

Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



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

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
December 31, 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

Any man who must say, 'I am the king' is no true king. *Tywin Lannister*
Power resides where men believe it resides. It's a trick. A shadow on the wall.
And a very small man can cast a very large shadow. *Lord Varys*
George R.R. Martin, Game of Thrones

Welcome

Prelude

J. S. Bach

"In Greatest Joy"
Edie Duncan, violin

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship

Leslie Pendleton

Leader: For everything there is a season

People: And a time for every matter under heaven.

Leader: A time to be born and a time to die.

People: A time to plant, and a time to harvest.

Leader: A time to break down, and a time to build up.

People: A time to weep and a time to laugh.

Leader: A time to save and time to splurge.

People: A time to be silent and a time to speak.

Leader: A time to love and a time to let go.

People: A time for war and a time for peace.

Leader: A time to hurt and a time to heal.

People: A time to stand up and a time to be still.

Leader: God has made everything suitable for its time.

People: God has put a sense of past and future into our minds.

Leader: God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him

People: Whatever God does endures forever.

*** Processional Hymn No. 132**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

**please stand if able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Lois Annich

Lord Jesus, yours are the seasons and the ages.

Give us a new heart and a new spirit.

**You are the beginning and the end
of all that is, including our lives.**

Make a new beginning with all of us.

Forgive us for our silence and inaction.

Forgive us for our greed and lack of compassion.

Lord Jesus, you breathe your Spirit on all creation.

**Make our old world new again
and let your forgiveness and love
come down on us day after day.**

Lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

John Bell

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.*

5 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

arr. Charles Carr

"Here We Come A-Wassailing"

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

*** Hymn No. No. 373**

"O Day of Peace"

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

Scripture Lessons

Revelation 13: 2-4

LaDon Headen, reader

And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave it his power and his throne and great authority. One of its heads seemed to have received a death-blow, but its mortal wound had been healed. In amazement the whole earth followed

the beast. They worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”

Revelation 21: 1-6

Leslie Pendleton, reader

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Shannon Headen

“Watch the Throne”

Prayers of People

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

Lord's Prayer

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

Ritual of Friendship

Offering

Offertory

Alfred Fedak

"To Everything There Is a Season"

* 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. 384

"Soon and Very Soon"

* New Year's Litany

Leader: A new day is upon us! Are you ready to give God praise?

People: We ARE ready!

Leader: Are you ready to leave behind the baggage?

People: We are ready!

Leader: Are you ready to step out in faith?

People: We are ready!

Leader: Are you ready to forgive?

People: We are ready!

Leader: Even the one who hurt you the most?

People: We are ready!

Leader: Are you ready to release your doubts and fears?

People: We are ready!

All: O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! We are yours and we are ready!

* Commission and Blessing

* Choral Benediction

3 Lord pre-pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, pure and

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

liv - ing sanc-tu - ar - y for you.

* Passing of the Peace

Postlude

J. S. Bach

“Allegro Assai”
Edie Duncan, violin

Please remain seated for the postlude



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 The flowers today are given by Sue McCauley in honor of Leonor Garcia.

Prayers are requested this week for: Joe and Betsy Andrews, Frances Barry, Justin Edwards, Max Harmon, David Hunter, Florence Klein, Wafa Kuri, Clyde Loughridge, Jeanette Nemcek, Mildred Sinkler, Jimmy Strong, Bob and Linda Uhle, and Stephen.

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

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.

In Memoriam We Remember

**Joann Black
who died December 25, 2017**

**Emma Jane Gibbs
who died December 26, 2017**

**Rosaneil Reynolds Schenk
who also died December 26, 2017**

I am the resurrection and I am the life, says the Lord

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

Members of the Mt. Sinai Care Group are:

Jeanette Nemcek, Deacon leader

Joanne Bielek

Guy Cameron & family

Betty Clark

Barb Cloud

Amy Dillenbeck & family

Jane Frederick & family

Sue Gifford

Al Gilbert

Mike & Margie Glaros

Julie Gran

Nancy Grube

Chuck & Jane Ishler

Janet Kickel

Julie & Gary Lustic

Nancy Lyon-Stadler & family

Brooke Marcy & family

Dave & Jane Olson & family

Graham & Roz Peters

Joyce Peters

Marjorie Ravas

Matt & Katie Russo & family

Gary Sampson

Sara & Randy Shaner

Anona Stack

Kathy Hanna-Stauffer and Derry Stauffer

Beverly & Harold Thomas

Lorian, Ralph & Fran Thomas

Ann & Peter Williams

Warren Young

Coming Up

TODAY

Music: We are grateful for the musical leadership of violinist Edie Duncan and vocal ensemble Beth Garrett, Patty Console, Shelly Jesberger, Beth Zych, Seth Ungemach, Grant Heineman and Carl Jenks.

