



Forest Hill Church
presbyterian

The TOWER

JUNE 2020

WORDS FROM PASTOR VERONICA

In his book *Why Faith Matters*, Rabbi David J. Wolpe tells the story of Marcelino de Sautola: For years, de Sautola had been searching for prehistoric artifacts, never suspecting that the cave walls were a canvas for the ancient ancestors. He had been studying the floor of the cave. Looking around once more, his search was unavailing. But, In 1879, de Sautola entered the cave at Altamira accompanied by his 5-year-old daughter. On her first visit, she looked up. Suddenly she called out to him, "Look, Papa, oxen!" For the first time, he too looked up, and there he discovered the famous Paleolithic cave paintings."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. Goines', is positioned to the right of the text block.

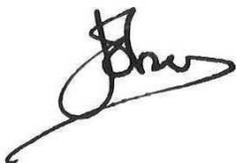
In many ways, the enduring sheltering order, now more than two months in duration, seems to have deposited us all in a rather large, common cave. Still, I wonder if this time might also be for us a divine invitation to look up, to change the orientation of our gaze. I am discovering new writing on the walls and ceilings of our cave, through engaging emails from members reflecting thoughtfully and critically on the Text and sermon. I'm encouraged to see our dedicated Abundance Food Pantry volunteers each week, as well as church staff and office volunteers, members of RIC completing the online Race Equity assessment, Justice and Mission, with church leaders, establishing a fund to address needs precipitated by COVID-19, through community partnerships— not to mention the work of the

Deacons, Church Growth, and our worship staff—Music Director, vocalists, media technicians, custodian, and the Co-Pastors. Looking up fuels me/us to persevere through this cave until we find the light at the end of the tunnel. Look up, and hang in there!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Veronica

WORDS FROM PASTOR JOHN

Dear Friends,



For most of us, it is hard to imagine Forest Hill Church without Anne Wilson as our Music Director. For 30 years, Anne has played and directed to the glory of God. Among the many memories that I have of her include: May Cabaret. What an excellent idea – to bring the church family together for a light-hearted evening of skits and music. And there was Anne directing everything! Every Advent at the service of lessons and carols; again, it was Anne sprinting from organ bench to bell tables to keyboard to lead the children. Anne directed “Amal and the Night Visitors,” and countless “no fuss” Christmas pageants (that were **not** no fuss at all!) I remember the night we celebrated her 25th anniversary and especially the premiere of her “Song of Hope.”

She taught children not to be timid or afraid in front of the congregation. She made adults better singers. She could play almost anything: organ, piano, recorder, guitar, drums, steel drums, bells (and I am probably leaving six or seven instruments out!). She would direct almost everything from the European Masters to world music, to gospel choruses, to South African chants, to roots music, to poetry... you name it Anne could and would do it.

Anne was demanding, compassionate, and fun. She brought the world to our chancel and stretched our imaginations, making things possible for us.

She brought in amazing young singers from Heights High and ushered many of them into the world of music, art, theater, and composition. I don't know of anyone who spent any time with Anne, who doesn't now have a life-long love of music.

Anne cared deeply about her choir and everyone in the congregation. She mentored young women and men, accompanied the high school choir, Apollos Fire, and many other ensembles. She was, without doubt, one of the most respected and gifted musicians in Cleveland and is known throughout world.

She would walk across Spain, travel to Scotland, and go just about anywhere. She would play in airports and pubs.

And best of all, she was just Anne, Annie to some. A woman who would do cartwheels down the center aisle and was full of surprises. You might find her playing piano in a smoky barroom around Cleveland. Just last week, I saw Anne in Fellowship Hall preparing food bags for the Pantry.

I think the ONLY thing Anne lacked was a knowledge of sports! She didn't know that the University of Cincinnati's mascot was the "Bearcats!" But one can't have everything.

Thank you, Anne! Blessings and peace to you. Soli Deo Gloria! (To the glory of God alone!)

~God bless you, John

MUSIC

Dear Forest Hill Family,



It is indeed painful to write my last Tower article. May I take this time to express again how immensely grateful I am for having had the opportunity to serve as your organist and director of music these past thirty years. Residing close to my heart will be memories of

countless baptisms, weddings, and memorial services—important life transitions. I will miss the talents of our vocal/bell/steel drum choirs, and I will especially miss leading the vigorous congregational singing. So many beautiful memories: May Cabarets, Art and Music Nights, Lenten concerts, *Swing to the Lord a New Song* services, AWE services (Alternative Worship Experiences), the *Second Sundays* series, *Beer n' Hymns* evenings, art shows, presentations on my pilgrimages to Iona, Scotland and the Camino in Spain, *Duelling Organists* concerts, hymn festivals, *Bach by Candlelight* programs, Children's Choir Festivals, Compline services, *Beyond Boundaries* concerts, two performances of my oratorio *Song of Hope*, and two performances of the operetta *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to collaborate with the Singers' Club, Roots of American Music, the Forest City String Band, the Ohio Boy Choir, Folknet, and the New Orleans Jazz Ensemble. It was a special treat to welcome my musical mentor John Bell from the Iona Community in Scotland. Farewell, my good friends. Thank you for your incredible support during this very fulfilling time in my life.



