

Service of Worship

December 22, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.

If you are visiting, please join us in wearing a name tag so that we might greet you.

Our ushers have large print editions of the Bible and today's bulletin;
hearing devices; activity bags with quiet activities for children staying in worship;
and directions to our Monticello Wing nursery for babies and young children.

■ ■ ■ *Prayer of Preparation*

As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary, speak to us now that by hearing we too many receive faith and boldness to do your will. Amen.

Welcome

Choral Introit

Tammy Waldrop

"Raise a Song of Gladness" (Hymn No. 155)

Sine Nomine Choir

■ ■ ■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Keefe Family

Leader: The poet George Herbert wrote: "Love bade me welcome, but my soul drew back." It is hard to take in the enormity of God's love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

People: The psalmist knew it long before Jesus: "For with the Lord, there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem."

Leader: God became one of us, out of love for all of us, then and now and forever. When we light the candle of Love, we stop in awe of God's unending love."

People: Whatever we face in life, God's steadfast love surrounds us.

Leader: Let us worship God.

This morning we welcome three generations of the Keefe family: Tom and Morag Keefe; Molly Keefe, Lola Castillo and Sadie Castillo Keefe; Brynn Keefe, George Gantner and Lillian Gantner; Megan Keefe and Jamie Allen.

*** Processional Hymn No. 141**

"On This Day, Earth Shall Ring"

■ ■ ■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

Prayer of Confession

Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison *(Lord, have mercy)*

Todd Wilson

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

Assurance of Pardon

***Gloria, Gloria No. 583**

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.

Anthem

French trad., arr. Andrew Carter

"A Maiden Most Gentle"

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

Minute for Mission

Kay Dunlap

"Christmas Joy Offering"

Family Meditation

Liz Wollaeger

* Hymn No. 128

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Children in Pathways may leave during the hymn

Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn

Scripture Lesson

read by Elder Rosanna Sprague

Matthew 1: 18-25

After the reading

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Clover Reuter Beal

"Scandal and Wonder"

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Ritual of Friendship

all are asked to sign as a record of attendance

Offertory

arr. Tammy Waldrop

"An Appalachian Christmas"
Voices in Bronze

* Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

■ ■ ■ *Going Forth to Live as God's People*

* Closing Hymn No. 119

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

* Commission and Blessing

* Choral Benediction

* Passing of the Peace

■ ■ ■ *Postlude*

G. F. Handel, arr. Bernard Fitzgerald

"Rejoice" (from ***Messiah***)

Ahren Stock, trumpet

**please stand if able*

*Many thanks Ahren Stock and the Youth Instrumental Group
for accompanying the carols this morning*



Welcome Visitors!

We look forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. Welcome bags are available throughout the building. Take one home with you!

■ ■ ■ *Congregational Notes*

Prayer Concerns this Week

Prayers are requested this week for the following:

Chessie Bleick, Dick Bloomquist, Iris Gilbert, Ron and Florence Klein, Debbie Ungemach, Anne Taylor.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Ruth and Arthur Brickel, Bill Currie, Pat Drake, Marge Drollinger, Betty Farnfield, Elizabeth Kosnik, Emelia McGuire, Merdine T. Morris, Joyce Peters, Elaine Tapié.

We invite you to write prayer requests on a slip of paper from the envelope rack and pass it to an usher during the singing of the middle hymn, to be included in the prayers later in the service. Lists of ongoing prayer concerns are in each month's **TOWER**.

This Month's Ushers

Scott Peters, Lead Usher; Tish Van Beers-Klein, assistant lead; Brian Klein, Jim Roosa, Ayodele Solaru. Roger Heineman, Head Usher

Nursery care for babies and young children is available on the second floor of the Monticello Wing.

Attendance last week (including Pathways children): 260

Christmas at Forest Hill Church, 2013

December 24 (12 pm) - 27: Office closed

December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

5 pm Family Worship

10:45 Musical Prelude

11 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship

Followed by the annual milk and cookies reception

December 29, 11 am: Worship in Fellowship Hall

December 30, 9 am: Abundance Pantry Breakfast

December 31 - January 1, 2014: Office closed

■ ■ ■ *Announcements*

Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels will not meet on December 25 or January 1.

Christmas Eve Cookies

We need cookies for the cookies-and-milk reception after the late Christmas Eve service. If you can bake a few extra dozen, please do so, mark them **Christmas Eve – DO NOT TOUCH (THIS MEANS YOU)** and leave them in the church kitchen.

