

John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

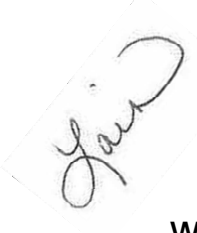
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



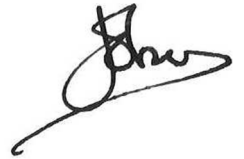
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

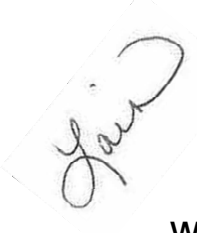
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps ☺) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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Building mgr.
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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



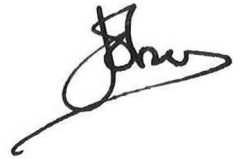
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

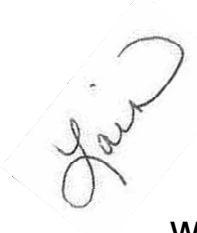
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



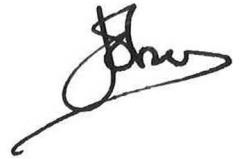
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

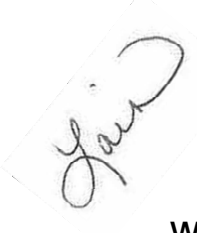
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps ☺) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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Building mgr.
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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



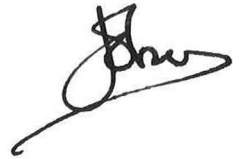
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

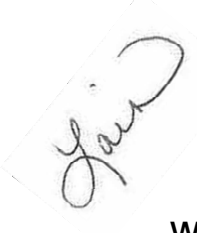
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



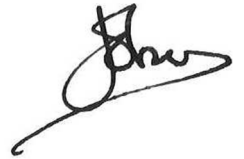
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

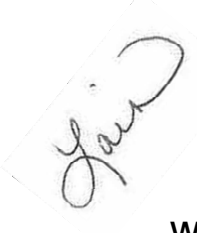
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



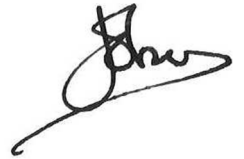
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

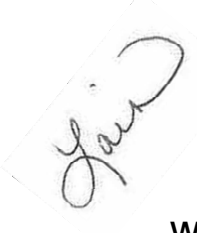
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps ☺) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



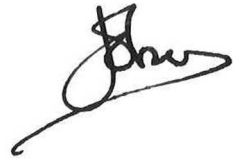
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

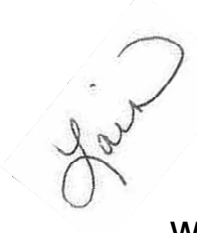
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps ☺) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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Building mgr.
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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



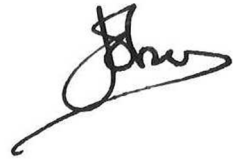
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

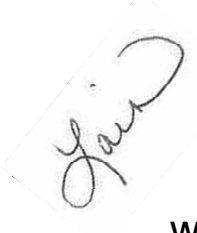
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.	<i>New TOWER</i> deadlines: 7 am on Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 16 and Dec. 14.
The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org	Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



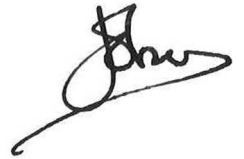
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

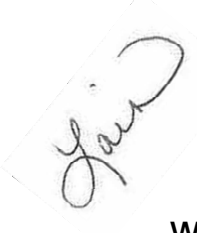
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

Rev. Lois Annich
Becky Austin
Lynda Bernays
Kate Burleigh
Ann Donkin
Stavros Gazis
Shannon Headen
Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.
Peg Weissbrod
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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



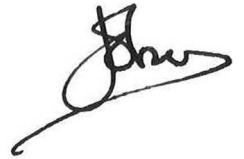
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

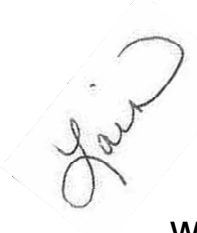
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10th!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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Children
Building mgr.
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Youth
Pastor
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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



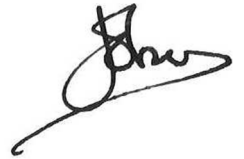
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

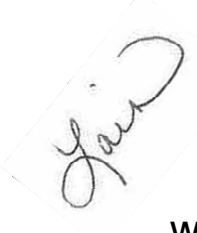
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averi Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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Building mgr.
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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