~Soli Deo Gloria
Anne Wilson



Our virtual worship videos have encouraged many members to get more comfortable with their computers. Several people asked for instructions on how to get in on the Live Chat that happens every Sunday. But one request gave me pause.

The member wanted to participate in the YouTube Live Chat, and as a result, they informed me they were ready to “bite the bullet” and try out Breeze.

What?

As it turned out, this misconception was not unique to this particular member. Others had assumed Breeze was like Facebook for churches and, having no interest in social media, decided Breeze “wasn’t for them.” Once that false assumption was in place, further information about Breeze was pretty much ignored.

All turned out well for the member in question. They learned that Breeze is just our church directory, with a few bells and whistles added to make taking care of our members easier for our staff, and is *nothing* like Facebook. Nor is Breeze connected to YouTube in any way. Once this was understood, the member did a great job of learning how to sign into YouTube’s Live Chat feature, and all was well.

So what do people do in the Breeze database?

They use Breeze to look up telephone numbers of people they need to call or text without having to find their old church directory. They use it to double-check which CARE group they’re in, and who else is in their CARE group. They use it to look up addresses so they can send a card of congratulations or sympathy to other Forest Hill members. And they use it to keep up with their contributions to the church.

How are you using it? Would you like some one-on-one, socially-distanced instruction on Breeze? Call 216-291-2586, email pegw@fhcpresb.org, or text 216-288-3398. I look forward to introducing you to Breeze. (YouTube instructions also available at no charge!)

~Peg Weissbrod

GCC Update

GCC's Criminal Justice Team continues to hold our County officials accountable concerning conditions at the Cuyahoga County jail amidst the COVID-19 crises. On April 23, 2020, GCC held a virtual meeting with County Administrative Judge Brendan Sheehan and Prosecutor Michael O'Malley to discuss their responses to these issues.

We learned that MetroHealth physician, Dr. Julia Bruner, who works with the jail, had met with County officials to communicate the potential ravages of COVID-19 that would occur unless a substantial reduction in the jail population was made. Prosecutor O'Malley, Judge Sheehan, Mark Stanton, the head of the Defense Bar, and the Sheriff developed a plan that included plea days where judges, prosecutors, defendant, defense, probation and whoever else is involved came together in one room to work out disposition on non-violent, low-level felonies, and postponing jury trials.

This process led to approximately a 50% reduction in jail population, from almost 2000 to just under 1000 inmates. We also learned that the Cuyahoga County Sheriff told the municipal courts and the police departments that County jail would no longer accept persons who had committed low-level, non-violent felonies.

During the meeting, GCC reiterated the importance of continuing to create two offsite, pre-booking mental health and addiction crisis diversion centers in Cuyahoga County as a vehicle for reducing the jail population and applauded the work that had been done to date by all involved.

In mid-May, GCC and many of its members sent a letter to County officials commending them *“for the bold and swift actions you took in March to safely reduce the population at the Cuyahoga County Jail,”* noting that, *“time in prison should not be a death sentence.”* We celebrate that *“the cooperative leadership ... displayed in reducing the population by half has saved lives”*. The letter also stresses the need to look beyond the current crisis to ensure that we don’t return to the status quo. The letter closes, *“Our prophetic traditions demand our continued work to protect the vulnerable, the marginalized and those unable to speak for themselves. GCC stands ready to work with all of you to ensure that together we strive towards a more just and equitable criminal justice system.”*

Through GCC, we will continue to monitor criminal justice issues like the County jail and incarceration conditions. Thank you for your support of this work!

~Scott Lafferty, GCC Core Team leader



Recycling---Myth? Why We Must Have Biodiversity

Ecologist E.O. Wilson wrote: ‘Unless we preserve the rest of life, as a sacred duty, we will be endangering ourselves by destroying the home in which we evolved, and on which we completely depend.’

“Ecosystems change when species disappear. Remove the pollinators, and crops will not grow. Kill off predators, and food chains collapse. Take the monkeys, birds, or turtles out of a forest and seeds will no longer be dispersed or germinate, and the trees that provide clean air and freshwater while balancing our climate will no longer flourish. We need to acknowledge that the world’s forests and oceans, wetlands, and savannas are not just habitats to the animals; they form our collective home.