Update from the Ministry of Stewardship

As of December 18, 2013, we have received 223 pledges for a total of \$657,117! Thank you, members and friends of Forest Hill Church! As the year comes to a close, and we conclude the 2013 Stewardship Campaign, we ask that anyone who intends to make a pledge, but has not yet done so, to please turn in their pledge cards as soon as possible, or contact Becky Austin in the office to make their pledge over the phone. Please know every pledge is appreciated and significant as we look to reach our target. As of now we project a total of \$676,000. We hope to reach as

close to \$700,000 as possible so that cuts in the 2014 budget do not have to be made. If you wish to add to your pledge or make an additional gift, please indicate that on a pledge card or contact Becky in the office. Have a wonderful holiday season!

NEXT SUNDAY

***Worship next Sunday will be in Fellowship Hall
Classes and Choirs will not meet***

LOOKING AHEAD

Care Group

The Deacons are responsible for meeting members' needs during December. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will then be passed on to the Care Group leaders.

✦ Members of this month's Care Group are:

Joan Bacon	Carol Hopkins-Lutz	Richard Peterjohn
Barb Cloud	Carol Leslie	Ahren Stock
Cathy Ghiandoni	Mary McMillan	Julie Waring
Carol Gifford	Pat Musick	

This week's volunteers: Dick Peterjohn, coffee continental breakfast; Julie Waring, coffee hour.

GENESIS Kerygma study Phase 2 will begin again in January!

January 5 will be led by Dr. Tim Beal in South Hall. Small groups will meet Jan. 12 – Feb. 9. Please register with Clover (pastorbeal@fhcprsb.org) about joining up again for Phase 2. You CAN participate in this study, even if you did not participate in the fall. Please join us! If you need the Kerygma workbook, we have them!

Homeless StandDown

This year's Homeless StandDown will be held at Cleveland Public Auditorium on January 25, 9 am - 2 pm. You can get involved in three ways: volunteer for guest services, volunteer to assist guests in personal shopping; or donate one or more Bibles. Volunteers working on-site will be required to attend training on January 12 or 19. Interested? Contact Kay Dunlap (sdunlap@jcu.edu) or Jack Breisch (jbrei@hawken.edu) for more information.

■ ■ ■ *The Lessons*

Today's Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Next Sunday – First Sunday after Christmas: Isaiah 63: 7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2: 10-18; Matthew 2: 13-23. 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.

■ ■ ■ *FHC Staff Emails and Phone Extensions*

Program Staff

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Becky Austin / beckya@fhcpresb.org ext 203

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The poinsettias are given by

Doris Allen, in memory of Wendell Allen

Betsy and Joe Andrews, in honor of Cooper and Cameron Andrews

Mary Ball, in thanksgiving for grandchildren Keara, Caiden and Mykelti Ball

Chris and Dave Bell, in thanksgiving for family and friends

Joanne Bielek, in memory of Robert Bielek

Jennifer Blakeney and Maurius Juodisius, in thanksgiving for their parents

Nancy Burcham, in memory of loved ones and in thanksgiving for our dedicated staff

The Cameron family, in loving memory of Dr. Donald B. Cameron,
Mary Margaret Cameron and Alan Scott Cameron
Mark Chupp and Sharon Shumaker, in memory of Ralph Stoltzfus
Don and Betty Clark, in memory of their parents
Cathy and Don Ghiandoni, in honor of their grandchildren
Albert and Iris Gilbert, in honor of Albert C. Gilbert IV at Harvard
University, in memory of Charles and Walda Ann Gilbert, and in
thanksgiving for 63 years of marriage
Don and Nancy Grube, in honor of Anne Wilson and the Chancel Choir
Robyn Hales, in memory of her mother Dorothy Hales
Barbara Hansen, in memory of Lamont Hansen and Ethel Van Fleet
David and Anne Hunter, in memory of loved ones
Joan Kandare, in honor of loved ones
Cliff and Jane Kowall, in memory of parents Walter and Elaine Grasson
and Paul and Dorothy Kowall
Scott and Sue Lafferty, in thanksgiving for the Forest Hill community
The Lentz family, in honor of Deanne's mom and those who have lost
their stories
The Leslie/Richards/Strachan families, in memory of Hugh, Lois and
Barbara Leslie
Clyde and Karen Loughridge, in memory of loved ones
Jeanette Nemcek, in thanksgiving for Bob and Anne
Marjorie Ravas, in memory of her parents
Sondra Schultz, in honor of her grandchildren
Stephen Sedam and Virginia Weiss, in honor of their beloved siblings
Kathy, Rebecca, David and Feather; and in memory of Nelson and
Ann Weiss and Herbert and Ruth Sedam
Jim and Pat Seeders, in honor of their mothers June Rice and Mable
Seeders

