

Service of Worship
December 6, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday in the Season of Advent

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.

If you are visiting, please print your name on a name tag and wear it so that we might greet you. Large print editions of the Bible, the Hymnal, and today's bulletin as well as hearing devices are available from the ushers on request.

■ ■ ■ *Prayer of Preparation*

Gracious Lord, as we continue to prepare for the birth of your Son, help us to be open this morning. Open to your word. Open to your Spirit. Open to each other. Open to our own deepest yearnings for peace.

Welcome

The Prelude

"Magnificat"

M. Dupré

Choral Introit

■ ■ ■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: Today we relight the candle of Hope.

People: Now we light the candle for the Second Sunday in Advent. This is the candle of Peace.

Leader: From the prophet Isaiah: *For a child has been born to us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

People: From the Gospel of John: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

The candle of Peace is lit.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Gracious God, grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord's birth. Help us to see the paths of peace in our lives, and then give to us courage to follow them. Lord, let us remember that you only are the giver of lasting peace and that you are always with us. Amen.

*** The Processional Hymn No. 13**

"Prepare the Way"

■ ■ ■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. Clover Beal

Gracious and loving God, we call Jesus the "Prince of Peace" and we seek to follow him. Yet we confess that we are often not at peace. Our hearts are restless within. There is conflict in our families. Our country is divided. Nations wage war. Forgive us for not doing those things that lead towards peace. Help us this day to be more loving, more forgiving, less fearful, more honest with ourselves, with you and with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison

Felciano

■ ■ ■ *Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

Assurance of Pardon

***Gloria, Gloria No. 576**

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

2nd time, men begin; women begin 2 measures later;

Children and youth begin 2 measures after that.

The Anthem

"Ticket to the Promised Land"

Descant Choir

R. Rider

■ ■ ■ *Opening Our Hearts to God's Word*

The Family Meditation

Rev. Clover Beal

*** Hymn No. 48**

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Children in Pathways may leave during the hymn

Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn

The Scripture Lesson (Barry Hartz, reader)

Luke 3:1-6 (p. 834)

After the reading

Leader: Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Nursery Help Needed

Parents and others, please sign up to help in the nursery on Sundays from 11:00 – 12:00.

THIS WEEK

Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels meets Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Jin Room. All are welcome! The scripture this week is **Luke 3: 7-18**.

Yoga

The Yoga class will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays December 9 and 16; the class will reconvene on January 6. All are welcome! The cost is \$10/class.

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education: 9:30 in South Hall

Dec. 13 The Origins of Christmas: Dr. Joe Kelly

Dec. 20 My Favorite Things: The Music of Christmas Mr. Barry Hartz

LOOKING AHEAD

Festival of Lessons and Carols

The traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 20 during morning worship. The Descant, Sine Nomine and Chancel Choirs will all sing that morning – it's a good time to bring music-loving friends.

Care Group

December Care Group

This year the month of December will be covered by the YOU Care Group. Are you wondering where this new Care Group came from? It doesn't seem to have a biblical name like most of them. Still wondering? This is the month that YOU may be called to help make and deliver a meal to a new mom and dad, YOU may be asked to deliver flowers, YOU may be asked to assist as a greeter or coffee hour server. In this month of giving, please consider giving of yourself and say yes when YOU are called to help with your church family.

From Cindy Newton, Deacon leader in December

Social Groups and Circles

Christmas Parties

Fish/Back Row (singles and couples, 20s – 40s): Join us for an evening of fun on Saturday, December 12 at 7 p.m. at the home of John and Kara Schellenberg (2939 E. Overlook, Cleveland Hts.). Bring a beverage and a dessert or appetizer to share. RSVP to Kara Schellenberg (216-321-6720) or Diana Johannessen (216-371-2971).

The Group (singles and couples 60s – 70s) We will meet on Saturday, December 12 at 7 p.m. at the home of Dick and Mollie Secor for a potluck supper and to prepare gifts for a Boulevard School family. RSVP to Dick and Mollie at 216 321-6664.

Iris Circle (all women of the church) We'll have a potluck supper in Bodwell Hall on Tuesday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m., then attend the Women's Festival of Lessons and Carols at 7 p.m.

Pacesetters (singles and couples 40s – 50s) We will gather at the home of Paul and Katie Weissbrod (1104 Dorsh Rd, South Euclid) on Saturday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m. Please BYOB and bring an appetizer or dessert to share. No White Elephants this year, but bring a favorite from years past for our 25th anniversary celebration! RSVP to Paul or Katie (216-382-7953).

■■■ *FHC Youth*

Sr. High Youth will meet with Kate Burleigh this evening from 5 – 7 p.m.

Wednesday evening Bible Studies for senior highs continue at Phoenix at 7 p.m.

