



Forest Hill Church
presbyterian

The TOWER

July/August 2020

WORDS FROM PASTOR VERONICA

My Trinity Sunday sermon, "What Kind of Birds Are We?" struck a chord within and beyond our congregation. We all continue to process this challenging Word of God amid the persisting, blatant displays of racial injustice, demonstrated in the May 25 murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers. The sermon contrasted two enduring symbols of the Holy Spirit, the dove of peace and, from Celtic Christianity, the wild goose. The underlying questions: Are we claiming our inner-goose? And, more importantly, in the fight against racial injustice, are we bringing the wrong bird to the fight? (6/7/20 sermon available on FHC website.)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Veronica', is placed to the right of the main text block.

Immediately after worship, I received a text message from Jean Reinhold, relaying a personal, direction-altering Holy Goose moment. With her permission, I share her story with you:

Years ago, I was playing golf on the Red Course at Highland Park. You've driven past it, I am sure, by Chagrin and Green. It was evening, and I was squeezing in a solo round before dark. The sun was setting. Deer were feeding, and a quick fox darted in and out of the woods. I was on the 4th hole - a long straight 350 yarder - ready to swing as hard as I could with my driver and let the ball roll on the

hard fairway. I lined up straight, using the edge of a gaggle of geese to help me aim, intended to sail the ball 200 yards over their heads. However, in my eagerness, I hit the ball thin, and the screaming low ball whacked a goose smack in the chest. It tumbled over, dazed, or dead; I was not sure. The entire pod of geese encircled it and started barking at me. Forty heads turned toward me, grunting and hissing. I knew they were upset with me, all the while locked on comforting and honoring their brother. I did not play through the group; I did not swing over to the fifth fairway to avoid them and complete the hole. I walked off the course. I changed my way.

I will never forget those geese and their fierce devotion to each other and the right thing. They knew pain and suffered it together. They knew the danger and faced it bravely. They knew how to stare the enemy down. I want to be that kind of goose. Strong, empathetic, fearless. I want us to be that kind of goose church. A gaggle of one—all were facing down what happens. Barking to protect, warn, and serve. Barking for justice, bringing our holy goose to the fight, our worth known, and our work done willfully in unison.

Friends, as we continue our aspirational goal of Being the beloved Community, let our vision be expanded to claim with the peace of Christ, the militant action of the Holy Goose, honking loudly for justice, and nudging us into unified formation to soar faster and higher than alone. **What kind of birds are we?**

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Veronica

WORDS FROM PASTOR JOHN

Dear Friends,



What a summer of discontent. Perhaps a summer of hope? We shall see if we turn our longing into action, and our faith into real flesh and blood steps turning our world towards the world as it should be. Don't blame God for any of this. God is heartbroken too, waiting for you and for me to be the people we were called to be as Christians, as Americans, as children of the earth. Contrary to the nostalgia of "Make America Great Again," the great American poet Langston Hughes (1902-1967) wrote, Let "America Be America Again." May you be moved to meditate on this devastatingly powerful poem that points to the future of possibility, not to the past that never was. God bless you, John

Let America Be America Again Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

Let America be America again.
Let it be the dream it used to be.
Let it be the pioneer on the plain
Seeking a home where he himself is free.
(America never was America to me.)
Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed—
Let it be that great strong land of love
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
That any man be crushed by one above.
(It never was America to me.)
O, let my land be a land where Liberty
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
But opportunity is real, and life is free,
Equality is in the air we breathe.
(There's never been equality for me,
Nor freedom in this "homeland of the free.")