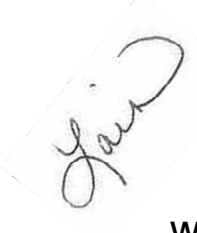
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps ☺) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10th!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



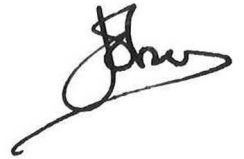
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

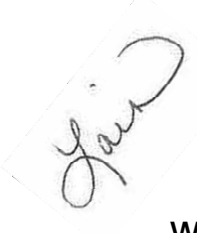
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10th!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



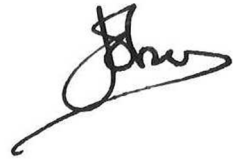
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

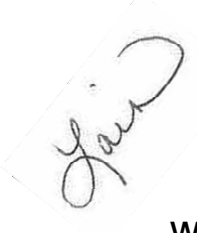
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



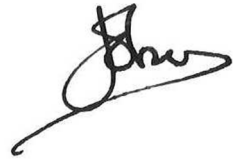
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

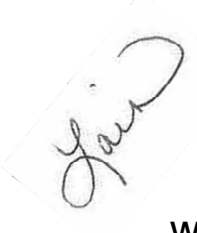
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps ☺) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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Building mgr.
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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

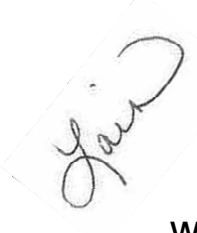
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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Building mgr.
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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

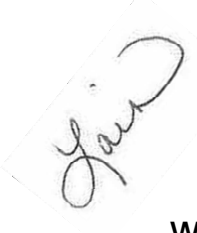
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

• *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

• *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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Building mgr.
Custodial
Youth
Pastor
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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



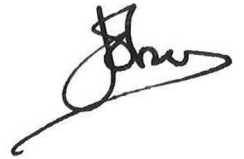
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

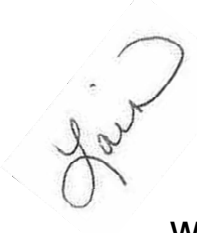
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462

Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will
★ receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



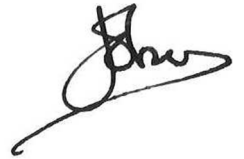
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

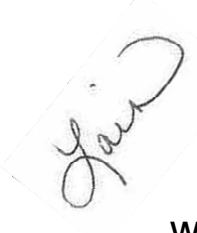
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps ☺) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



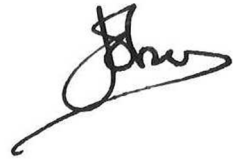
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

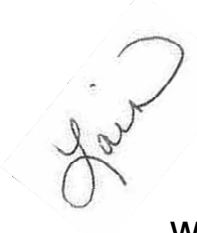
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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Building mgr.
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Youth
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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



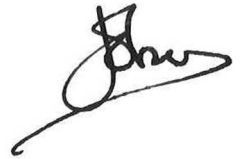
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

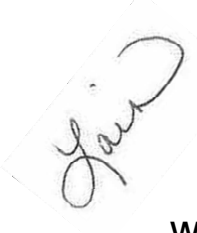
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps ☺) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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Building mgr.
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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



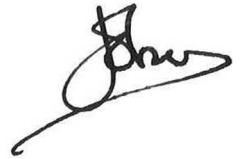
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

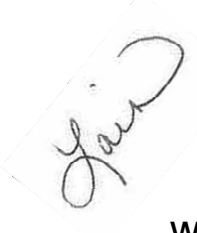
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



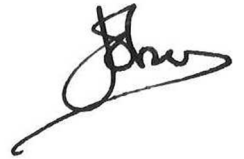
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

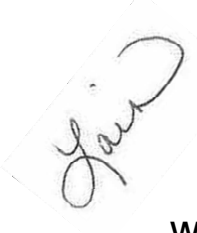
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462


Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will  receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

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

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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
 presbyterian

Label here

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John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



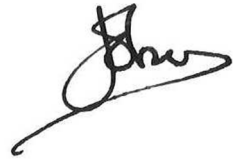
The Tower

September 2017

**“Now, who will build the church now?
Let's build it together!”**

Dear Friends,

It is hard for me to think about the new program year at Forest Hill Church that begins on Sunday, September 10. It is hard because of the event that happened in Charlottesville, Va. on August 11-12 (I am writing this shortly following that weekend).



