

Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



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

Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Parish Assoc.

Rev. Lois Annich, Interim Assoc. Pastor

Anne Wilson, Director of Music

Kate Burleigh, Dir. of Children's Ministries

Shannon Headen, Dir. of Youth Ministries

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Service of Worship
September 17, 2017 at 11:00 am

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.
Please join us in wearing a name tag so that we might greet you.
Our ushers have hearing devices, large print editions of the bulletin,
activity bags for children staying in worship, and directions to our
nursery for babies and young children.

Prayer of Preparation

Gracious God, renew our minds and cleanse our spirits, that we might rise from petty judgments that keep us from full fellowship with you and with one another. Prepare our hearts for worship. Amen.

Welcome

Choral Introit

Iona Community

“Alleluia”

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship

Elder Elspeth Peterjohn

One: Sing to God for mercy and grace.

People: Sing praises to God for laughter and joy.

One: For our God is mighty and strong, protecting the lowly from the anger of oppressor.

People: Our God is righteous and just, saving the weak from cruelty of the powerful.

One: Sing to God for mercy and grace.

People: Sing praises to God for laughter and joy.

One: Let us worship God.

*** Processional Hymn No. 645**

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

**please stand if able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, when we have inflicted injuries upon others, forgive us; when we have laughed and sung as our enemies faced calamity, pardon us; when we have belittled the convictions of others through word and deed, restore us in your mercy. Reclaim us, Mighty One, that amidst the trials of life, we might walk on the dry land of your powerful hope and your loving grace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy) Craig Phillips

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives
Assurance of Pardon

* Gloria Taizé

All sing first time. Second time: low voices, begin; high voices enter two measures later; children and youth enter two measures after that.

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Anthem Ann Weems
"Good News Music" from *Reaching for Rainbows*

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

Minute for Mission Sarah Jane Moore
"Self-Development of People"

* Hymn No. 312 "Take Us As We Are, O God"
*Prayer requests to be read during the Prayers of the People
may be passed to the ushers during this hymn*

Scripture Lesson

Selections from Exodus 14-15

Then the LORD said to Moses: “Tell the Israelites to turn back and camp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall camp opposite it, by the sea. When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, “What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?” So he had his chariot made ready, and took his army with him; he took six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and he pursued the Israelites, who were going out boldly. The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, his chariot drivers and his army; they overtook them camped by the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the

chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

After the readings:

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“The Stories We Tell”

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer

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

Ritual of Friendship

Offering

Offertory

spiritual, arr. Hall Johnson

“Ride On, King Jesus”

Samantha Garner, soprano

*** Doxology**

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

* Prayer of Dedication

Going Forth to Live as God's People

* Closing Hymn No. 757

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

Stanzas 1, 3 and 4

* Commission and Blessing

* Choral Benediction *all sing*

"Sanctuary"

3 Lord pre - are me to be a sanct-u - ar - y, pure and

6 ho - ly, tried and true, With thanks - giv ing, I'll be a

liv - ing sanct-u - ar - y for you.

* Passing of the Peace

Postlude

John Stanley

"Trumpet Voluntary"



Welcome Visitors!

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

Notes & Announcements

Chancel Flowers Today's flowers are given by Joy Stang in memory of her husband Lou and in honor of her 4 children and 10 grandchildren; and by Diana Woodbridge in loving memory of her husband Ted and her mom Dorothy Smith.

Prayers are requested this week for: Joe and Betsy Andrews, Max Harmon, Joie Hill, Kathryn Himmelsteib, David Hunter, Florence Klein, Wafa Kuri, Krystal Lafontaine, Jim Manista, Jeanette Nemcek, Ron Register, George Sentell, and Dorothy Turick.

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

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

Care Group: The Bethlehem Care Group is responsible for assisting the clergy in meeting members’ needs during September. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will then be passed on to the Care Group leaders.