Say, who are you that mumbles in the dark?
And who are you that draws your veil across the stars?
I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,
I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars.
I am the red man driven from the land,
I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek—
And finding only the same old stupid plan
Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak.
I am the young man, full of strength and hope,
Tangled in that ancient endless chain
Of profit, power, gain, of grab the land!
Of grab the gold! Of grab the ways of satisfying need!
Of work the men! Of take the pay!
Of owning everything for one's own greed!
I am the farmer, bondsman to the soil.
I am the worker sold to the machine.
I am the Negro, servant to you all.
I am the people, humble, hungry, mean—
Hungry yet today despite the dream.
Beaten yet today—O, Pioneers!
I am the man who never got ahead,
The poorest worker bartered through the years.
Yet I'm the one who dreamt our basic dream
In the Old World while still a serf of kings,
Who dreamt a dream so strong, so brave, so true,
That even yet its mighty daring sings
In every brick and stone, in every furrow turned
That's made America the land it has become.
O, I'm the man who sailed those early seas
In search of what I meant to be my home—
For I'm the one who left dark Ireland's shore,
And Poland's plain, and England's grassy lea,
And torn from Black Africa's strand I came
To build a "homeland of the free."
The free?

Who said the free? Not me?
Surely not me? The millions on relief today?
The millions shot down when we strike?
The millions who have nothing for our pay?
For all the dreams we've dreamed
And all the songs we've sung
And all the hopes we've held
And all the flags we've hung,
The millions who have nothing for our pay—
Except the dream that's almost dead today.
O, let America be America again—
The land that never has been yet—
And yet must be—the land where every man is free.
The land that's mine—the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, ME—
Who made America,
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again.
Sure, call me any ugly name you choose—
The steel of freedom does not stain.
From those who live like leeches on the people's lives,
We must take back our land again,
America!
O, yes,
I say it plain,
America never was America to me,
And yet I swear this oath—
America will be!
Out of the rack and ruin of our gangster death,
The rape and rot of graft, and stealth, and lies,
We, the people, must redeem
The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.
The mountains and the endless plain—
All, all the stretch of these great green states—
And make America again!

MUSIC

Dear Forest Hill Family,



We welcome Dr. Qin Ying Tan, as our new Interim Director of Music.

Born in Singapore, Ying moved to Cleveland and graduated from Cleveland Institute of Music with a doctorate in harpsichord performance in 2019. She holds multiple degrees from the Peabody Institute of Music in piano performance, harpsichord performance, and musicology. Ying was awarded the “Excellence in Early Music” upon graduation. Other accolades include prizes and awards from the Trailblazer Foundation, the Eileen Southern Grant from the America Musicological Society, and multiple full scholarships from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music and the Peabody Institute of Music at the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Tan also won top prize at the International Young Artists' Piano Competition in 2006. She has performed around the world.

Having grown up in a racially diverse Singapore, Ying's experience in music and the arts is extremely multi-cultural. She has played and sung in Christian youth fellowship groups, Buddhist temples, and has also played the Indonesian gamelan and the Chinese *guzheng* in community events.

As collaborative keyboardist at Case Western University, Dr. Tan works with the students and ensembles at the Historical Performance Practice department. She also holds the position of co-artistic director at the Resonance Masters' Series in Bellevue, Washington which organizes events and concerts for the talented young musicians in the Seattle area.

When she is not practicing or directing, Ying loves exploring beautiful Cleveland with her husband, Irwin Shung, and

dachshund rescue, Jax. Self-confessed to be a big fan of "The Crown" and the first seven seasons of "Game of Thrones", She welcomes anybody to engage her in conversations about music or culture.

Ying will continue to work at Heights Christian Church in Shaker Heights, while she fills the Forest Hill Church position.

We are blessed to have Qin Ying Tan join the staff of Forest Hill Church. Please reach out to her and welcome her into the family.



I want to thank those of you who welcome me so warmly, and it was so beautiful to hear your words of welcome.

Although we cannot meet in person, please feel free to keep in touch via email (music@fhcpresb.org); I would love to hear from you. If you have any musical gifts you would like to share with the church, do not hesitate to be in touch!

Blessings,
Ying

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY...

A new way of giving to the church is available! Now you can **TEXT** your donations on your mobile phone.

