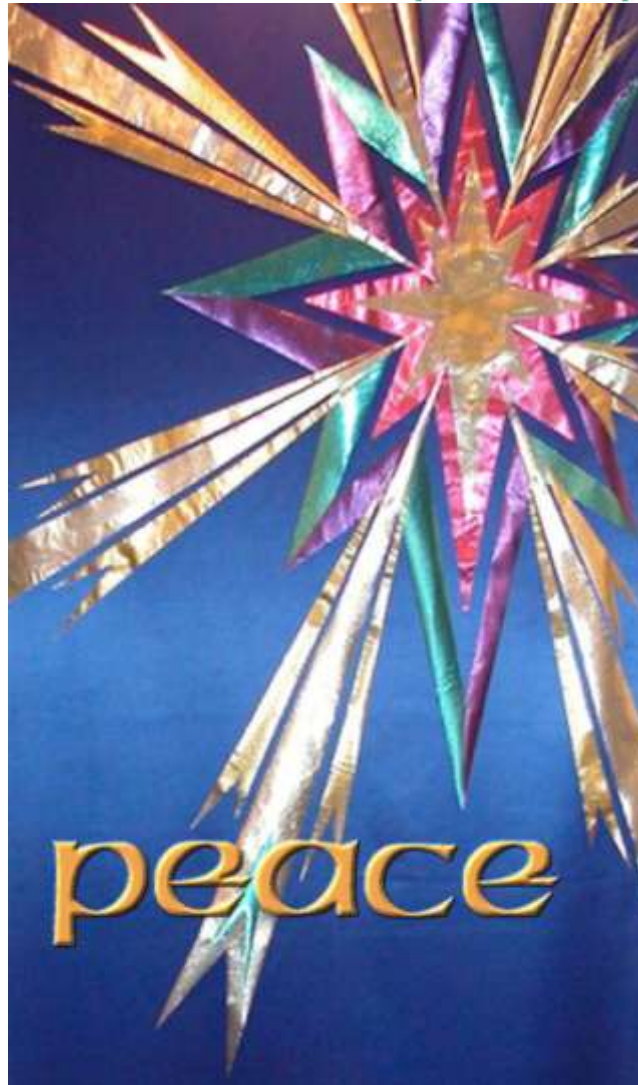


Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts OH 44118
216-321-2660 office@fhcpresb.org www.fhcpresb.org

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor
Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Parish Assoc.
Rev. Lois Annich, Interim Assoc. Pastor
Rachel McDonald, Interim Assoc. Pastor

Anne Wilson, Director of Music
Kate Burleigh, Dir. of Children's Ministries
Shannon Headen, Dir. of Youth Ministries

*Forest Hill Church seeks to be diverse, inclusive and welcoming.
All God's children have a place in this choir!*

Service of Worship
December 6, 2015 at 11:00 am
Second Sunday in the Season of Advent

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 hearing devices, large print editions of the bulletin,
activity bags for children staying in worship, and directions to our
nursery for babies and young children.

Prayer of Preparation

God, in this season suspended between hope and fulfillment,
may we never forget what you have done.
May we be overwhelmed by your mercy, which flows in wave after wave.
May we be honest about the darkness within us,
and perceptive of the light around us.
May we make straight the path for the Lord,
that together we may see God's glory revealed.

~ adapted from weekly Advent reflections by Mark Pierson.
<http://www.worldvision.org.nz/church-resources/advent-in-art.aspx>

Welcome

Choral Introit

Jacques Berthier

"Jubilate Deo (O Be Joyful in the Lord)"
Descant Choir

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship

Lia Clement and Leslie Clement

Leader: In the dark places of our lives, in the wildernesses in which we wander lost and alone, we hear a voice crying,

All: Prepare a way for God!

Leader: As we face sorrows great and small, a voice cries out,

All: Prepare a way for God!

Leader: As we seek to make sense of this world in all its beauty and pain, your voice calls to us,

All: Prepare a way for God!

Leader: As we pray for knowledge of your will and the strength to carry it out, we hear you calling,

All: Prepare a way for God!

Leader: In this time of worship God will prepare our hearts anew to live lives of faith, service, and love.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come! We open our hearts to you!

