

Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



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Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor

Rev. Lois Annich, Interim Assoc. Pastor

Rachel McDonald, Interim Assoc. Pastor

Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Parish Assoc.

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
January 3, 2016 at 11:00 am
Celebration of Holy Communion

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.

This morning we celebrate the Eucharist (the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion) by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup).

We also provide a gluten-free alternative. After receiving the elements you may come to the railing to receive a blessing from the pastors.

Prayer of Preparation

O Christ, light made manifest as the true light of God, gladden our hearts on this joyful morning of praise. Call us by our name and give us grace to offer service to others and praise to you, O God, in whom all things find their ending. Amen.

Welcome

Prelude

Paul Manz

"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship

Elder Barbara Hansen

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

People: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Leader: Nations shall come to your light

People: And rulers to the brightness of your rising.

Leader: Let us Worship God.

*** Processional Hymn No. 143**

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

**please stand if able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Lois Annich

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin, pride and fear hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, so that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

John Merbecke

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

Assurance of Pardon

*** Alleluia**

Jeannette Sorrell



Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

Family Meditation

Dr. Lentz

Scripture Lessons

Ephesians 1: 3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

John 1: 10-18

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

After the readings

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“And So Now What?”

Ritual of Friendship

all are asked to sign

Offertory

Puerto Rican carol

“From a Distant Home”

Offering: We share our gifts

To give online, please use the QR code on p. 7

*** 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.

Eucharist

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

John Merbecke

Prayers of the People

Rachel McDonald

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.

Communion of the People

Music during Communion

Benjamin Britten

"New Year Carol"

Prayer after Communion

God of majesty and light, you hold the whole world in your hands. You have revealed yourself to us through Jesus Christ. We have shared the bread and the cup so may peace descend upon us that we may follow Christ with grateful hearts. Take us and all we have to be useful in your service, in the gracious name of Jesus. Amen.

Going Forth to Live as God's People

*** Closing Hymn No. 151**

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Soloists: Seth Ungemach, Grant Heineman, Clayton Minder

Congregation sings refrain

*** Commission and Blessing**

*** Choral Benediction**

*** Passing of the Peace**

Postlude

Johann Pachelbel

"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"



Online Giving

Use a QR code reader
to find a link to donate
securely via PayPal.

<http://www.fhcpresb.org/about-us/giving>

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.

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.

Congregational Notes

***As we admire the costumes of the three kings,
we remember Bill Tapié, in whose memory these robes were given,
and we thank Bill and Kris Fay, the kings' official outfitters.***

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Molly Bergman in memory of Ken Bergman and all others who provide time and effort making our church a better place.

Prayer Concerns this Week

Prayers are requested this week for the following:

Lucy Conde, Doris Brandt, Marge Drollinger, Carol Himmelsteib, Mary Hosier, 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.

Please remember Isaiah Jones and his family in your prayers this week; Isaiah's wife Emma Jones died on December 26.

Welcome to the newest member of the Forest Hill Church family – Emmett William Grangaard, born on December 10, 2015, son of Dr. Daniel Grangaard and Erin (Lustic) Grangaard of Columbus, OH. Emmett is the grandson of Julie and Gary Lustic.

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.

This Month's Ushers 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

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 Cleve.), 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 **Psalm 29** and **The Song of Solomon 1: 1-17**.

Choir News

Choral and handbell rehearsals resume this week. If you are considering enriching your life through singing or ringing, contact Anne Wilson for more information. January is a great time to join a choir!

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education, 9:30 in South Hall

The Kerygma series on The Song of Solomon begins January 10.

The series ends on February 7.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Homeless Stand Down: January 23

Want to have a memorable Saturday morning this January? Join the Forest Hill Church Stand Down Team! The Homeless Stand Down, an annual service event scheduled for January 23, 2016 at Public Auditorium, needs 6 more FHC volunteers. As a member of our team, you would be serving as a “personal shopper” for families or individuals. Our shift runs from 7:30 –11:30 am, and we’ll meet afterwards for a fellowship lunch at Nighttown in Cleveland Hts. For more details and to sign up please go to this address:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4baaaa22a3fd-homeless> or email Jack Breisch at jbrei@hawken.edu.

**Note: there is a mandatory orientation meeting for all volunteers
on Sunday, January 10 at 12:30 in South Hall.**

Care Group

The Mt. Sinai Care Group is responsible for meeting members' needs during January. 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:

Kathy Hanna-Stauffer, Deacon leader	Mary Lewis
Joanne Bielek	Julie & Gary Lustic
Guy Cameron & family	Nancy Lyon-Stadler & family
Betty Clark	Brooke Marcy & family
Barb Cloud	Dave & Jane Olson & family
Jerry Delva & Carline Paul-Blanc	Graham & Roz Peters
Jane Frederick & family	Joyce Peters
Donna Frey	Marjorie Ravas
Sue Gifford & family	Matt & Katie Russo & family
Al Gilbert	Gary Sampson
Mike & Margie Glaros	Sara & Randy Shaner
Julie Gran	Anona Stack
Don & Nancy Grube	Kathy Hanna-Stauffer and Derry Stauffer
Barb Hansen	Beverly & Harold Thomas
Chuck & Jane Ishler	Lorian, Ralph & Fran Thomas
Janet Kickel	Ann & Peter Williams
Nina Klein	Warren Young