Deanne and I attended the rally on the steps of Cleveland City Hall on Monday, August 14. We were inspired by the remarks of all the speakers representing the diversity of Cleveland's faith community. Christian, Jew, and Muslim stood together and spoke clearly against hate speech, the ideology of white supremacy, the KKK and neo-Nazis. That we, as people of faith, still have to gather together and make these stands is staggering. But people of color, those who are seen as the “other” have had to live in this constant culture of degradation and ignorance for as long as there has been American history. Perhaps those of us who are white might get a glimpse of insight into the lives of our sisters and brothers who have been enslaved and faced Jim Crow, those who have been placed in concentration camps and gassed just because of their race, creed or color. Don't get defensive, get proactive!

Those white nationalists may be a fringe, but they are now unmasked and you and I cannot ignore or dismiss them.

This church will continue to witness to what we know is the will of God to become the Beloved Community. You may have lingering questions about calling a Co-Pastor who is an African-American woman, but there can be no question about our desire to witness to that which we know is true and right. We will embody what we believe. This is biblical, and it is the way of Christ.

You may believe that this nation needs to re-write our immigration policy. But we will welcome the immigrant whose immediate deportation separates them from family and home. We will be hospitable and compassionate in response to laws that are punitive and heartless.

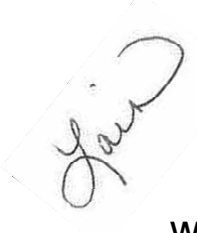
As a community we will seek to be faithful. As individuals each of us must respond to those who make a bigoted or stereotyped comment: we will not tolerate intolerance. We must practice engaged faith and citizenship: speak up and act out.

So I invite you to the new program year. We will worship the living God who loves and welcomes all people! 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Are we brave enough to become a reformation people, faithful to a new vision of church? We will be a community of joy, hope and love as we serve one another and this world.

Come join the movement. Bring friends to church. Let us show the world what God wants us to be and become.

“Now who will build the church now? Let’s build it together!”

Rev. John Lentz, Sr. Pastor



At my annual physical exam my doctor and I got into an interesting conversation about the effects of the social and political upheaval we are currently experiencing in the United States. Since November he has seen a significant spike in blood pressures, blood sugars, and various stress-related disorders. No matter what side of the aisle we may sit on, many of us are struggling to make sense of the current landscape.

I spoke in a recent sermon about feeling angry and grief-stricken over the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is absolutely no room for white supremacy and Neo-Nazism in our democracy. As people of faith we reject any and all ideologies that deny the inherent worth of **all** God's people and, like Jesus, we stand with the oppressed and marginalized.

I am hearing from congregants and counseling clients about the ways hateful rhetoric and actions are impacting their sense of well-being and health. I am feeling the impact as well. Lab results from my physical showed indications that I had internalized a lot of stress. It was a wake-up call to re-commit to what I have long preached about self-care and centering practices.

I'm getting "back on the wagon" of very disciplined yoga, exercise, meditation, and prayer. As I recommit to these priorities, my thoughts turn to you. I wonder how **you** are doing in light of all that is going on "out there." Where and how do you find God's strength and comfort? How will you remain sustainable, faithful witnesses to the power of Christ's love in a world that feels more turbulent than ever?

Each of us finds the center in different ways. Some of us find it in Scripture and prayer. Some of us need to move physically. Some of us are renewed by listening to music or spending time in nature or playing with a beloved pet. Some of us are grounded by friends and family, some by therapy or support groups. Some of us need solitude and silence. It really doesn't matter how we come back to center—it only matters that we do so.

In the midst of our busy lives it is tempting to resist centering practices. My typical excuse is that there's so much to do that I can't take the time, but then I remember the famous quote of Martin Luther, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Times are turbulent, but that's not a new phenomenon. Jesus' words ring across the centuries, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." How will you and I stay close to God's promise of overcoming? How will we serve God's people with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love?" How will we effectively steward the bodies and minds God has given us? My prayer is that our Journey Inward will continue to balance and sustain us for the Journey Outward to which God lovingly calls us.

Yours in the adventure of discipleship,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Welcome Signs

Sharon Shumaker has welcome signs available for \$10. These yards signs say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in three languages. They were designed by a pastor in Harrisonburg, VA and are spreading across the country.

Please contact Sharon (sms2924@gmail.com or [216-659-4114](tel:216-659-4114)) if you would like one.

