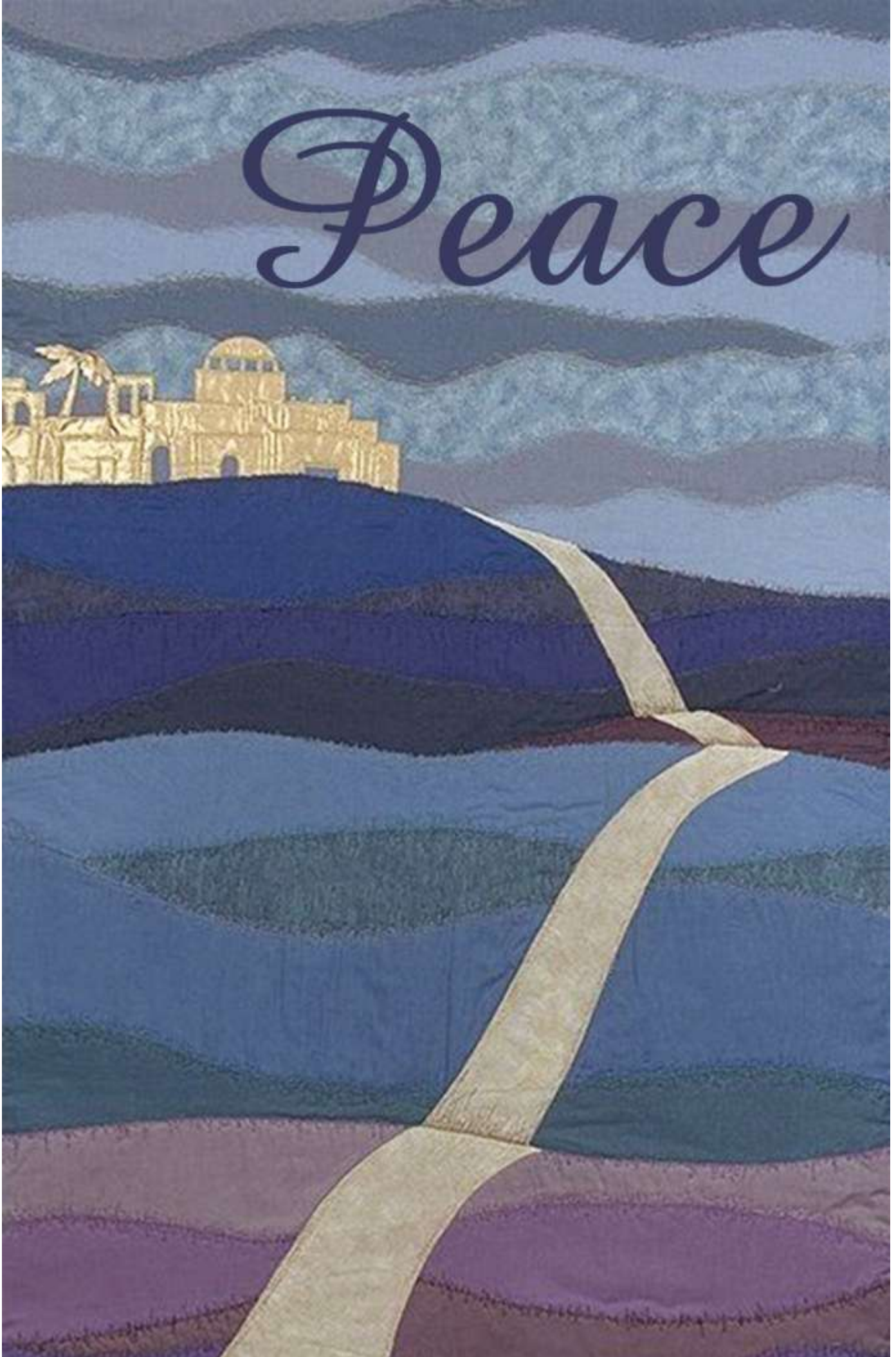


Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Service of Worship: Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2016 at 11:00 am

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 of all peoples, your servant John came baptizing and calling for repentance. Help us to hear his voice of judgment that we may also rejoice in his word of promise. Prepare our hearts for worship this day.