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

Coming Up

TODAY

Self-Development of People: Today we welcome Sarah Jane Moore, a cradle Presbyterian and elder who served on the Chicago Presbytery’s Self-Development of People committee for two terms and is now in her 8th year of serving on the National SDOP committee. She intends to continue working with SDOP after her term expires because she sees PCUSA’S SDOP ministry as a vital and timely way to work for justice for all people.

Exploring Membership: Interested in learning more about FHC? Considering membership? Come to the Exploring Membership class today after worship and next Sunday at 9 am.

THIS WEEK

Bible Study: The lessons for this week are: **Exodus 16: 2-15; Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1: 21-30; Matthew 20: 1-16.**

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

Iris Circle and Hilltoppers are teaming up for two events this fall:

September 19, 11 am Tour of the “working areas” of Heinen’s in Mayfield Village 860 SOM Center Road, 11 am. Discover those hidden-from-the-public areas where delivery, inventory, prepping, juicing, baking, and cooking happen. The tour includes samples; contact Nancy Burcham for reservations and box lunch orders (\$8.85 from Heinen’s café) Meet in the café shortly before 11 am.

October 10, 11:30 am Potluck lunch and a presentation by Rev. Lois Annich of her Ireland pilgrimage

RSVP to Nancy Burcham for both events (burcham@roadrunner.com or 216-233-8864). All FHC members, friends and guests are welcome!

Want to join a choir? You have a lot of choices: Chancel Choir – high school and adults; Voices in Bronze -- handbell ringers, high school and adults; Sine Nomine Choir – gr 6 - college; Descant Choir – gr. 1-5; Forest Hill Steel Drum Band - all ages. Contact Anne Wilson for more information (speak to her after church, call 216-870-2729, or email annew@fhcpresb.org).

Less Racket, More Singing! Amanda Powell, vocalist/song leader and keyboardist/conductor Anne Wilson are teaming up to present three Community Sings. The first one (*Less Racket, More Singing!*) will be at Forest Hill Church this Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm. Come to experience community-building as we strive to promote singing, serenity and silliness! It’s free, fun, and appropriate for all ages. And there will be snacks!

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education, 9:30 in South Hall: The fall Adult Education series will focus on the Reformation with a series of classes taught by Kermit Lind. Next week: Erasmus.

Labre Project

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

LOOKING AHEAD

October 1 has new events you’ll want to be sure to attend:

12:15 pm The Black History Team celebrates British Black History Month with afternoon tea and a presentation on Mary Seacole: *The Creole with the Teacup*.

Cookie bakers are needed! Contact Ann Williams (asw1217@gmail.com).

7:00 pm Anne Wilson will present a program about her Scotland and Iona Community pilgrimage (complete with Scottish-themed music, dance and refreshments).

October 4: Forest Hill, Fairmount Presbyterian and Olivet Baptist are joining together to discuss ***The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World***, by Bishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. There will be three sessions (October 4, November 1 and December 6), one at each church. Watch for details!

October 7: Charity McDonald and Ahren Stock request the pleasure of your company at their wedding, 3 pm in the sanctuary. Cake and punch will be served afterwards.

Youth News

Every Sunday: Logos (Mid High) meets from 9:30 – 10:30 am in the Ruah Room.

Today: High School Unwind, 12:30-2:00, 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!

September 30, 2 pm: Ekklesia Event (High School): Martin Luther on Trial at the Ohio Theater, Playhouse Square, \$30

October 14, 9:00 am: Shane Claiborne, theologian at Pilgrim UCC in Tremont. All are welcome (you don’t have to be a youth).

Join us for a presentation and conversation with well-known theologian and author, Shane Claiborne, on Christian faith and the work of overcoming division. From picket fences and gated neighborhoods to office cubicles and prison cells, we live in a world of walls. We can end up lonely people... stuck in the ghettos of poverty and the ghettos of affluence. But God is all about tearing down walls. We are not alone. Stories of compassion and reconciliation invite us into the promise that the walls and gates will not prevail. Poverty and injustice become personal, as we gain the eyes to see the suffering around us.

