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.	Co-Pastor	pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org
Peg Weissbrod	Outreach/Breeze	pegw@fhcpresb.org
Rev. David Wigger	Family, Youth, Children	CE@fhcpresb.org
Anne Wilson	Music	annew@fhcpresb.org
Tara Beverly	Youth Leader	youthleader@fhcpresb.org

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216-321-2660 Fax: 216-320-1214

Pastoral Care Emergencies: 216-319-3596

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

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

Next TOWER deadline: **8 am** on May 14

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

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 -Book Group 7:30 pm -AA: Borton Group -Boy Scout Trp. #403 -OA Big Book	1:00 pm -Abundance Pantry 5:00 pm -Fitness Fusion exercise class -Bulletin and Weekly email Deadline	7:30 am -Bible & Bagels (virtual) 12:00 pm -Staff Meeting (virtual) -AA: Wednesday Women's Group 7:00 pm -Guest Group: Speak Life Bible Study	1:30 pm -English Dance 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	
April 26 3:30 pm Reconnecting with Gods Creation (virtual)	April 27	April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2 8:00 am -Men's Group (tentative)
May 3	May 4	May 5 6:00 pm -Cleveland Chamber Orchestra (tentative) -HCC Board Meeting (virtual)	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9
May 10	May 11	May 12 6:30 pm -Nominating Committee (virtual)	May 13 7:00 pm -Ministry Meetings (virtual)	May 14 8:00 am -TOWER DEADLINE	May 15	May 16
May 17 3:30 pm Reconnecting with Gods Creation (virtual)	May 18	May 19 11:00 am -Iris Circle (tentative)	May 20 7:00 pm -Jung Education (tentative)	May 21	May 22 1:00 pm -Excell Graduation (tentative)	May 23
May 24	May 25 -OFFICE CLOSED (MEMORIAL DAY)	May 26	May 27 7:00 pm -Session Meeting (virtual)	May 28	May 29	May 30
May 31 4:30 pm -Ann Marie Falcone Recital (tentative)	June 1 6:00 pm -HCC Board Meeting	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6 8:00 am -Men's Group (tentative)

May 2020