Welcome back!

Forest Hill Church Children's Ministries

Thanks to all the children who wrote to tell me of their summer adventures. It sounds as if you all were making good use of your summer time.



All classes and programs begin September 10, 2017. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist in both Children's Worship (ages 3-5) classes and Pathways (grades 1-5) classes. Please do look for sign-up details in the bulletin.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling, clay, etc.). In September the children will spend time becoming familiar with the routines of their class. The September stories focus on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 1, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The focus for September will be on establishing class routines and one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. Kick-off Sunday will be fun and busy! Essential agreements will be made, journals will be distributed and routines, thank heavens, will be established. The kids will have time to get reacquainted with one another and hear about summer adventures.

September Dates

September 10

Kick-Off Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will start in the service with their families and then be dismissed to the CE wing where we will gather and begin our program year. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom, Room 207, on the second floor of the CE wing.

September 17

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds for class.

September 24

Start in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to the CE wing for class.

Transition times are challenging. Please remember to be patient with yourselves and your children. Help your children navigate these upcoming transitions by building in extra time for departures/arrivals, establishing clear routines and, of course, throw in a little humor and a hug. It goes a long way.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes

Have you heard that singing in a choir lowers stress levels and leaves one with feelings of euphoria and contentment? With all that's going on in our world, perhaps it's time to consider joining a choir.

The 2017-2018 choir season is about to begin. Those who participated last year will receive an email, but here's the general information for persons who may be interested in finding out about the musical opportunities at Forest Hill Church:

- **Chancel Choir** (adults; high school and college students warmly welcomed): 1st rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning with a pot-luck supper and general frivolity at 6:40 in Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever dish you enjoy preparing (or purchasing) and we'll have a fine time getting caught up and electing new choir officers. The rehearsal takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Our first choir

Sunday is September 10 (rehearsal at 10:30 am and worship begins at 11:00 am).

- **Sine Nomine Choir** (grades 6-12 plus college students): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 17 in the Chapel after worship. Generally we'll meet every other Sunday (with occasional exceptions) for 30-40 minutes. We'll elect officers at the first rehearsal (looks good on college apps 😊) and there will be a candy bribe.
- **Descant Choir** (grades 1-5): 1st rehearsal will be Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The choir practices every Sunday, and after choir (10:15) there is a supervised activities period. At 10:45, the children meet their parents in Fellowship Hall and go from there to the sanctuary.
- **Voices in Bronze** (high school students and adults): 1st rehearsal for our handbell ringers will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:20-7:15 PM in the upstairs bell room. An understanding of rhythmic notation is required, but no previous experience in bell-ringing is necessary.
- **Forest Hill Steel Drum Band** (all ages): This group plays for worship several times per year. Up to six people at a time can play and the rotation of players is flexible. Rehearsals are arranged at the convenience of the players and take place around three weeks before the performance.



I'm looking forward to our Kick-off Sunday (9/10), which is also our Fall Fellowship Sunday. The Forest City String Band will be joining us that Sunday, so the music will be festive!

Here's something new and exciting: I have teamed up with Amanda Powell, vocalist/song-leader, to present three Community Sings. We will host the first one at FHC on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm: *Less Racket, More Singing!* The second will be held at the BottleHouse Brewery (2050 Lee Rd. in

Cleveland Hts.) on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm: *Beer-n'-Hymns*. (We did this last year and it was loads of fun having an old-fashioned hymn sing in a brewery!). The third one will be held at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Rd. across from Severance Center. This one will be on Saturday, Nov. 18; a meal will be served at 5 pm, and the singing begins at 6:00 pm: *Dinner, Drums and More Darn Singing!* I hope you will take note of these dates and plan to attend all three of these informal, community-building events.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the choirs or music program. I hope to see lots of new faces and fresh voices intermingled with the “regulars” in the choir families this September.

Let us all sing (or ring) a new song to the Lord – Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be the Glory!)

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music

annew@fhcpresb.org

216-321-2660 (church); 216-870-2729 (cell)

FHC Books

At the first reading and discussion of ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving on July 30, participants wholeheartedly agreed that this is a book that needs to be shared more widely. We will therefore have a second group discussion on Sunday, September 24 at 12:15 with light lunch provided.

There has never been a more pressing time to come to grips with the issue of white privilege. Irving's book is a highly readable description of her own journey toward understanding white privilege. Please come, invite friends, and be part of building “The Beloved Community” here at Forest Hill Church.