Contact Shannon Headen (shannon@fhcpresb.org, 216-496-6462)

Staff Emails

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Peg Weissbrod	Outreach	pegw@fhcpresb.org
Anne Wilson	Music	annew@fhcpresb.org

FHC Stories Project
Forest Hill Church – Receiving Your Daily Bread
(Abundance Food Pantry, Part 1)

Many regular Sunday worship attendees may not be aware of the Abundance Pantry’s weekly mission that provides *hundreds of thousands* of meals to those in the Forest Hill and surrounding neighborhoods. But the pantry didn’t look quite this way when Paul Jennings first arrived to Forest Hill Church.

Paul moved into the Heights area in 2009. He soon joined the Chancel Choir and became involved with Abundance Acres, a garden once plotted next to the education wing. Paul recalled, “I have over many years learned how to do organic gardening, and I’ve always felt that one of the things when times get hard that you can do is help provide people food.” Paul also attended a Forest Hill trip to Haiti and was affected by what he referred to as the “dignity of poverty. That the people were proud of what they did. They laughed, they had a good time, but it was a struggle.” It was a struggle that Paul also witnessed locally.

Therefore, with the help of Paul and other volunteers, the pantry – once a shopping cart placed in the church hallway to receive non-perishable items – grew with food donated by local grocery stores and supplemented by produce from Abundance Acres. While the garden was a wonderful experience, its greatest yield was less than 1,000 pounds of food in a year, not nearly enough to keep up with the need. Thus, in 2012 it was decided to purchase food through the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, where larger quantities could be acquired at a lower cost. “That changed our lives,” Paul remarked.

The Abundance Pantry is now a choice pantry set up in South Hall each Tuesday. The average amount received by guests is 50 pounds of food with 40% fresh produce. From 2012 to 2016, the number of pantry visits grew from about 550 to 5,700 per year. The amount of groceries distributed in 2016 was 240,000 pounds. The year 2017 is on track to reach 300,000 pounds. This is equivalent to 240,000 meals for our neighbors in need.

One of Paul's hopes is to have the Pantry keep up with this fast rate of growth. With support from the church, two outside grants, and individual donations, the funding has been able to keep it going so far. Paul still has concerns about possible loss of funding due to recent changes in state and federal budgets. However, inspired by a Pastor Lentz sermon, Paul feels that, as pantry guests are able to get by a day at a time, so too will the pantry receive its daily bread. "Every step of the way, something has happened so that we've been able to keep up. So, I'm optimistic."

The Stewardship Ministry would like to thank Paul Jennings for sharing his story. Do you have a story you would like to share? Please let us know!

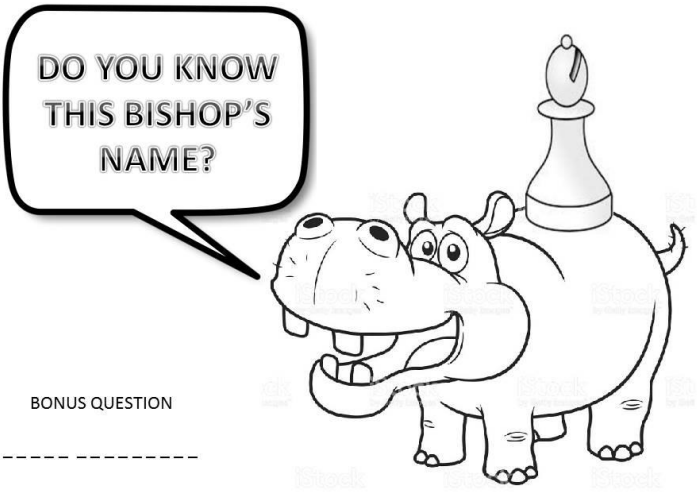


This week in the Reformation...