THIS WEEK

Bible Study: The lessons for this week are: Genesis 1: 1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19: 1-7 and Mark 1: 4-11.

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

New Leader Training: Saturday, January 6, 9-11:30 am

All newly-nominated leaders are invited and encouraged to attend the new leader training next Saturday.

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education, 9:30 in South Hall

Tom Zych and Kathryn Eloff will lead an examination of the Old Testament wisdom literature Ecclesiastes, beginning January 7.

“Moving Toward Equity” Leadership Training:

Sunday, January 7, 12:30 – 2:30 pm

All FHC members and friends are invited, and all in a leadership role are expected, to attend. See p. 15 for details.

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

The 2018 Homeless Stand Down is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, and once again FHC will field a morning team of personal shoppers. 20 slots are available for our team. If you'd like to join, follow the link below to the Hands-On Northeast Ohio site. Invitation code = JACK. You'll need to have an account with Hands-On in order to sign up. Note that a mandatory team training at FHC is also scheduled for 1/14, 12:30-1:30. More details later. Join us for a rewarding service experience at Public Auditorium and, later, for our customary fellowship lunch at Nighttown! If you have trouble signing up, please email Jack Breisch (jbrei@hawken.edu) who will send instructions to you directly.

http://www.handsonneo.org/HOC__partners?id=0011200001KEAhcAAH

Youth News

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

Staff Emails

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Rev. Lois Annich | Interim Assoc. Pastor | pastorannich@fhcpresb.org |
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| Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr. | Pastor | pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org |
| Peg Weissbrod | Outreach | pegw@fhcpresb.org |
| Anne Wilson | Music | annew@fhcpresb.org |

Calendar: December 31, 2017 – January 7, 2018

Sunday, December 31: 1 Christmas

10:30 am Child care begins
 10:30 am Continental Breakfast
 11:00 am WORSHIP
 12:15 pm Coffee and Conversation

**Monday, January 1: New Year's Day
 Office closed**

6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA)
 7:00 pm Al Anon
 7:30 pm Borton Group (AA)

Tuesday, January 2

1:00 pm Abundance Pantry
 5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class
 7:15 pm Black History team meeting

Wednesday, January 3

12:30 pm Wed. Women's AA

Thursday, January 4

5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class
 6:20 pm Voices in Bronze
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, January 5

10:00 am Al Anon

Saturday, January 6

9:00 am New Leader training

Sunday, January 7: Epiphany

9:00 am Child care begins
 9:30 am Adult Education
 Youth Education: Logos (Mid Hi)
 Descant Choir
 10:15 am Descant Choir activity
 10:30 am Continental Breakfast
 Chancel Choir
 11:00 am WORSHIP: Communion
 12:15 pm Coffee and Conversation
 12:30 pm "Moving Toward Equity"
 Leadership Training
 5:00 pm Faith Leader

You are invited to an Epiphany Party

Sunday, January 7, 3 – 10 pm

At the home of Carolyn Smith 1867 Cumberland Rd, CH 216-509-3928

Since 2004, the Smith family has celebrated the tradition of hosting an Epiphany Party for family and friends. We ask that you bring a cash donation to be donated to Abundance Pantry, as they are able to purchase supplies from the Cleveland Foodbank at a very low cost. We also ask that you bring a favorite potluck dish to share. We'll provide coffee, punch and eggnog (high- and low-test) as well as a variety of delicious goodies.

Bring voices and instruments to join the annual song circle/ acoustic jam. Bring good holiday wishes and prayers for peace in this troubled world. Bring yourselves!

Dear Members and Leaders of Forest Hill Church,

Lois and I invite you to a vitally important training on race and class on **Sunday, January 7th from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.** Led by the dynamic racial equity training Ms. Erica Merritt (co-founder and partner of EQUIS) we will explore the dynamics of the issues of race and class at Forest Hill.

All are welcome! If you have just joined the church you may be particularly interested.

CHURCH LEADERS ARE EXPECTED! If you serve on a Ministry, volunteer in any capacity (at the Pantry, Labre, Habitat, serve lunch, answer phones, teach a class), serve on a committee (Black History, Race Inclusion, Black Caucus and/or consider yourself a leader of this church) or are part of the choir or social group you are invited. As leaders of the church it is important for us to be educated and to lead the congregation as we grow towards becoming the Beloved Community.

Of course Lois and I understand how busy we all are. However, we hope you will make every effort to attend. Please USE THE ONLINE REGISTRATION that was in the emails this week to let us know that you can attend.

RSVP to the office ONLY if you are unable to register online.

Thank you and God bless you!

Pastors John Lentz and Lois Annich

Fast away the old year passes....