Welcome

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship

Leader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

People: Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,

Leader: Remembering the promises of God in prayer.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Webster and Gerteis families

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness, come.

*** Processional Hymn No. 88**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**please stand if able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

Time of Silent Confession

Rachel McDonald

Kyrie eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

Richard Felciano

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives
Assurance of Pardon

* Gloria

Taizé

First time: All sing
Second time: Sing in a round starting with men;
women begin two measures later;
youth and children two measures after that.



Anthem
A scene from the opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, by Gian Carlo Menotti
Henry Dyck – Amahl; Lara Troyer – Amahl’s mother
In this scene, the poor shepherd boy Amahl disobeys his mother because he sees a shining star in the sky.

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word
Welcoming New Members into the Life of the Church

Please welcome Lisa and Mark Gerteis and Pam and Josh Webster
as new Forest Hill Church members.

Family Meditation

Rachel McDonald

* Hymn No. 102

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

*Prayer requests to be read during the Prayers of the People
may be passed to the ushers during this hymn*

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 11: 1-10

read by Elder Elizabeth Shaw

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the

fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Lois Annich

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

Offering

Offertory

Paul Manz

“E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”

* 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.

* Prayer of Dedication

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

* Closing Hymn No. 106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

* Commission and Blessing

* Choral Benediction

* Passing of the Peace

Postlude

J. S. Bach

“Savior of the Nations, Come”



Welcome Visitors!

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

Thank you to Scott Lafferty and Ahren Stock, the Advent trumpeters

Notes & Announcements

Advent Families: Lisa, Mark, Capri and Sydney Gerteis and Pam, Josh, Cassie, Colin and Gavin Webster will light the Advent candles today.

Chancel Flowers: The flowers this week 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.

Prayers are requested this week for: Max Harmon, Patricia Jenkins, Robin Richards, Robert Ruggeri, Connie Sekerak-Hicks, George Sentell, Joy Stang, Rashida Tutashinda, and Debbie Ungemach.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Iris and Al Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, Jack Quinn, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas.

<p>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.</p>

Care Group: The All-Church Care Group – YOU! – is 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 leader.

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.

Coming Up

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 Cleveland), the Presbyterian Hunger Program in Haiti, and Forest Hill Church's Abundance Pantry.

Poinsettias: It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas! The weekly email news contains a link to an order form. You may also order them by using the form on p. 9.

THIS WEEK

Bible Study: The lessons for this week are: **Isaiah 35: 1-10; Luke 1: 47-55; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11**

Bible and Bagels discusses next Sunday's text(s) on Wednesday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30. All are welcome!

Young Family Christmas Get-Together: The newly formed Young Family Group invites you to an intergenerational family gathering on Saturday, December 10 from 4-7 pm. Make a few ornaments, make new friends, share pizza and conversation. Reservations are not necessary; you may contact the church office for more information.

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education, 9:30 in South Hall: During Advent we will offer a book discussion on ***The Names for the Messiah*** by Walter Brueggeman. The book is available in paperback and on Kindle. Small-group discussions continue through December 18.

Christmas Angels: All gifts for Boulevard School and for Labre are due next Sunday. Remember to wrap them and attach the ornament and instructions. Small unwrapped gifts for Abundance Pantry may be brought anytime.

Labre Project Warm, gently-used clothing and accessories – coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, blankets for men, women and children – are appreciated for the Labre Project in East Cleveland. Please leave donations in the bin in Fellowship Hall.

LOOKING AHEAD

- December 18, 11 am Service of Lessons & Carols
- December 20, 12 pm Abundance Pantry Lunch
- December 24, 5 pm Family Christmas Eve service and the “No-Fuss” Christmas Pageant: all children who wish to participate will be included
- December 24, 11 pm Candlelight worship
- December 25, 11 am Worship
- December 27, 1 pm Abundance Pantry food distribution

The Longest Night: The Christmas season can be a challenge to anyone facing loss or grief of any kind. Pastor Lois Annich will co-lead a "Longest Night" service at Church of The Saviour (2537 Lee Road) with Pastor Dianne Covault on Wednesday, December 21 at 7 pm. All are welcome to this beautiful, quiet service in which we acknowledge the pain of loss and God's consoling presence with us.