Libraries do not have an abundant supply of the book, so you may have to purchase a copy on your own. We will purchase several copies to put in the Forest Hill library as well.

We're looking forward to gathering on September 24! RSVP to the church office by September 21 so we can plan for lunch.

Rev. Lois Annich



Hello All Youth of Forest Hill Church!

It's been a wonderful summer, but I am overjoyed to start the new church year with you. I've been doing a lot thinking and praying about how to best serve our youth which has led me to reimagine the youth ministry-youth education model at FHC. New this year, beginning in September, grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet at 9:30 am in Ruah for Youth Education. Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will meet after church twice a month, usually following Sine Nomine rehearsal.

I understand this change may cause a bit of tension for some families. However, it is an attempt to create a program that aims to work with youth's schedule without creating more demands on their time. Separating middle school and high school youth will foster a better group dynamic, strengthening the program overall. I am energized by this new model. I hope you are too! Middle High will be known as LOGOS and High school will be called EKKLESIA. Both Logos and Ekklesia will begin the year by studying The Reformation as we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church. We'll be asking questions like, If Martin Luther were to write 95 theses today, what might it contain? Where would he post them? 500 hundred years later, are his theses still relevant? Is the church still relevant? Be there to join in the conversation.

To stay in the know, please like our Facebook page often. It will serve as the hub for all Youth Ministry information for the 2017-2018 year. Please RSVP for events through Use the Youth Facebook page to RSVP for any event. Once an event has been created, all you have to do is click “going” or “not going”. If you need help accessing the Youth Ministry Facebook page, please let me know. Thank you all, I miss you all and I’ll see you all very soon!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillYouth/>

In Light & Love,
Shannon M. Headen
Director of Youth Ministries

Office: 216.321.2660
Mobile: 216-496-6462

Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(contact me to make an appointment)



Mid- High Mixer : Saturday September 9, 12p- 3p

Youth in grades 6-8, come eat, meet, and mingle with your new cohort. We will get to know each other through some silly games, electrifying conversation, and a light theological reflection. Plus, I’ll lay out the game plan for our extraordinary year together. Connect with the FHC Youth Page on Facebook and confirm you’re coming!

Fall Festival: Sunday Sept. 10, immediately after worship

Youth volunteers are needed to run games. First 5 youth to respond will
★ receive \$5.00 gift card to Amazon, Target or Chipotle. Text me or email me

High School Unwind: Sunday September 27, 12:30p- 2:00p

Youth in grades 9-12, plan to stay after Sine Nomine rehearsal for our first official “High School Unwind.” We will eat, hang out, and catch up. We will also make plans for our incredible year together. We have so much to talk about! Connect with the FHC Youth Facebook page and confirm you’re coming.

Reflections on Our Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

FHC's pilgrimage was a powerful exploration of race and racism in America. For us, growing up white, much of what we saw was not part of our education or experience, but it was the history or direct experience of many of our fellow pilgrims.

Our visit to the National Museum of African American History began with a descent into history, down three floors, where we learned the origins of the slave trade and were faced with the horrors of slavery. From there we ascended through history, past heroes like Ida B. Wells to the election of President Barack Obama. Throughout our journey we were barraged with evidence of America's racism. A couple of examples:

- *The Purpose of Stereotypes*

In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's, racist images were common on everyday items such as toys, salt and pepper shakers, advertisements and household figurines. The images shared a common purpose—to justify the mistreatment of African Americans and the logic of segregation. They depicted African Americans as slow-witted, lazy, and untrustworthy, but still loveable and child-like souls who simply needed the oversight of white people to ensure they did no harm to themselves or others.

- *The economic downturn after 1929 hit African Americans particularly hard. By 1932 roughly half were unemployed. **Many public assistance programs gave African Americans less than whites, and some charitable organizations refused to help black families at all.** African Americans found themselves pushed out of lower-paying jobs by whites desperate for work. Falling prices for cotton and other crops devastated black sharecroppers. Two thirds of them made no profit or went into debt.*

A major highlight was the balanced portrayal of history that included the oppressive treatment of Blacks and their amazing resilience to excel and achieve greatness, despite countless roadblocks. When taxpayer-supported land grant colleges excluded Blacks, the African American community spearheaded their own movement toward higher education. By 1870, seven black colleges had been founded.

One disappointment was what we did NOT find portrayed, and that was the racism deeply imbedded in the predatory lending that targeted black Americans in the mid-1990's and literally stole the equity families were finally able to build in their homes. It is a story that white America needs to know and acknowledge.