Dan and Joanne Shaner, in honor of their parents Randy and Sara Shaner
and Dave and Peggy Gamble

Jeff and Anne Smith, in thanksgiving for Camille, Aiden, Nikolas, Sophie,
Chloe, Andrew, Norah

Anona Stack, in honor of children and grandchildren

The Stadler family, in honor of Miva Lyon, in memory of Claire Lyon and
in thanksgiving for Ben and Drew

Kathy and Derry Stauffer, in honor of Margie and Dwight Stauffer

The Trammell family, in memory of Rebecca Fiddler (Alicia's mother) and
Fred Trammell (Mark's grandfather)

Dorothy Turick, in memory of Frank and Ida Turick

The Winters family, in memory of Roy and Barbara Henning, Andrew
Celeri, and Max Scarborough

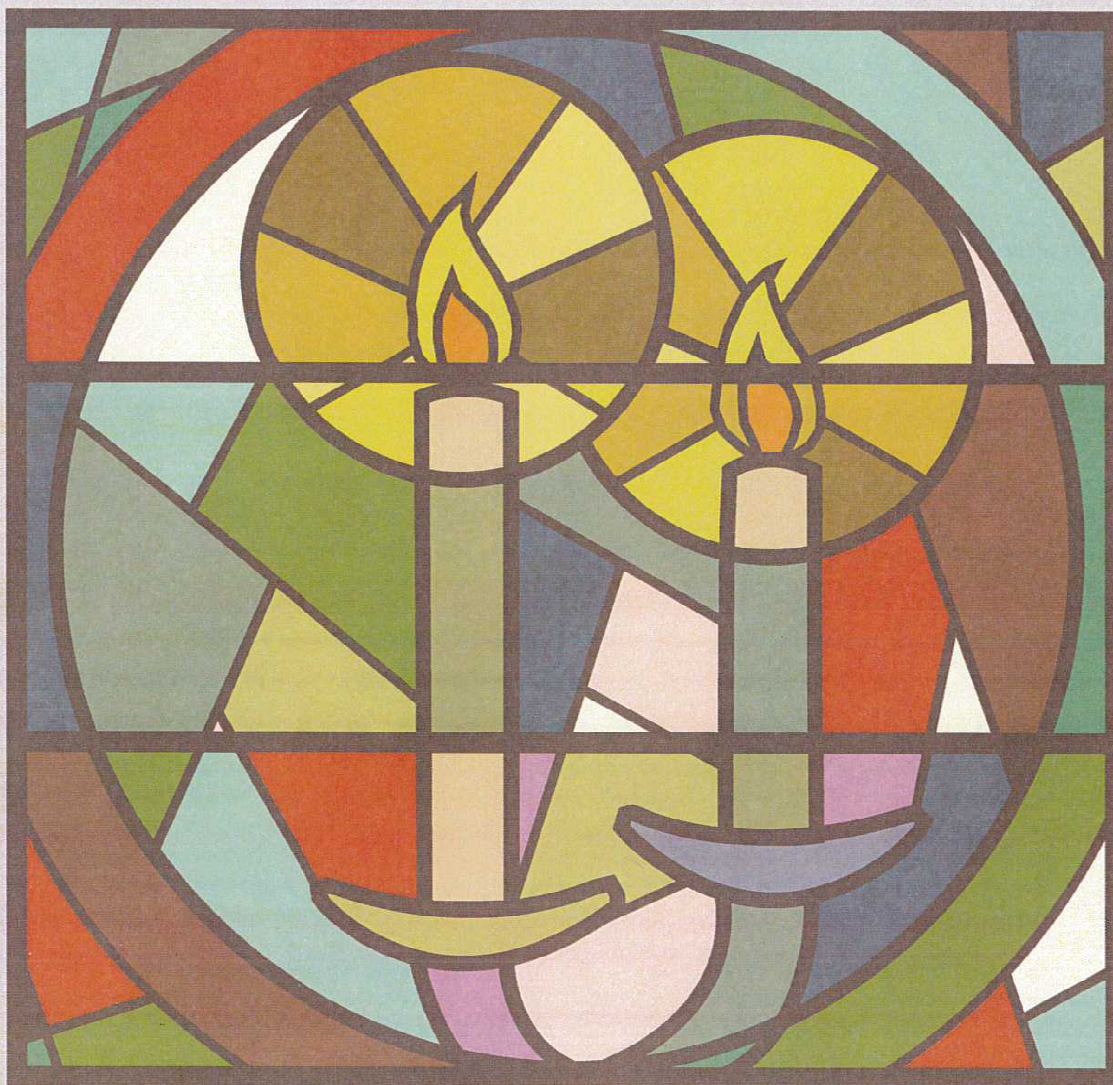
The Wollaeger and Olson families, in memory of Bill and Nancy Olson