To give using your credit card, debit card, or bank account, text the amount of your gift to:

216-400-5300

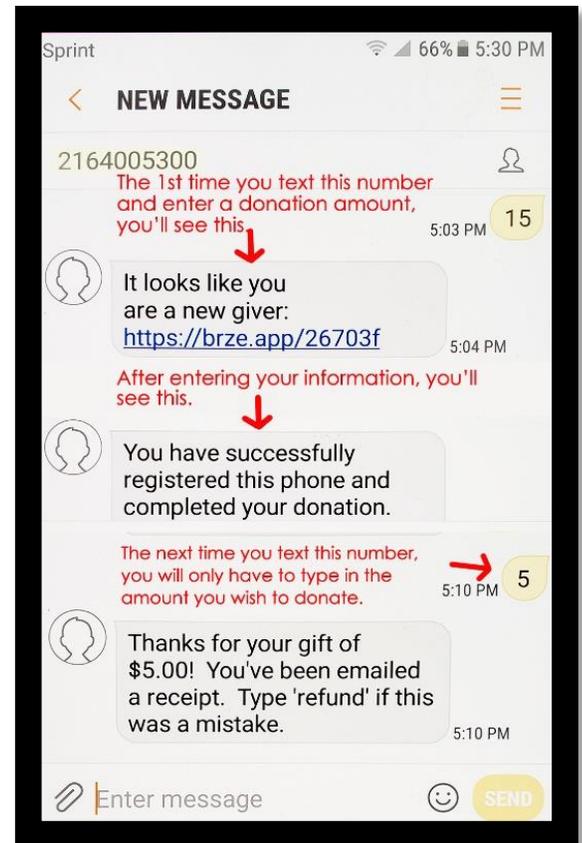
The first time you donate by text, you'll receive a message saying "It looks like you are a new giver" with a link to the online giving page. Click the link to supply your contact information and payment method (credit card, debit card, or bank account).

The payment source you enter will be linked with your mobile phone number—you will not need to re-enter your payment information in the future.* All you'll need to do is text the amount you want to give.

The next time you donate to Forest Hill by text, you'll receive a text confirming that your gift has been received successfully . . . and you're finished.

You can also GIVE ONLINE through either our **NEW Breeze giving page** or PayPal.

- [Click here to donate through Breeze](#) with your credit card, debit card, or bank account.
- If you prefer to use [PayPal](#) you can still donate through PayPal with your PayPal account or your credit/debit card.



Whether you give through Breeze by text or the giving page on our website, you'll receive an immediate email confirming your donation and the gift will appear on your Breeze profile page along with the rest of your donations.

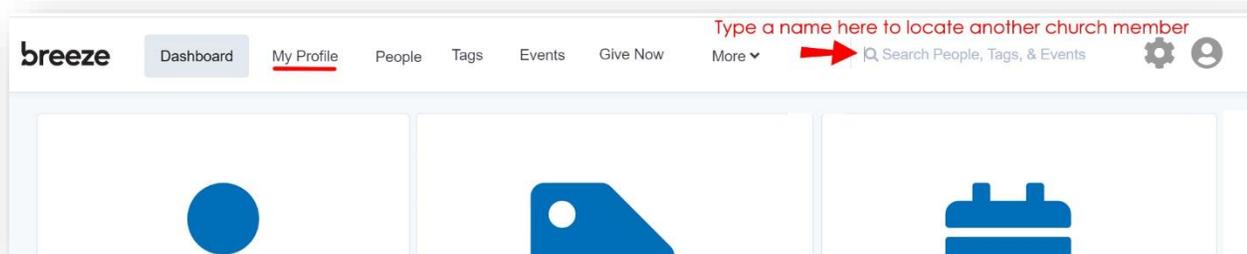
There are small transaction fees to the church for donations texted or made online through Breeze or online through PayPal. That's why regular givers who want to give online are encouraged to use **AUTOMATIC BANK PAYMENTS** because no fees are deducted from the amount you give. Just go online to your bank and add "Forest Hill Church" as one of your regular bill payees. For even more convenience, you can set up automatic monthly payments through your bank.