Our water, our food, the air we breathe, the fertility of our soil, and the stability of our climate all depend on the complex interactions of myriad species. Think of nature as a tapestry, and each species as a thread. There is no way of knowing which threads bind the whole together.

Each one that is pulled out brings the tapestry close to unraveling. The incredible diversity of our planet's animal species is the key to resilience and helped the natural world withstand many changes. Despite the massive shocks of global deforestation, ocean acidification, and global warming, nature is astonishing in its ability to adapt.

Humans are only one species among many. We have the agency to change the trajectory of extinctions. The hard truth is that nature writ large will continue regardless of the specific mix of animals on the planet. Preserving the world's biodiversity ultimately comes down to saving ourselves."

---- A forward by Harrison Ford to the National Geographic book Photo Ark by Joel Sartore. __The photo above: Borneo Orangutans by Sartore.

Dave Neff
Earth Care Leader

From the Deacons

With thanks to the Eden Care Group, we share these haiku poems, written and shared during the early days of quarantine as a way to stay connected to each other. What have you done that might have been out of your routine or comfort zone over the last 8 months? "Everything" is an acceptable answer! We hope you've found some small delights along the way, as these poets did.

Handmade bread and crackers
English muffins breadsticks too
Delight elevated

No Opening Day!
Missing this beautiful game,
Days gone by recalled.

Friends, a voice away
Those phone calls just to check in
Love lifts the spirit

Everything's fine--
The Beloved Community
Ain't got no haters.

Cook, eat, clean, repeat
Good food and disappointments
Swallowing it whole

Reaching out in love
Is how we'll weather this storm
Hearts, hands reaching out

Oh the days are long
Exercise hour reading hour
Waiting for happy hour!

Too much to do now
Reading, cleaning, more reading
No time for my nap!

I Don't Understand
Poetry Is Lost On Me
Clearly Not Evolved

Oh I'm so restless
Got to find something to do
Why not watch Netflix

Grocery shopping
Social distancing is lacking
Shelves are still empty

Gray day of drizzle
Waterfalls deluge of mist
Breathe deep, smell the air

I'm not good at rules,
But took all the precautions.
COVID still found me.

Sneezing, like a cold
With unrelenting fatigue.
Achy, lack of smell.

No cough, low fever,
But not afraid, lots of books.
Screen time high, rising.

No test is needed.
Watch Dave Price's video*
Learn not to worry.

COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund Email Blast/ Tower Article

On April 22, 2020, the Session of Forest Hill Church met to discern God's call for our church and community in 'times such as this.' The Ministry of Justice & Mission proposed that Session consider making a portion of 2020's Endowment Fund distribution available to create a bold response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the fund would be two-fold: (1) to address the emerging needs of individual members of the greater Forest Hill community and (2) to fund programs and/or organizations that are addressing policies and those impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. This ambitious undertaking aligns with the fourth goal of Forest Hill's *Long-Range Plan* to Engage in Transformative Social Action.

After a lively and constructive discussion, Session unanimously approved the following motion:

"Create a COVID-19 Emergency Fund that will support those from the congregation in need and support community efforts that are working to address those impacted by the coronavirus whose needs are not being met. This fund will be coordinated by the church's task force that includes Deacons, members of Justice and Mission, and others. Funds will come from Endowment and other donations."

With the blessing of Session, an ad hoc group (composed of Melanie Alban, Joan Bacon, Bader Boland, Mark Chupp, Ajah Hales, Pastor Goines, and Pastor Lentz) met on Wednesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 14 to flesh out particulars about the COVID-19 response task force.

Everything You Need to Know About FHC's COVID-19 Response Fund Task Force

1. What is the FHC COVID-19 Response Fund Task Force, and what will it do?

The task force will oversee and administer funds made available through the COVID-19 response fund.

The task force will be composed of up to 14 persons and divided into two subcommittees, with up to 7 people responsible for addressing organizational needs and up to 7 people accountable for addressing individual needs.

The organization needs a subcommittee that will create a grant application process similar to what Justice and Mission use for community grants. The individual needs subcommittee will establish a mutual aid network. Both subcommittees will work to create a rolling distribution process with support from our treasurer and administrative staff.

2. How will Task Force members be selected?

The ad hoc group, who has been charged with putting together a task force, decided it was important to seek out representation from church leadership and the greater Forest Hill community. We hope the task force will involve representatives from the ministries of Justice & Mission, Deacons, Stewardship, Trustees, and Church Growth, as well as FHC staff, Abundance pantry guests and volunteers, and other congregation and/or community members.