Lighting of the Advent Candles

*** Processional Hymn No. 96**

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

**please stand if able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession

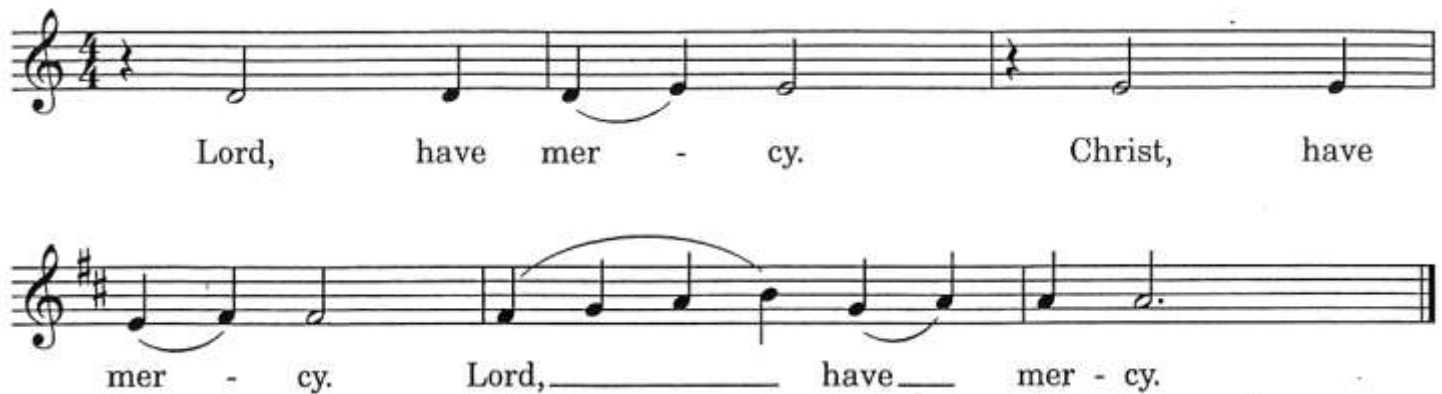
Rachel McDonald

Holy and Healing God, we too often forget that the world's ways are not your ways. We allow destructive emotions and desires to overtake us. We indulge in petty dramas and fail to listen to the ways you want us to use our power and gifts. At times we despair of making a difference in this troubled world and throw up our hands in defeat. Forgive our forgetting. Cleanse us of fear and self-will, and grant us strength to embody your never-ending love for us and all creation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

Craig Phillips



Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*** Alleluia**

Jeannette Sorrell



Anthem

Sally Ann Morris

"The People Who Walked in Darkness"

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

Family Meditation

Rachel McDonald

*** Hymn No. 102**

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Accompanied by the FHC Youth String Ensemble; Edie Duncan, director

*Children in Pathways (gr. 1-5) may leave during the hymn
Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn*

Scripture Lesson (see pg. 11)

Luke 3: 1-6 (read by Jack Breisch)

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Lois Annich

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

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

Offertory

arr. John Bell

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

*** 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. 83**

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

*** Commission and Blessing**

*** Choral Benediction**

South Africa

“Amen Siyakudumisa”
Sine Nomine Choir

*** Passing of the Peace**

Postlude

J. S. Bach

“Come, Savior of the Gentiles”



Welcome Visitors!

We look forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. Visitor welcome bags are available in the foyers and the narthex. Take one home with you! Be sure to visit our website, **www.fhcpresb.org**, to find a complete list of upcoming events, education programs for all ages, and texts and audio of past sermons.

Congregational Notes

Chancel Flowers

The flowers today are given by Elspeth and Richard Peterjohn in memory of Barbara Beesley; by Bobbi and Peter van Dijk in loving memory of Millie and Ed Skeivis and Marilyn Skeivis Dougherty; and by the Dise family in loving memory of their sister, Ann Mercer Dise, and their parents, Molly and Ralph Dise.

Prayer Concerns this Week

Prayers are requested this week for the following:

Lucy Conde, Doris Brandt, Marge Drollinger, Carol Himmelsteib, Chuck Ishler, Kemp Jaycox, Shelly Jesberger, Mary Lewis, Mel Mervine, Dorothy Turick, Debbie Ungemach, and Robert Vandall.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Bill Currie, Betty Farnfield, Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, Jack Quinn, George Sentell, Margie & Dwight Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas.

The Deacons encourage you to stop by the Greeting Card Table in Fellowship Hall before or after worship to sign a card for one or more of our homebound members. We will address and mail the card for you.

Thank you to head usher Roger Heineman and today's ushers. Please contact the church office if you are interested in joining an usher team.

