Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but I always have a letdown after Christmas and New Year's. Decorating the tree, the wonder of Advent, the beauty of the 11:00 Christmas Eve service, the countdown to a new year always energizes me. I am caught up in the mystery and festivity of it all. When it is all over, I feel down. I have been that way since I was a child. I remember going to bed the night of Christmas over tired and feeling blue that I had to wait so long until the next Christmas. However, the thought of what lies before us perks me up! Soon we will gather for our annual meeting: electing new leaders, thanking those whose terms are finishing, casting our sights ahead. The pace of life will pick up in a hurry and before you know it, it will be the Lenten season and then Easter! Before you know it, we will be complaining about the heat!

So, in this first part of January, 2023, I wish you a Happy New Year! I hope some of you have made a resolution to come back to in person worship. It is always more fun when we are together sitting next to each other.

Here are some things that I am looking forward to in 2023:

• Sharing communion without spilling all over myself trying to open up the all-in-one hosts!
• More fellowship gatherings where we enjoy each other’s company. If you came to last month’s gingerbread house palooza (organized by Amy Wheatley) you know what I am talking about!
• Ying's concert series.
• The Wright Family concert at the end of February celebrating the life of Mother Willie Mae Wright.
• Continuing the work of being the Beloved Community.
• (On a personal note) Two weddings!

As Dag Hammarskjöld once wrote on the eve of a new year:

Let us strive for that spirit as we move into the new year together!

Faithfully yours,

Pastor John
FROM DR. QIN YING TAN
As we approach the end of 2022, here are some pictures of the musical happenings at Forest Hill Church this year. Bravo to the Chancel Choir, Voices in Bronze, Little Crescendos and you all for a wonderful year of music-making!

January 2022
The omicron virus meant lots of masked singing and virtual videos to make sure everybody stayed safe and healthy!

February 2022
Celebration of Black History Month with Elegie!

April and May
Chancel Choir returns!

June 2022
Gospel Choir with Sandra Dixon!

March 2022: Women’s History Month
Composers featured included Florence Price (1887-1953), Clara Schumann (1819-1896), and Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre (1665-1729).

April and May
Chancel Choir returns!

June 2022
Gospel Choir with Sandra Dixon!

March 2022: Women’s History Month
Composers featured included Florence Price (1887-1953), Clara Schumann (1819-1896), and Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre (1665-1729).

October
World Communion Sunday with the Cleveland Chinese Ensemble.

September
Music program commences with Chancel and Voices in Bronze.

November
Little Crescendos performs!

December
Christmas Celebration!

July and August
Summer Outdoor Worship!
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 $1,000 to Family Promise, supporting their programs and temporary shelter for families facing homelessness in our city.

Our first annual Gingerbread House Event in December was so much fun! Ninety-seven people, ages 9 months to 75yrs, filled Fellowship Hall with joyful conversation, laughter, and lots of creativity. The decorated gingerbread houses were FABULOUS!
June evening. The children in the FHC courtyard on a beautiful spring day welcomed young families facing homelessness.

Family Promise of Greater Cleveland's work was celebrated in all of the sanctuary pews to encourage membership at FHC and we celebrated at a reception following worship.

In May, five young people affirmed their faith through Confirmation Class, led by Rev. Eric Dillenbeck, and there were many other children's sessions, were placed in all of the sanctuary pews to encourage young people's participation in worship.

On Easter Sunday, children mingled on the lawn and getting to know each other while blowing bubbles or playing in the sandbox.

Outdoor Worship found families and children enjoying the outdoors and singing, and outdoor activities for youth/vulnerable adults participating in our community. The policy is being implemented in the life of the church, was approved by the congregation.

For the Winter of 2023, the Ministry of Adult Spiritual Growth is pleased to announce the following classes.

- We have tried to balance our offerings of classes in a variety of areas of Spiritual Growth:
  - Learning about contemporary approaches to scriptures
  - Growing in our ability to follow Jesus
  - Strengthening community among class participants
  - Demonstrating Christian social witness in our modern world

We hope these classes will help people connect with each other, building our community of faith.

About Sunday Morning Class times:
Please note that the starting time for Sunday morning classes is 10:30 AM to arrive on time. Please note that the starting time for Sunday morning classes is 10:30 AM to arrive on time.

If you would like to learn more or register for a course, please click the following link: https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/3a3065.

~Amy Wheatley, Director of Family, Youth and Children Ministry
ce@fhcresb.org
BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT
MUCH IS HAPPENING AROUND OUR BUILDING THIS PAST MONTH AND MORE PLANNED FOR 2023!

Estimates are being gathered for the repair of the Monticello portico. The issue with contractors is dealing with the steel beam within it. Sorry for the inconvenience. Please admire newly scrubbed and refinished hallway floors throughout the building. The most recent is the hallway to the choir room.