Diana Woodbridge, in memory of Ted

Bob and Ginny Young, in memory of loved ones

Dene Young, in memory of loved ones

*The wreaths on the front doors are a gift from
the Hilltop Garden Club*



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

One True Light

This holy season, let the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem illuminate our hearts and shine in our actions by giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering.

Three Ways to Give

- Through your congregation
- Text **JOY** to **20222** to give \$10
- presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy



A Rare Blessing

== HOW WILL MY DONATION HELP? ==

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you'll be helping families of active and retired church workers. The Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges for education.

"I remember telling the man on the phone that I could not pay the money back; he told me it was going to be okay. I just pulled the phone back and looked at it. I nearly fainted."

Jackie McCain, widower of Presbyterian minister Ray McCain, thinks the Assistance Program is a rare blessing—making life happier and worrying less. Married in 1953, their family of five children led a happy, faith-filled life traveling across the country as Ray answered the call in various churches—both large and small.

But, in 1985, Ray suffered a serious heart attack and passed away a short time later. It left Jackie with children still at home and barely scraping by. Seven years after Ray passed away, Jackie came across an article about the Board of Pensions' income supplement program. She called the hotline and found the help she needed.

"I'd given to the Christmas Joy Offering but I didn't know it would help me someday."

Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering help faithful servants like Jackie; please give generously.

TO GIVE,

visit presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy.

■ ■ ■ *Calendar: December 22 - 29, 2013*

<p>Sunday, December 22 4 Advent</p> <p>9:15 Child care begins</p> <p>9:30 Descant Choir rehearsal Adult Education Youth Education; Confirmation</p> <p>10:15 Descant Choir activity time</p> <p>10:30 Chancel Choir rehearsal Continental Breakfast Youth Ensemble rehearsal</p> <p>11:00 WORSHIP Children in Worship</p> <p>11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land</p> <p>12:15 Coffee Hour</p> <p>12:30 Christmas pageant rehearsal</p> <p>12:45 Isaiah Bible study</p> <p>5:00 Faith Leader</p> <p>5:40 Labre Project</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve</p> <p>Office closes at 12 pm</p> <p>8:45 am Tai Chi class</p> <p>5:00 pm Family Worship: Christmas Pageant</p> <p>10:45 pm Musical prelude</p> <p>11:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship</p> <p>12:15 am Milk and cookies reception</p>
<p>Monday, December 23</p> <p>8:45 am Tai Chi class</p> <p>9:00 am Abundance Pantry food distribution</p> <p>6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA)</p> <p>7:00 pm Al Anon</p> <p>7:30 pm AA: Borton</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 25</p> <p>Christmas Day Office closed</p> <p>Thurs.-Fri., December 26-27 Office closed</p> <p>Saturday, December 28 10:00 am Soup Group</p> <p>Sunday, December 29 1 Christmas Classes and choirs will not meet</p> <p>10:30 Continental Breakfast</p> <p>10:45 Child care begins</p> <p>11:00 WORSHIP in Fellowship Hall</p> <p>12:15 Coffee Hour</p>

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian

*Discovering God's call, celebrating the Spirit's presence,
Witnessing to Christ's transformative power!*

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Rev. Clover Reuter Beal, Assoc. Pastor

Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Parish Assoc.

Anne Wilson, Ministry of Music

Liz Wollaeger, Dir. Of Chr. Education

Caitlin Michelle Desjardins, Dir. of Youth Ministries