Announcements

TODAY

Thanks to this Sunday's Advent Family: Lia Clement and Leslie Clement.

Thanks to today's Youth String Ensemble:

Edie Duncan and Garrett Vandall, violin; Lili Roosa, viola;

Hal Roosa, cello; Blake Himes, bass

Thanks to trumpeters Ahren Stock and Scott Lafferty.

Today is Hunger Sunday.

Any cash or checks in envelopes marked Hunger will be used 100% for support of hunger programs. Each month we send the money to the Hts Emergency Food Cupboard (Disciples Church, Cleveland Hts.), the New Covenant Lutheran Church Hunger Center (East Cleveland), and the Presbyterian Hunger Program in Haiti.

THIS WEEK
Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels meets Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 am in the Jin Room. All are welcome! The lesson this week is from **Isaiah 12** and **Luke 3**.

Advent Art Series for Young Adults

Young Adults (you know if you qualify) are invited to drop in for one of three sessions to listen to Christmas music and enjoy some low-stress craft time. See the flyer on p. 10; the second session is this Tuesday, December 8 at 7 pm. Contact Rachel McDonald for more information (rachelm@fhcpresb.org).

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education, 9:30 in South Hall

All are invited to the Advent Adult Education series:

December 13 - Families and Advent

December 20 - The Baby Jesus: Vulnerability and Need Incarnated

The guest lecturer is Natalie Kertes Weaver, Ph.D., Chair and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Ursuline College and the director of the Humanities program. We are delighted to welcome her back to Forest Hill!

Pilgrimage to Memphis, TN

You are invited to join us in Bodwell Hall next Sunday, December 13 at 12:30 to learn more about our Spiritual/Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Memphis from April 14 – 17, 2016. All adults and teenagers are welcome to join us; please invite anyone else you think might be interested. Planners Barb Cloud, Ron Register and Kermit Lind will talk about the itinerary, costs and other information. We look forward to having you join us.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Care Group

Barb Hansen is coordinating the All-Church CARE Group in December. Many thanks to the members of the Jericho CARE Group for their work in November.

Social Groups and Circles

Pacesetters (50s-60s)

The Pacesetters will celebrate Christmas TODAY at 7 pm at the home of Dave and Chris Bell (3040 Scarborough, Cleveland Hts.). See the December TOWER (or talk to Chris or Dave) for details about what to bring.

The Group (60s – 70s)

The Group will once again provide Christmas for a family at Boulevard School, and will gather at the home of Betsy and Joe Andrews 2740 Fairmount Blvd) on Friday, December 11 at 6:30 pm. RSVP to Cathy Ghiandoni (216-691-1905 or ghiandoni.c@gmail.com) for gift and potluck information. More information is in the December TOWER.

Iris Circle (all women)

Iris Circle will visit the Violins of Hope exhibit at the Maltz Museum at 11 am on Tuesday, December 15; they will then go to Valenti's Ristorante for lunch. Please see p. 21 of the December TOWER for details. RSVP to Karen Loughridge by December 12.

Youth News

Every Sunday

- Mid and Sr High classes meet from 9:30 – 10:30 am.

Today

- Whirly Ball and Laser Tag (all youth), 5 pm

FHC Staff Emails

Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.
Rev. Lois Annich
Rachel McDonald
Anne Wilson
Shannon Headen
Kate Burleigh
Lynda Bernays
Becky Austin
Peg Weissbrod
Stavros Gazis

Pastor
Interim Assoc. Pastor
Interim Assoc. Pastor
Music
Youth
Children
Administration
Finance
Outreach
Custodial

pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org
pastorannich@fhcpresb.org
RachelM@fhcpresb.org
annew@fhcpresb.org
shannon@fhcpresb.org
kateb@fhcpresb.org
office@fhcpresb.org
beckya@fhcpresb.org
webeditor@fhcpresb.org
office@fhcpresb.org



The Scottish Penny Song penny collection brought in \$165 for Abundance Food Pantry.

The Lessons

Luke 3: 1-6

In 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, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as 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. Every 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; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Next Sunday: Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Isaiah 12: 2-6; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 7-18. Set aside time each day for prayer and study. As you read the lessons for the week, consider how they settle or challenge you? What image or word catches your attention? Keep notes of your observations in a journal.

Join the Cleveland Heights Holiday Stroll and hear

Caleb A. Wright & Phillip K. Jones

December 12th, 2015 8-10 PM

The Wine Spot 2271 Lee Rd.