A new projector has been installed in the French doors leading to the courtyard locks are temporary)

deep cleaning of room 106 has begun! Volunteers are needed to sort not needed items and leftover treasures in the kitchen cabinets and get them organized. If you might help, contact Ann Donkin. Bring a friend; it could be fun!

If you live in the FH neighborhood, you probably miss the chiming bells of our Carillon. The amplifier began an annoying cracking noise and had to be unarmed. Troubleshooting the issue is ongoing. Pray this is fixable. Keep listening in the new year.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE
SHARING THE CHALLENGE

A s we wind down 2022, many of us are reflecting on the challenges brought by 2022 and the challenges we may set for ourselves in the coming year. If the notion of “challenge” also strikes a chord with you, you might want to listen to what Em Laudeman-Ezell shares in a recent video describing why she and her family chose Forest Hill as their faith community. Em speaks of the challenges presented to us by the radical life and works of Jesus Christ and of the challenges she’s experienced in activism throughout her life – all with the most positive possible connotations of the word challenge.

So, as the new year approaches, we’d like to take Em’s lead and think about challenges as potentially positive forces. Together as a congregation, we share the challenge of gathering the resources necessary to fund the missions and operation of Forest Hill. In fact, together we’ve raised over $650,000 as of December 27 toward 2023 expenses. Our goal is $850,000, so we have some ways to go. Perhaps your commitment will be part of helping us meet the challenge.

If you haven’t already, please consider making a financial commitment for the coming year. You may do so through filling out and returning the card in the packet that was mailed to your home. Or, visit the church website to submit your card electronically. You can watch Em’s video, and many others, through the links on the FHC website: https://www.fhcpresb.org/ "GIVE” > “Stewardship 2023.

May the first weeks of 2023 challenge you in the most positive possible ways. And, as always, those of us in the Stewardship Ministry are honored to work alongside each of you.

Dear GCC Colleagues:

The feedback from participants and media who attended our December 6th hearing on youth bindover has been overwhelmingly positive.

Going forward, we are inviting your involvement with our Bindover Team in this important work to reform our system of abuse of discretion and bindover in Cuyahoga County.

We have scheduled a meeting of our Bindover Team on Thursday, January 12th at 7 PM via Zoom. We hope that you can join us and help build on the considerable momentum we have garnered from the public hearing. GCC will have meetings in the new year with County Executive Chris Ronayne, County Prosecutor Michael O’Malley, and Juvenile Court Judge Anne McDonough. Our Bindover Team meeting on the 12th will help us prepare for these meetings by reviewing the ideas for reform suggested at the December 6th hearing and discussing our priorities.

Register here for the January 12th meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/昴幼1ZAc-7qzKsbvGIPolXKs29g ZyQ-2BlvaoKs

Below is a link that will take you to the video of the December 6 hearing as well as a petition and a commitment card. The petition demonstrates to key stakeholders the depth of our concern about youth bindover. The commitment card allows you to indicate the ways in which you would like to participate in this work going forward. These documents can be completed online, if you haven’t already done so.


Thank you, and we look forward to being with you on January 12!

Jesse Dutes and Ben Sperry, Co-chairs, GCC Bindover Team

CONFESSIONS OF A REPUBLICAN INDUSTRIALIST

T he latest personal account of one FHC Congregant’s journey to becoming an Earth Care advocate—my own story…..

Over ten years ago I approached Pastor Lenz for a partial cost study stipend to attend the Presbyterian Earth Care Symposium at the Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina. Coincidentally, one of my conference colleagues there was Keith Mills of Fairmount Presbyterian, right down the road. One of the guest speakers at the conference was Prof. Kathryn Hayhoe of Texas Tech, a renowned Christian Environmentalist/Earth Care advocate, and Keith and I quickly became two of her disciples. Soon both of us launched our respective churches Forest Hill and Fairmount as the first two Earth Care congregations, becoming the First two such churches in Ohio…..

At that time—10-12 years ago—there were more than a few folks, even in our own congregation, who doubted climate change, global warming, and the threats of greenhouse gas emissions. It therefore became my mission, mainly through my gift of writing, to use the Tower as a vehicle writing Earth Care articles to agitate, educate, and advocate for all personal, corporate, and governmental support actions to mitigate the despoling of the Earth to the greatest extent possible.

Now for the Republican/industrialist connection. Throughout my professional career I was involved in metal casting, a notable polluting, high-carbon emission generating industry. Perhaps not as grievous as others, but metal casting ultimately begins with mining which of course disrupts the land. Yet, as I approached retirement, my conscience told me something it was time to shift my focus. Politically I have stayed Republican, but espousing more moderate positions on many matters and speaking up for Earth Care.

My special passion/love for wildlife and wild places having been able during my lifetime to visit many such venues, drew me into a stronger awareness and consideration of the interdependence of all living things—people, cultures, habitats—and the natural resources—land, air and water quality necessary to allow the Earth and all life to exist as God intends. My own journey continues.