Youth News

Every Sunday Mid and Sr High classes meet from 9:30 – 10:30 am.
Today Sine Nomine Choir will rehearse in the Chapel after worship

Staff Emails

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

From Joy Stang: Thanks to everyone for prayers, cards, phone calls and visits during my hospitalization and convalescence. I greatly appreciate all of you, and knowing that I have such a caring church family helped me immensely. Thank you!

Poinsettia order form

Name:_____

Number of poinsettias @ \$10 each_____

Dedication (optional): In memory of, in honor of, in thanksgiving for,
to celebrate

Total owed:_____ (please make checks payable to Forest Hill Church, and write *poinsettia* in the memo line)





CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: SUPPORTING PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE LEADERS

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the “wondrous gift” of God with us. As we celebrate Christ’s coming, and think of the profound impact these individuals have had on us, the Christmas Joy Offering provides a way for us to offer a gift in response. Half of the CJO supports the continued ministry of educating and forming Christian leaders at historically Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges and through racial ethnic leadership development. The other half of the CJO honors those leaders who serve and have served us well. Through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, current and retired church workers who experience need because of tragedy, health concerns, or financial hardship can receive assistance from the church they have served so well. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Three ways to give:

1. Contribute by putting cash or check in the offering. Use a pew envelope and mark both it and the check “Christmas Joy Offering.”
2. Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10
3. Go to <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/cj999999/>

Calendar: December 4-11, 2016

<p>Sunday, December 4</p> <p>8:30 Nominating Committee</p> <p>9:30 Adult and Youth Education</p> <p>Descant Choir followed by</p> <p>Descant Choir Activity</p> <p>Childcare for children thru Kdg</p> <p>10:15 Session and New members meet</p> <p>10:30 Continental Breakfast</p> <p>Chancel Choir</p> <p>11:00 WORSHIP</p> <p>Children’s Worship Class (preK-K)</p> <p>12:15 Coffee and Fellowship</p> <p>Sine Nomine Choir (gr. 6-12)</p> <p>12:15 Coffee and Fellowship</p> <p>12:30 Session meeting</p> <p>Monday, December 5</p> <p>6:00 Progress not Perfection (AA)</p> <p>7:00 pm Al Anon</p> <p>7:30 pm Boy Scout Troop #403</p> <p>Borton Group (AA)</p> <p>Tuesday, December 6</p> <p>1:00 pm Abundance Pantry</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class</p> <p>5:30 pm Excell: Parent meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Black History Month coordinators</p> <p>Wednesday, December 7</p> <p>7:30 am Bible and Bagels</p> <p>12:30 pm Wed. Women’s AA</p> <p>1:30 pm Apollo’s Fire rehearsal</p>	<p>Thursday, December 8</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class</p> <p>6:20 pm Voices in Bronze</p> <p>7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>FH Swim Club mtg</p> <p>Friday, December 9</p> <p>10:00 am Al Anon</p> <p>12:00 pm Excell: Cookies with Santa</p> <p>Saturday, December 10</p> <p>4:00 pm Young Family Christmas</p> <p>Get-Together</p> <p>Sunday, December 11</p> <p>8:30 Nominating Committee</p> <p>9:30 Adult and Youth Education</p> <p>Descant Choir followed by</p> <p>Descant Choir Activity</p> <p>Childcare for children thru Kdg</p> <p>10:30 Continental Breakfast</p> <p>Chancel Choir</p> <p>Cherub Choir</p> <p>11:00 WORSHIP</p> <p>Children’s Worship Class (preK-K)</p> <p>12:15 Coffee and Fellowship</p> <p>Sine Nomine Choir (gr. 6-12)</p> <p>12:15 Coffee and Fellowship</p>
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*Cover art: from Brenda Grauer's Advent Banner, used courtesy of
In Stitches: Center for Liturgical Art*

ADVENT ART



Who said crafts are only for kids?

All adults of Forest Hill are welcome to come for a time of hot chocolate, fellowship, and simple, easy to follow holiday-themed crafts to make and take home. No experience necessary.

December 20th
6:30pm

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian
Art Room (follow signs to the lower wing)

For more information,
email Rachel at rachelm@fhcpresb.org

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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