**Forest Hill Church will never receive or save your credit card information.*



<http://www.fhc.breezechms.com>

Sometimes a picture really is worth a thousand words. If you've considered checking out Breeze but think it will be too complicated, here's a picture of what you'll see after you sign in.



Click on My Profile (underlined here in red) to see your private and public information. Type the name of another church member in the Search box on the right to see that member's public information.

It really is a Breeze! For one-on-one, socially-distanced instruction on Breeze, call me at 216-291-2586 or email me at pegw@fhcpresb.org. I love introducing people to Breeze.

~Peg Weissbrod



Mid-Year Eco Resolutions

As we enter the summer of this unprecedented year of anxiety where our focus is on the COVID virus pandemic, the withering of the economy, and racial injustice, here are a few items we should pay attention to for improving our Earth Care awareness:

1. Wean ourselves off of products that contain palm oil. This ingredient is in many of our household processed foods, cosmetics, and personal care products. Palm oil comes from vast palm plantations in Indonesia, which have replaced whole forests and led to a steep decline in wildlife, particularly the orangutan.
2. Shred netting bags before disposal. These bags are used for apples, potatoes, etc. Careless discarding can result in these bags ending up in the ocean, fouling marine life.
3. Clean storm drains in your neighborhood. Be aware of these drains and keep surrounding areas free of trash to keep from further polluting waterways.
4. Stop using balloons. As they float away and eventually deflate, animals mistake these for food, which can kill them.
5. With the 4th of July coming up, avoid fireworks! Fireworks scare animals and release poisonous chemicals that contaminate the environment.
6. Say no to chemical drain clog removers. Such chemicals contaminate the waterways upon which all life depends.
7. With the growing season upon us, avoid using pesticides or, if you must, use sparingly!

8. Skip red meat, or at least cut back your consumption, and purchase locally sourced meat. Industrial meat production not only contaminates the environment but utilizes a tremendous amount of water (1800 gallons) to produce just 1 pound of meat!
 9. Plant a patch of milkweed and other flowering plants on your property, which supports pollinators-- bees and butterflies-- that make many of our fruits and vegetables possible.
- from Defenders magazine

Have a safe summer!

Dave Neff
Earth Care Leader

Sundays in July and August (events are pending)

11:00 am: Worship (pending time change)

(Please join our YouTube channel for worship)

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 Worship-If you have been attending our YouTube live stream each Sunday and have not been able to sign in, please email the church office and let Antoinette or Peg know you want to be added to the attendance list.

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
Qin Ying Tan	Music	music@fhcpresb.org
Tara Beverly	Youth Leader	youthleader@fhcpresb.org



FHC MUTUAL AID NETWORK

Mutual aid is rooted in the concept that every individual has needs and every individual has resources. Because we all have something to offer and we all need something, mutual aid networks are civic safety nets that allow us to make sure our community's needs are met, using as many of the in-network resources available to us as possible. Mutual Aid is mutual. To become a part of the Greater Forest Hill Mutual Aid network, you must offer a need AND supply a resource. This model of community reciprocity brings us all closer to becoming the beloved community.