3. How can I get involved?

We are actively seeking volunteers to serve on the task force. Interested parties should email Mark Chupp at mark.chupp@gmail.com or Ajah Hales at ajah412@gmail.com. Each of the above ministries is encouraged to discern who will represent them on the task force.

If you would like to make a donation by cash or check to the COVID-19 Relief fund, please write "COVID-19 Relief Fund" on the memo line of your check or include an accompanying note with your donation. Online donations can be made directly through the church PayPal account by clicking [here](#). Please remember to add: "COVID-19 Relief Fund" on the memo line of your PayPal.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2020 GRADUATES!!!

- Amanda Horan (Mervine), Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Simon Olson, University School will attend Ohio State University
- Samuel Olson, University School will attend the University of Richmond
- Sidney Ball, Cleveland Heights High School
- Will Davis, Cleveland Heights High School
- Marguerite Hannah Weiss, Brown University
- Cameron Peters, Kenyon College
- Lotus Naki Headen, 14 is graduating from Entrepreneurship Preparatory School- Cliffs Campus. She will be attending Cleveland Heights High School.
- Aurora Nicole Krec, granddaughter of Cathy and Don Ghiandoni, graduating from UNC Charlotte with bachelor degrees in psychology and criminal justice. She will be attending Liberty University in the fall working on her masters in Forensic Psychology.
- Elena Blakeney Juodisius, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry with a Masters in Landscape Architecture
- Trent Swain, graduating from DePaul in IT
- Ethan Swain, graduating from Cleveland Heights High School

- 2LT Jacob Ryan Stauffer, United States Military Academy American Politics Major Assigned to 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC (Field Artillery branch)
- Layla Imani Joseph, Stanford University
- Sarah Ann Breisch, Hiram College with a BS in integrative exercise science
- Kevin Ball, Masters of Science (College of Nursing) from Kent State University-Adult Geriatric Certified Nurse Practitioner
- Allison Peterjohn, Shaker Heights High School
- Margaret Peterjohn, Shaker Heights High School



"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord."

John David Hunter
October 10, 1940 - May 16, 2020

"So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure."

2 Corinthians 4:16-17

The Forest Hill Church family gives thanks to God for the life of John David Hunter who passed from this life to the next on Saturday, May 16. David was surrounded by his wife, Anne, and his children.

It is hard to know where to start in giving thanks to God for David's life and contribution to God's world and Forest Hill Church. As a young boy, David was present at the laying of the foundation stone of the church building. David and his first wife Joyce (deceased June 16, 1996) raised their children Elizabeth (Beth), Laura, and Megan, at the church. David's imprint is on every church building project in the last 40 years. He was an Elder and a Trustee. He served on the ministries and committees of Stewardship, Justice and Mission, Personnel, Adult Education, Budget, Pastor Nominating, and Assoc.

Pastor Nominating. David was an usher. He was chair of the committee that selected the Casavant organ for the sanctuary, the Accessibility Committee, and served on the Sacred Space Committee.

David, in his later years served as the Building Manager, using his professional gifts to the service of the church. His spirituality was "bricks and mortar." He lived to build up the church brick by brick! David now occupies a home built by God.

Active in the Cleveland Heights community as well, he lived his faith values and tried to move the “world as it is” to become the “world as it should be.” He was a founding Trustee of the Forest Hill Church Housing Corporation (Home Repair Resource Center).

David always encouraged active participation of every member; building community, serving the church, serving God.

David is survived by his wife Anne, his children Beth (William), Laura, Megan (Peter), and grandchildren: Taylor, Abby, Hunter, Olivia, Kate, Charlie, and Isabella.

Thanks be to God for the life of John David Hunter. A pillar of the church.

Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines and Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Co-Pastors

Sundays in June (events are pending)

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

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

New Address- Starting in mid-June, the new mailing address for Mary Ball will be: 12005 Stafford Rd, Auburn Twp. OH 44023.

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

3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts. OH 44118

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 June 11

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

Giving/donation options- Friends and family of FHC, during this time, you can give monetary gifts/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).

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	
May 31	June 1	June 2 6:00 pm -HCC Board Meeting (conference call)	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6 8:00 am -Men's Group (tentative)
June 7 Tentative Summer Hours	June 8	June 9 6:00 pm -Nominating Committee (conference call)	June 10 7:00 pm -Ministry Meeting (conference call)	June 11	June 12	June 13
June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19 Juneteenth	June 20
June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24 7:00 pm -Session Meeting (conference call)	June 25	June 26	June 27
June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4 Independence Day
July 5	July 6	July 7 6:00 pm -HCC Board Meeting (conference call)	July 8 7:00 pm -Ministry Meeting (conference call)	July 9	July 10	July 11

June 2020