Social Groups and Circles

Pacesetters (50s-60s)

The Pacesetters' Planning Party and Potluck Dinner will be hosted by Bill Finn and Rachel Martinez-Finn, 2592 Berkshire Rd. in Cleveland Heights on Saturday, January 9th from 5-8 pm. Please bring a dish to share for dinner. The Finns will provide all beverages and dinnerware. Come ready to plan Pacesetter events for the year. **RSVP to Rachel Martinez-Finn TODAY (cruzmack@gmail.com).**

Young Adults

The Second Sunday Brunch will be held on January 17 (not Jan. 10) this month. *So really it's a 3rd Sunday brunch.*

Youth News

Every Sunday

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

Next Week

- Parent potluck – Sunday, January 10, 5 pm.

To FHC Members & Friends who live in Cleveland Heights:

Save the date...

Greater Cleveland Congregations invites you to participate in a

GCC CLEVELAND HEIGHTS LISTENING SESSION

Sunday, January 31, 2016 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tucker Hall

2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights OH

***Come to share what's happening in your neighborhood and our city,
so we can celebrate successes and identify issues that we can act on,
together as GCC, to strengthen our community
and make it a more just place for all to live and thrive.***

Watch for details next week

Calendar: January 3 - 10, 2016

<p>Sunday, January 3</p> <p>Epiphany observed: The Feast of the Three Kings</p> <p>9:15 Child care begins 9:30 Descant Choir (gr. 1-5) Youth Education (gr. 6-12) 10:15 Descant Choir activity 10:30 Chancel Choir Continental Breakfast 11:00 Worship: Communion Children's Worship class 12:15 Coffee and fellowship hour <i>Living Prayer</i> series informational mtg 5:00 Faith Leader</p> <p>Monday, January 4</p> <p>6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA) 7:00 pm Al Anon 7:30 pm Borton Group Boy Scout Troop #403</p> <p>Tuesday, January 5</p> <p>1:00 pm Abundance Pantry opens</p> <p>Wednesday, January 6</p> <p>7:30 am Bible and Bagels 7:00 pm Worship Team meeting 12:30 pm Wednesday Women's AA</p>	<p>Thursday, January 7</p> <p>10:00 am PWR Personnel Committee 5:00 pm GCC committee mtg 6:20 pm Voices in Bronze 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>Friday, January 8</p> <p>10:00 am Al Anon</p> <p>Saturday, January 9</p> <p>9:00 am New Leaders' training 5:00 pm Pacesetters' Planning Party</p> <p>Sunday, January 10</p> <p>9:15 Child care begins 9:30 Descant Choir (gr. 1-5) Youth Education (gr. 6-12) Adult Education 10:15 Descant Choir activity 10:30 Chancel Choir Continental Breakfast 11:00 Worship Children's Worship class Pathways to the Promise Land (gr 1-5) 12:15 Coffee and fellowship hour Sine Nomine Choir 12:30 Interreligious Studies class Budget Committee mtg Homeless Standdown volunteers: mandatory training session 1:00 Visitors' Lunch (at Finns') 5:00 Faith Leader Youth: Parent Potluck <i>Living Prayer</i> leaders' meeting</p>
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FHC Staff Emails

Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.	Pastor	pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Lois Annich	Interim Assoc. Pastor	pastorannich@fhcpresb.org
Rachel McDonald	Interim Assoc. Pastor	RachelM@fhcpresb.org
Anne Wilson	Music	annew@fhcpresb.org
Shannon Headen	Youth	shannon@fhcpresb.org
Kate Burleigh	Children	kateb@fhcpresb.org
Lynda Bernays	Administration	office@fhcpresb.org
Becky Austin	Finance	beckya@fhcpresb.org
Peg Weissbrod	Outreach	webeditor@fhcpresb.org
Stavros Gazis	Custodial	office@fhcpresb.org

The Lessons

Next Sunday: Isaiah 43: 1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8: 14-17; Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22. 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.

**There's still time to reserve a spot on the Memphis TN Pilgrimage
April 14-17, 2016**

Please return this to the Forest Hill Church office (or place it in the offering) with a **non-refundable** deposit of \$50 per person TODAY. (Make checks out to Forest Hill Church, and write "Memphis trip" on the memo line):

Name (s):_____

Number in your party:

___ adults___ children (12 and up; must accompany an adult)

Phone:_____

Email:

For more information, please contact

Anne Smith (anneandjeffsmith@gmail.com; 216-932-2932)

Barb Cloud (faithleader52@yahoo.com; 216-321-9112)

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To teach the nations,
 To bring Christ to all,
 To make music in the heart.

by Howard Thurman