Cleveland Heights, OH

Caleb is a member of Forest Hill Church

Calendar: December 6-13, 2015

Sunday, December 6: 2 Advent

8:30 Nominating Committee
 9:00 Child care begins
 9:30 Adult Education
 Youth Education
 Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
 10:15 Descant Choir activity
 10:30 Continental Breakfast
 Chancel Choir
 11:00 WORSHIP
 Children's Worship (pre-K, K)
 11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land (gr.1-5)
 12:15 Coffee and fellowship hour
 12:30 Inter-religious Studies class
 4:00 Youth: Laser Tag and Whirly Ball
 5:00 Faith Leader
 7:00 Pacesetters Christmas party (Bells')
 Apollo's Fire rehearsal

Monday, December 7

6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA)
 6:30 pm Apollo's Fire rehearsal
 7:00 pm Al Anon
 7:30 pm Borton Group
 Boy Scout Troop #403

Tuesday, December 8

1:00 pm Abundance Pantry opens
 5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class
 7:00 pm Young Adults: Advent Art

Wednesday, December 9

7:30 am Bible and Bagels
 12:30 pm Wednesday Women's AA
 7:00 pm Ministries meet

Thursday, December 10

5:00 pm GCC meeting
 6:20 pm Voices in Bronze rehearsal
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Friday, December 11

10:00 am Al Anon
 6:30 pm The Group: Christmas Party
 (at Andrews')

Saturday, December 12

10:30 am Black History Month Team
 Meeting

Sunday, December 13: 3 Advent

HOLIDAY ANGELS GIFTS DUE

9:00 Child care begins
 9:30 Adult Education
 Youth Education
 Descant Choir
 10:15 Descant Choir activity
 10:30 Continental Breakfast
 Chancel Choir
 11:00 WORSHIP
 Children in Worship class
 11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land
 12:15 Coffee and fellowship hour
 Sine Nomine Choir
 Memphis Pilgrimage meeting
 4:00 Labre Ministry
 5:00 Faith Leader
 7:00 Young Adults: Worship in Chapel
 7:30 Apollo's Fire rehearsal

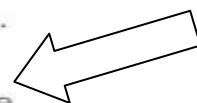
ADVENT ART



for artistic and creativity-challenged young adults

Drop in for one of three sessions to listen to some Christmas music and for some low stress craft time.

- Week one: Beginner's card making, just in time to send one to Grandma.
- Week two: Painting. Canvas and extensive instruction provided. White clothes not suggested.
- Week three: Ornament creation. Finally, a use for all those popsicle sticks you've been saving since 3rd grade.



December 1st, 8th, and 15th
7pm

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian
Art Room (follow signs to the lower wing)
Cleveland Hts, 3031 Monticello Blvd

For more information,
email Rachel at rachelm@fhcpresb.org
or Sarah at sarahk@fairmountchurch.org



FAIRMOUNT
PRESBYTERIAN Church



Forest Hill Church
presbyterian

It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas!

You may call or email the office with this information, or put this in the offering:

Name (as you would like it in the bulletin):

Please print

Total # of poinsettias @ \$7.50 each: _____
you will take _____ # to be donated _____



Total cost: \$ _____

Dedication: PLEASE PRINT

In honor of _____

In memory of

In thanksgiving for

Please make checks payable to Forest Hill Church, memo: POINSETTIAS

Your name _____

Phone or email _____

Thank you!

Forest Hill Church
presbyterian
presents

Amahl and the Night Visitors

A Christmas
opera by
Gian-Carlo
Menotti

Featuring Henry Dyck as Amahl and Lara Troyer as Amahl's mother
with Mist'a Craig, Carl Jenks, and Caleb Wright
as the Three Kings and Jack Lentz as the Page



Sunday, Dec. 20: 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Free admission

216-321-2660

3031 Monticello Blvd.

www.fhcpresb.org

The Chancel Choir will present the Christmas opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors* on Sunday, December 20 during a special AWE service at 11 am and then again at 7 pm, followed by a festive wassail reception. The main roles will be sung by Henry Dyck (Amahl), Lara Troyer (Amahl's mother), Mist'a Craig, Carl Jenks and Caleb Wright (the Three Kings) and Jack Lentz (the page). The story is about Amahl, a boy who can walk only with a crutch and who tends to tell tall tales. He and his mother are visited by the Three Kings, and a miracle occurs. Please invite friends to join you at the morning service or the 7 pm performance.