The next day we had the opportunity to take in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and to learn about Frederick Douglass through a tour of his home, where we were led in worship by Elizabeth Shaw and Rev. Carol Wedell. Two quotes sample this experience:

From the writings of Frederick Douglass:

- *The story of our inferiority is an old dodge, as I have said; for wherever men oppress their fellows, wherever they enslave them, they will endeavor to find the needed apology for such enslavement and oppression in the character of the people oppressed and enslaved.*

From the Martin Luther King Memorial:

- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*

Dr. King's words are exactly why we were compelled to be part of this pilgrimage, and why we urge our fellow Forest Hill Church white brothers and sisters to read, experience and learn more about racism and its continuing impact on our FHC friends of color and our society as a whole. Several opportunities are in the works. Please join us!

Mark Chupp and Diana Woodbridge

FHC Stories Project

The Stewardship ministry has been collecting stories from members and friends of Forest Hill. The purpose is to share with the congregation and community the power of God's love as experienced through involvement at Forest Hill Church. You have already heard stories from Grace Uhle and LaDon Headen. Now we would like to share more! Starting this month and throughout the Fall Stewardship Campaign, "Every Blessing in Abundance," take a moment to read these stories which will appear in various church publications. See how Forest Hill continues to live out its mission of being a welcoming, learning, worshiping, witnessing, and discerning faith community. See the blessings in abundance at Forest Hill Church! Our next story comes to us from Vikki Nowak.

Forest Hill Church:

Faithful nourishment through building relationships

As humans, I believe we yearn for connection with others. Forest Hill has become that fertile place for me – where many relationships have been seeded and blossomed. What I love most about those relationships is that they are all so different and varied.

I have many friends at Forest Hill who look like me, have similar privileges as me. Some are professional peers, others, like me, are parents with teenagers. We wrestle with tricky parenting decisions, we lean on each other for career advice. These relationships are affirming and critical to keeping me rooted during stormy times.

But then, I have so many other friends at Forest Hill who are not so much like me, who wake up each morning with challenges I may never fully know. These friends deal with things like daily discrimination, serious physical challenges, or economic uncertainty. Despite our differences, we worship together, we work together on social justice issues and lend a helping hand to one another. Outside of my college and Peace Corps years, I haven't been able to find a similar safe place where people from disparate places and backgrounds come together. We don't always agree on the path forward initially. But we are deeply committed to building God's kingdom and we never give up on each other.

It is these uncommon relationships that I cherish most. These relationships that provide faithful nourishment and challenge me to grow in ways that I wouldn't on my own. Those relationships that remind and encourage me to "share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). I am deeply blessed to have so many close relationships that I know will continue to grow, deepen my faith and produce fruit.

Vikki Nowak

Adult Education this Fall: The Reformation

Five hundred years ago, a few Bible-reading monks and priests in Germany, France and Switzerland started protesting certain doctrines and practices of the Catholic church that they believed were non-scriptural—and ended up splitting Christianity into multiple warring denominations.

Besides dividing Christendom into new denominations, it started an era of religious persecution and warfare that persisted until now. Ironically, it also marked the beginning of modernity, the age we are living in, the age in which Europeans, their descendants and their culture expanded to dominate the world for better and for worse.

Yes, it really did start with Bible reading 500 years ago.

The impact of that historic Reformation can be visualized in the pews and the practices of this congregation, often without our being aware of it. Our membership includes people who are descendants of Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Michael Sattler, John Calvin, Menno Simons, William Tyndale and possibly even Henry VIII. Our worship, work, vision, and convictions today are a legacy from those dead white men and their interpreters over the

centuries. Even our revolt against parts of what they said and did is included in that legacy. We cannot completely understand ourselves without recognizing the Reformation and its echoes in our lives, our congregation and our world.

The Adult Education Committee is presenting a series of classes being led by one-time history professor, now community development lawyer, Kermit Lind. It will be an introductory level survey course organized around the life and times of eight significant 16th Century Reformers. In addition, there will be a session on the impact of the Reformation in Roman Catholicism and one or more discussions of the Reformation's impact on Forest Hill Church—past, present and future.

Look for further announcements about how we are processing our Reformation heritage in this 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of 95 Theses. And watch for woodcuts like these that were often the popular culture's form of "tweeting" in the early 16th Century!