**To Apply for Mutual Aid, visit:
https://bit.ly/FHC_MA**

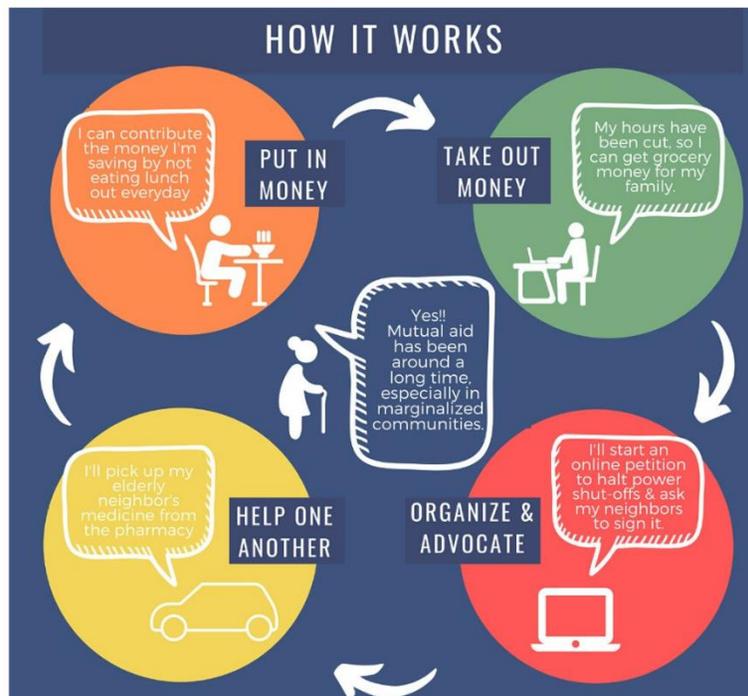


Image courtesy of Non-Profit Quarterly Magazine

**For questions or more information please email:
COVID.Grants@fhcpresb.org.**

From Anne Wilson:

I am so grateful for all the heart-felt messages that I have received these last weeks. Thank you for your cards and your calls, for those of you who drove by my home while honking or playing the trumpet, for all those who made delightful, homemade signs to decorate my lawn, for all those who participated in the incredible video (what a keepsake!), for all those who so generously contributed to a farewell gift, and to all those who greeted me in the parking lot when I left on May 31st. I will cherish all these memories as well as the many friendships nurtured over thirty years in service to the church.

Thank you.

Soli Deo Gloria~~

Anne Wilson

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

Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Interim Director of Music

Tara Beverly, Youth Leader

Next TOWER deadline: **8 am** on August 13

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 -Al Anon: Now There's Hope -Book Group 7:30 pm -AA: Barton 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 -Al Anon: Hand in Hand	
June 28 Pastor Lentz is out of the office	June 29 Pastor Lentz is out of the office	June 30 Pastor Lentz is out of the office	July 1 Pastor Lentz is out of the office	July 2	July 3 Pastors are out of the office	July 4 Independence Day
July 5	July 6 Pastor Goines is out of the office	July 7 Pastor Goines is out of the office 6:00 pm -HCC Board Meeting (conference call)	July 8 Pastor Goines is out of the office 7:00 pm -Ministry Meeting (conference call)	July 9 Pastor Goines is out of the office	July 10 Pastors are out of the office	July 11
July 12 Pastor Goines is out of the office	July 13 Pastor Goines is out of the office	July 14 Pastor Goines is out of the office 6:30 pm Nominating Committee (conference call)	July 15 Pastor Goines is out of the office	July 16 Pastor Goines is out of the office	July 17 Pastors are out of the office	July 18
July 19 Pastor Goines is out of the office	July 20 Pastor Goines is out of the office	July 21 Pastor Goines is out of the office	July 22 Pastor Goines is out of the office 7:00 pm -Session Meeting (conference call)	July 23 Pastor Goines is out of the office	July 24 Pastors are out of the office	July 25
July 26 Pastor Goines is out of the office	July 27 Pastor Goines is out of the office	July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31 Pastors are out of the office	August 1

July 2020

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August 2	August 3 Ann Donkin is out of the office	August 4 Ann Donkin is out of the office 6:00 pm -HCC Board Meeting (conference call)	August 5 Ann Donkin is out of the office	August 6 Ann Donkin is out of the office	August 7 Pastors are out of the office Ann Donkin is out of the office	August 8
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August 16	August 17	August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21 Pastors are out of the office	August 22
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August 30	August 31	September 1 6:00 pm -HCC Board Meeting (conference call)	September 2	September 3	September 4 Pastors are out of the office	September 5

August 2020