Guess which Reformer is quoted.

“I have never once feared the devil, but I tremble every time I enter the pulpit.”

- A) John Knox
- B) John Calvin
- C) John Lentz



Don't give your advice before you are called upon.

- A) Carrie Nation
- B) Desiderius Erasmus
- C) Martin Luther

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE

A	X	O	N	K	L	E	N	T	Z	S	B
D	E	O	Z	W	I	N	G	L	I	H	R
A	M	A	R	T	H	A	A	D	E	I	U
M	W	E	S	L	E	Y	O	N	R	N	T
J	T	I	I	I	V	A	R	I	A	N	U
A	Y	M	A	A	M	Y	E	N	S	O	S
N	N	A	X	S	Y	N	H	U	M	A	N
E	D	O	R	I	S	A	T	Z	U	W	I
L	A	T	I	M	E	R	U	R	S	A	V
I	L	I	M	O	R	A	L	I	B	E	L
M	E	L	A	N	C	H	T	H	O	N	A
E	L	V	I	S	A	T	T	L	E	R	C

Calendar: September 17 - 24, 2017

<p>Sunday, September 17</p> <p>9:00 am Child care begins</p> <p>9:30 am Adult Education</p> <p> Youth Education: Logos (Mid Hi)</p> <p> Descant Choir</p> <p>10:15 am Descant Choir activity</p> <p>10:30 am Continental Breakfast</p> <p> Chancel Choir</p> <p>11:00 am WORSHIP</p> <p> Children’s Worship class</p> <p>11:15 am Pathways to the Promise Land</p> <p>12:15 pm Coffee and Conversation</p> <p> Sine Nomine Choir</p> <p> Exploring Membership class</p> <p> Blood Pressure check</p> <p>12:45 pm Ekklesia (Sr. High Youth)</p> <p>5:00 pm Faith Leader class</p> <p>Monday, September 18</p> <p>6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA)</p> <p>7:00 pm Al Anon</p> <p> CPNC</p> <p>7:30 pm Borton Group (AA)</p> <p> Boy Scout Troop #403</p> <p>Tuesday, September 19</p> <p>11:00 am Iris Circle and Hilltoppers to</p> <p> Heinen’s (Mayfield Village)</p> <p>12:00 pm Abundance Pantry registration</p> <p>1:00 pm Abundance Pantry</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion</p> <p>7:00 pm Black History team mtg</p> <p>Wednesday, September 20</p> <p>7:30 am Bible & Bagels</p> <p>11:00 am TOWER assembly crew</p> <p>12:30 pm Wed. Women’s AA</p> <p>7:00 pm TransFamily East</p>	<p>Thursday, September 21</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion</p> <p>6:20 pm Voices in Bronze rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal</p> <p>Friday, September 22</p> <p>10:00 am Al Anon meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm Community Sing:</p> <p> “Less Racket, More Singing!”</p> <p>Saturday, September 23</p> <p>9:00 am PWR Meeting and volunteer day</p> <p> (Valley PC, Bainbridge)</p> <p>Sunday, September 24</p> <p>9:00 am Child care begins</p> <p> Exploring Membership class</p> <p>9:30 am Adult Education</p> <p> Youth Education: Logos (Mid Hi)</p> <p> Descant Choir</p> <p>10:15 am Descant Choir activity</p> <p>10:30 am Continental Breakfast</p> <p> Chancel Choir</p> <p>11:00 am WORSHIP</p> <p> Children’s Worship class</p> <p>11:15 am Pathways to the Promise Land</p> <p>12:15 pm Coffee and Conversation</p> <p> <i>Waking Up White</i> discussion</p> <p>1:30 pm Messiah Chorus rehearsal</p> <p>5:00 pm Faith Leader class</p> <div data-bbox="1070 1881 1330 2142"></div>
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Cover: *Miriam Leading the Women Across the Sea Exodus*, by Mary Theresa Streck