Mid High Youth will meet with Tori Weisberg on Friday, Dec. 18, from 6 – 8 p.m.

■■■ *The Lessons*

Next Sunday: Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Isaiah 12: 2-6; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 7-18. As part of your daily devotions, read the lessons. What image or word catches your attention? How do they settle or challenge you? Keep notes of your observations in a journal. Set aside part of each day for prayer and study. The lectionary readings for each Sunday are included in the "Sundays in December" page of the **TOWER**.

■■■ *FHC Staff Emails and Phone Extensions*

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Poinsettias for Christmas

Once again we are ordering poinsettias for the sanctuary. If you would like to order one or more (they are \$7 each), please complete this form and put it in the offering, or contact the church office by December 7:

Your name

In whose honor or memory are you donating the flowers?

In honor of

In memory of

Number of plants

Do you want to take your poinsettia home, or donate it?

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on December 20 and on Christmas Eve. They may be taken after the candlelight service on Christmas Eve or on December 27.



Calendar: December 6 - 13, 2009

Sunday, December 6: 2 Advent

8:15 Nominating Committee
9:30 Child care begins
Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
Adult and Youth education
10:15 Descant Choir activity
10:30 Chancel Choir
Continental Breakfast
11:00 Little Explorers (3 and 4 year olds)
Children in Worship (older 4s, k)
WORSHIP
11:15 Pathways (gr. 1-5)
12:15 Lunch
1:00 Advent Workshop
2:00 Apollo's Fire rehearsal
5:00 MOB: Sr High
FaithLeader

Monday, December 7

7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #36 (dens)
Sycamore group
7:30 p.m. Borton Group (AA)
Boy Scout Troop #403
Vasa Chorus rehearsal

Tuesday, December 8

7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #36 (dens)

Wednesday, December 9

7:30 a.m. Bible and Bagels
6:00 p.m. Yoga class
6:30 p.m. Deacons meet at Loughridges'
7:00 p.m. Ministries worship
7:15 p.m. Ministries meet

Thursday, December 10

9:45 a.m. Women's Book Group
6:20 p.m. Voices in Bronze
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Forest Hill Swim Club

Friday, December 11

9:30 a.m. Al Anon

Saturday, December 12

12:00 p.m. Vasa Festival
4:00 p.m. Vasa Festival Program –
all are invited to attend
7:00 p.m. Fish-Back Row Christmas party
The Group Christmas party

Sunday, December 13: 3 Advent

9:00 Ten Thousand Villages: Sale begins
9:30 Child care begins
Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
Adult and Youth education
10:15 Descant Choir activity
10:30 Chancel Choir
Continental Breakfast
11:00 Little Explorers (3 and 4 year olds)
Children in Worship (older 4s, k)
WORSHIP
11:15 Pathways (gr. 1-5)
12:15 Coffee Hour
Sine Nomine Choir
5:00 MOB: Sr High
FaithLeader

November, 2009 YTD Financial Results

YTD through			
	November 09	November 08	09 v 08
Total Cash Receipts (A)	\$ 589,728	\$ 574,411	\$ 15,318
Total Cash Expenditures	639,432	657,110	(17,678)
Variance (A) / (B)	(49,704)	(82,700)	32,996
% of Total Budget (08 actual) (B)	741,140	697,254	43,886
In 2008 the total contributions for the month of December = \$122,844 and we fell short of our budget by \$29,781 In 2009 we are currently \$151,412 short of our budget. WE CAN DO IT! Please complete your 2009 pledge promptly!			

Information provided by Graham Peters, FHC treasurer

Advent and Christmas Schedule at FHC

Saturday, December 12

- 4:00 p.m. **Vasa Festival Program** (Sanctuary)
Join the local Swedish community as they celebrate Saint Lucia
- 7:00 p.m. **The Group and Fish/Back Row Christmas parties** (See p. 6 for details)

Tuesday, December 15

- 5:30 p.m. **Iris Circle potluck** (Bodwell Hall)
- 7:00 p.m. **Women’s Lessons and Carols** (Chapel)

Saturday, December 19

- 7:30 p.m. **Pacesetters Christmas Party** (see p. 6 for details)

Sunday, December 20

- 11 a.m. **Festival of Lessons and Carols** (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 24

- 5 p.m. **Family Worship**
- 10:45 p.m. **Musical Prelude**
- 11:00 p.m. **Candlelight Worship**
- 12:00 a.m. **Christmas Gathering**

The church office will close at 12 n., Dec. 24, and will be closed Dec. 25 and 31 and Jan. 1.

Sunday, December 27

- Classes and choirs will not meet
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship in Fellowship Hall**

Sunday, January 3

- Classes and children’s choirs will not meet
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship: Epiphany and the Procession of the Three Kings**

Luke 3:1-6

³In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian

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