~Dave Neff
**FIBER AND FELLOWSHIP**

Will meet from 9 AM to noon in Fellowship Hall to sew or knit!

We are working on re-useable grocery bags for the food pantry and our THIRD Quilt is cut and ready to be sewn!

Knitters are welcome to come and work on Prayer Shawls and Baby Blankets for the Deacons.

**AROUND THE TABLE YARNS**

Lorraine Ranchod invites weekday knitters to *Around the Table Yarns* on the second Tuesday of the month, starting on Tues., January 10 from 4:00 - 6:00 PM to knit “comfort shawls”.

Please come if you’re interested and available.

Plan to bring or buy your own needles & yarn.

Please reach out to Lorraine (laranchod@gmail.com) if you are interested.

**THE RETURN OF THE BLACK HISTORY EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Black History Education Committee announces a return of programming for the full month of February.

Watch for more information in the New Year!

Save the Date

**FOR THE BLACK HISTORY CONCERT**


**FROM DEAN SIECK**

Dean Sieck would like to thank the church staff, Ann Donkin, Michael Broadwater, and Antoinette Richardson for their part in his wife Judy’s memorial service. He would also like to thank church member volunteers Dene Young, Cindy Newton, Cathy Ghiandoni, and Sally Davis for the lovely reception they provided, and Kurt Haas for the YouTube streaming of Judy’s service and Roger Heineman for pinch hitting for Grant at the last minute for the video Grant produced. He would also like to thank the FHC church family for their attendance at Judy’s service. Thank you all!

Please contact Carol Gifford (cmsgiff79@aol.com) if you are interested.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!**
CONTACT INFORMATION

Antoinette Richardson
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office@fhcpresb.org

Genetha (Nita) Clark
Finance
finance@fhcpresb.org

Ann Donkin
Building Mgr.
adonkin@fhcpresb.org

Custodians
Custodian
custodian@fhcpresb.org

Rev. Carol Wedell
Parish Associate

FEVERUARY TOWER ISSUE DEADLINE:
8 AM ON JANUARY 12
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).

GIVING/DONATION OPTIONS

Regularity scheduled events: meet every week unless noted

MONDAY

JANUARY 2
OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY

JANUARY 3
6:00 pm: Creating Racial Equity Meeting

JANUARY 10
1:00 pm: Around the Yarns

JANUARY 17
7:00 pm: Gender/Sphere

JANUARY 31
6:00 pm: Session Meeting

JANUARY 1
Communion
9:15 am: Adult Ed.
11:50 am: Little Crescendos and J.A.M.

JANUARY 8
9:15 am: Adult Ed.
11:50 am: Little Crescendos and J.A.M.

JANUARY 15
9:15 am: Adult Ed.
11:50 am: Little Crescendos and J.A.M.

JANUARY 22
9:15 am: Adult Ed.
11:50 am: Little Crescendos and J.A.M.

JANUARY 29
9:15 am: Adult Ed.
11:00 am: Catering in main kitchen
11:50 am: Little Crescendos and J.A.M.
12:30 pm: Annual Meeting

JANUARY 9

JANUARY 6
7:00 pm: Annual Meeting

JANUARY 11
6:00 pm: Creating Racial Equity Meeting

JANUARY 18
7:00 pm: Session Meeting

JANUARY 25

JANUARY 5
7:30 am - Abundance Pantry Bulletin and Weekly email Deadline

JANUARY 12
7:30 am - Bible & Bibles (virtual)
12:00 pm - Staff Meeting (virtual)

JANUARY 13

JANUARY 1
Pastor
pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org

Dr. Amy Wheatley
Director of Family, Youth & Children’s Ministry
CE@fhcpresb.org

Dr. Qin Ying Tan
Director of Music
CE@fhcpresb.org

Dr. Carol Wedell
Parish Associate
pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org

Custodian
custodian@fhcpresb.org

Rev. John C. Lentz Jr., Pastor
216-321-2660    |    Fax: 216-320-1214

3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

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

www.fhcpresb.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FOR JANUARY

SUNDAY

JANUARY 1

JANUARY 2
OFFICE CLOSED

JANUARY 9

JANUARY 16
OFFICE CLOSED

JANUARY 23

JANUARY 30

JANUARY 3
7:00 pm: Session Meeting

JANUARY 4
7:00 pm: Personnel Committee

JANUARY 11

JANUARY 18
7:00 pm: Session Meeting

JANUARY 25

JANUARY 30
FEBRUARY 1
Black History Month Begins!
7:00 pm Personnel Committee

JANUARY 7
10:30 am: Racial Equity Book Club

JANUARY 14
9:00 am: Fiber and Fellowship

JANUARY 21
12:00 pm: Baby Shower

Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr., Pastor
pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org

Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children’s Ministry
CE@fhcpresb.org

Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music
CE@fhcpresb.org

Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate
rclontz@fhcpresb.org

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