Jesus washing feet
16th century woodcut by Lucas Cranach

Out of love for the truth and from desire to elucidate it, the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology, and ordinary lecturer therein at Wittenberg, intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place. Therefore he asks that those who cannot be present and dispute with him orally shall do so in their absence by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

- 1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
- 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.**
- 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.**

Stay tuned for theses 4 – 95!

Hunger Offerings

Starting September 1st, 100% of the special hunger offering collected on the first Sunday of each month will be used for the Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church.

Did you know? Each month the Pantry is distributing an average of 46 pounds of groceries to each of more than 530 households. This is equivalent to about 20,000 meals per month!

The goals of the Pantry Ministry are

- To provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in need.
- To promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
- To get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
- To encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
- To be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
- To be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

The Ministry of Justice & Mission

Reconnecting with God's Creation in the 21st Century

Sounds interesting, doesn't it? This is the title of an exciting new participatory educational course for Forest Hill members created by Kemp Jaycox and Steve Sedam, and which will be unveiled this fall. The course is scheduled to begin in January.



The purpose of this course is to explore the wonder of the natural world on a spiritual level, our ongoing connection and relationship with nature, an awakening to its power of healing, and our responsibility as Christians for Nature's stewardship. This course desires to build spiritual vitality and community among the participants.

The influence of political, behavioral, economic and social dimensions of our relationship with Nature as God's creation, and our responsibility to that will also be examined and discussed.

Kemp and Steve will be co-leaders/facilitators of this course, and they are currently working out the outline, course design and development, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned as details of this exciting program are made available.

Dave Neff

Earth Care Green Team

Fall Festival Sunday, September 10 Country Jamboree

Get out your ten gallon hats and boots! Calling all cowgirls and cowboys! The Forest Hill Church country jamboree is coming! Join us for food, dancing and fun. Help yourself to some great grub, round up your partner, and hit the dance floor with music from a live band and a caller. We will have games in the courtyard for young and old, story time by the fire, and the ever-popular cookie walk! And who can forget the Pie Baking Contest?

To support the Deacons and the festival we are looking for a few items:

- Please bring in some pre-baked cookies, individually bagged in groups of 2-3 for the winners of the cookie walk.
- We are looking for some large cardboard. If you bought a big screen TV or a refrigerator or may be able to provide the boxes, bring them to church, mark them for the fall festival, and put them on the stage. Contact Jason Hidek (Jason.hidek@att.net) with questions.

Calling All Pies! Calling All Pies!



Bring your apple, chocolate cream, key lime, banana cream, peach pie or any other favorite homemade pie to the Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest on Sunday, September 10^h!

- Pies must be homemade. Contestants must bring along a copy of their recipe.
- You may drop off your pie in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Judging from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and will be conducted blind.
- Each category (Appearance, Taste, Overall Impression and Creativity) will be judged on a scale from 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- Any individual may submit 2 pies.
- Winners announced at 1:00 pm. First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention

Any questions or interested in being a judge or helper? Please contact Jenny Himmelman (jenhaha@hotmail.com or 216-235-4197).

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Ava Jane Garrett, daughter of Beth and Dave Garrett and sister of Maya, was baptized on July 9. Deanne Lentz was the attending Elder; Amy and Bill Madan are Ava's godparents.

Emmett William Grangaard, son of Daniel and Erin Lustic Grangaard, was baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Keira Averì Seigneur, daughter of Austin Seigneur and Brittany Lustic Seigneur, was also baptized on July 30. Julie Lustic was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Ethan Gifford and Michelle Tomcho were married on August 12 in Wexford PA. Dr. Lentz officiated. Ethan is the son of Carol and Tim Gifford.

In Memoriam We Remember

Donal T. Grube, who died July 7

Carolyn Doggett, a former member who died July 21

Martin Bradley Andrews, who died August 2

Carol Sims, who died August 14

New members

Please welcome these new members who joined Forest Hill Church this summer:

Cheryl Anderson	Laurie Rose
Margaret Brouwer	Megan Ullom
Amy Dillenbeck	Michael Wiggins
Robert Fox	Sharon Wiggins
Shari Robinson	

Care Group

The Bethlehem CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during xxx. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Sally Davis, Deacon Leader	Sherry Leinweber
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Megan Allen	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Margaret Brouwer	Jean Reinhold
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Doug & Lisa Vahey
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Amy Wadsworth & David Wiggin
Joan Kandare	Beth, Tom & Ian Zych
Morag & Tom Keefe	

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, Pat Weissbrod

Volunteer Hours in June and July

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, and the TOWER assembly team worked a total of 130 hours in July and August. Thank you all! Thanks to Peg Weissbrod for taking care of the office when Lynda was away.

New Addresses

Tim, Leigh and Soren Henderson

196 Redding Rd, Campbell CA 95008

Julie Wolfram Smith and Andy Smith

5500 Virginia Ave, New Hope MN 55428

*Dear Forest Hill family,
That we are a family here has been
demonstrated over and over again by all your
kindness on the death of my husband Don.
My family and I can't thank you enough for
all your care and concern.*

Love,

Nancy Grube

Iris Circle Trip

Iris Circle invites all members and guest to join their September 19 tour of Mayfield Village Heinen's at 860 SOM Center Road. Meet in the store's Cafe at 11:00 am. We will tour all "behind the scenes" area of the store:

- where baking is done
- fresh juice and fruits are prepared
- fish and meat are prepped

We will learn how their products arrive from vendors, are inventoried and are delivered to the departments in the store. Samples will be provided as we tour.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.45 in Heinen's café after the tour. Reservations are required; please contact Nancy Burcham (216-233-8864 or burcham@roadrunner.com).

Interested in Getting More Connected at Forest Hill Church?

Ever wonder what or where the Jin Room is—and how it got its name?

If so, tag along with the "Connect Team" every month or so as they offer a brief tour of our building and answer any questions you may have along the way. Watch your bulletins for the next tour...and get ready to discover why the difference between the Volunteer Office and Reception. (Hint: there is none.) The tours are for anyone – you don't have to be a visitor or recent new member to tag along. Long-time members with questions are welcome too!

Thinking about Membership? Exploring Membership Classes are scheduled for September 17 and 24

Share your story, meet the pastors, and explore how to get involved at our next Exploring Membership classes Sundays on Sept. 17 and 24. The first class, on Sept. 17, will meet AFTER worship from 12:15 to 2:15. A light lunch will be served. The second class, on Sept. 24, will meet BEFORE worship from 9:30 to 10:45 am.

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – Where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – What is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – What do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Please let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or by email. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family remain welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Peg Weissbrod
Church Growth Committee

Announcements! Announcements!

The deadline for TOWER submissions has been moved from Friday to Thursday beginning in September.

New TOWER
deadlines: **7 am** on
Sept. 14, Oct. 12,
Nov. 16 and Dec.
14.

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Custodians' cell
phone: 216-217-
5257

Sundays in September (begins Sept. 10)

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult Education
- Mid High Youth (gr. 6-8: LOGOS)
- Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
- Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
- Children's Worship class (preK, K)
- 11:00** Pathways to the Promise Land (see p. 5-6 for their schedule)
- 12:15** Coffee and Conversation
- Sine Nomine Choir (every other week, gr. 6-12)
- 12:45** Sr. High Youth (gr. 9-12: EKKLESIA, every other week)
- 4:00** Labre Project (2nd, 4th)
- 5:00** Faith Leader (begins Sept. 17)
- 7:00** Choral Arts Cleveland rehearsal

September 3 9:30 Continental Breakfast; Child care 10:00 Worship: Communion 11:00 Coffee and Conversation	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
September 10: Kick-off and Fall Festival 12:15 Fall Festival begins	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
September 17 12:15 Exploring Membership class Blood Pressure check Sine Nomine Choir 12:45 Ekklesia (Sr High): High School Unwind	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-25
September 24 9:45 Exploring Membership class 12:15 Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> 1:30 Messiah Chorus rehearsal	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-6

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 Al Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze (begins Sept 14) 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 Al Anon	
					1	2
3 See "Sundays in September"	4 Labor Day – office closed	5 6:00 Meditation Group	6	7 6:40 Chancel Choir Potluck	8	9 10:00 Memorial Service for Carol Sims 12:00 Mid High Youth
10 Fall schedule begins Fall Festival	11	12 7:00 Black History Month team meeting	13 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	14 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	15	16
17	18	19 11:00 Iris Circle: Heinen's tour 6:00 Meditation Group	20 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	21	22 7:30 Community Sing: Less Racket, More Singing	23 9:00 PWR meeting: Valley PC, Bainbridge
24	25	26 7:00 GCC Housing meeting	27 7:00 Session meeting	28 2:00 Abundance Pantry lunch	29	30

Rev. Lois Annich
Becky Austin
Lynda Bernays
Kate Burleigh
Ann Donkin
Stavros Gazis
Shannon Headen
Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.
Peg Weissbrod
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September 2017



Forest Hill Church
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Label here

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