Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



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Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor

Rev. Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

Anne Wilson, Director of Music

Rev. David Wigger, Interim Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Service of Worship June 24, 2018 at 10:00 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

We are all gifted. We are all called. When we use our gifts and answer God's call we are mighty warriors of faith and courage – strong as King David, and faithful as Christ.

Welcome

Prelude Korean folk tune, arr. Latva

"Christ, You Are the Fullness" Fern Jennings, guest organist

Choral Introit "Celtic Alleluia"

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship Dean Sieck

Leader: Sing praises to God,

People: Our courage and our strength.

Leader: Sing praises to God,

People: Who is faithful and true.

Leader: Sing praises to God,

People: That we may be steadfast in our faith and true in our

discipleship.

* Please stand if you are able

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession

Mighty God, we often confuse might with right, power with strength, and ego with faith. Unravel the cords of our confusion and help us find the courage: to recognize our giftedness, to hear and answer your call, and to live as your people of love each and every day. When our courage wanes, strengthen us. When our faithfulness falters, lift us up for we are ready to receive your grace. We are eager to live with courage and faithfulness as we journey as your disciples.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

John Merbecke

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

Assurance of Pardon

* Response Paul Vasil



Anthem

Argentine folk melody

"Song of Hope" (Canto de Esperanza)

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

Minute for Witness

John and Sheryl Dugard

Family Meditation

Pastor Lentz

* Hymn No. 473

"Shepherd Me, O God"

Congregation sings refrain

John Lentz, guitar; Jack Lentz, vocals

Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn

Scripture Lesson

Ephesians 6: 10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

After the reading

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

"Everyday Armor"

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 Bob Hurd

"As the Deer Longs" (Psalms 42, 43)



* Prayer of Dedication

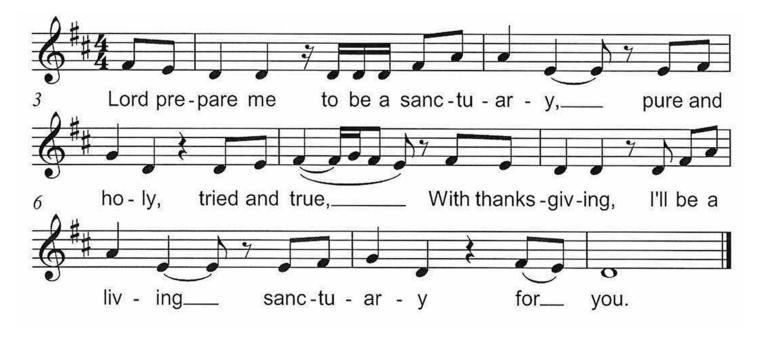
Going Forth to Live as God's People

* Closing Hymn No. 699

"Fill My Cup"

- * Commission and Blessing
- * Choral Benediction

"Sanctuary"



* Passing of the Peace

Postlude J. S. Bach

"Prelude in G Major"

Liturgy based on The Abingdon Worship Annual 2018; Mary J. Scifres



Welcome Visitors!

We look forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. Visitor welcome bags are available in the foyers and the narthex. Take one home with you! Our website, **www.fhcpresb.org**, lists upcoming events, education programs for all ages, and texts and audio of past sermons.

Notes & Announcements

Chancel Flowers: The flowers today are given by Vikki Nowak in honor of Todd Webster and Vikki Nowak's 9th anniversary, and "for the miracle of being married to Todd Webster;" and by Sue McCauley in honor of Kerri's 21st birthday.

Prayers are requested this week for: Dan Fuller, Grace Glaros, Max Harmon, Mary Hosier, Elizabeth Shaw, Christi Shores, Jimmy Strong, Garrett Vandall, and Wesley Washington.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Marge Drollinger, Iris and Al Gilbert, Florence and Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, Connie Sekerak, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, 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 any member who is ill or homebound. We will address and mail the card for you.

Care Group

The Forest Hill Deacons are responsible for meeting members' needs during June. 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.

Ushers: Thank you to Roger Heineman, head usher, and today's usher team.

Nursery care for babies and young children is available on the second floor of the Monticello Wing.

Coming Up

TODAY

Today's music: This morning we welcome guest organist Fern Jennings, a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music. Anne Wilson is vacationing in England and worshiping in the village of Penzance today.

Movie Outing: "Won't You Be My Neighbor" TODAY at 12:15 at Cedar Lee Theaters. If you are interested in joining a group to see the new documentary about Presbyterian minister Mister Rogers, please meet in the South Hall after worship or simply show up at the theater.

Softball: We play New Life at 4 pm in Forest Hill Park

Pick up your summer TOWERS (in the foyer)

THIS WEEK

Bible Study: The lessons for this week are: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15; Mark 5: 21-43.

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

Labre: There will be an open Labre meeting in the library after worship to discuss future plans for this outreach ministry. All volunteers are welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education — 8:45 in South Hall: Living the Question: Call to Covenant (June 24 - August 5) Revs. Laury Larson and John Lentz will lead this seven-week series about how our Christian faith is lived out in this world. Each class begins with a 20 minute DVD presentation followed by discussion. The next session is entitled "Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision." There is no prep time required. Just come for the films and fellowship! All are welcome.

Softball: Next Sunday we play Church of the Saviour at 4 pm in Forest Hill Park.

Summer Choir: The Summer Choir continues through July with a rehearsal (in the choir room underneath Fellowship Hall) at 9:30 am. The music is easy and dress is casual. All ages are welcome (including babes-in-arms) and families are encouraged to sit together, singing with non-singing. Come enjoy participating in worship from "the other side"!

LOOKING AHEAD

Summer Preaching – Picks from the Pew: Have you ever run across a passage in the Bible and thought "I don't know what to make of this. I sure wish I could hear someone preach on it"? This summer is your chance! Email requests to the church office (office@fhcpresb.org) or leave a note in the offering. Pastors Lentz and Annich will use the suggestions they receive as the base for their summer sermons.

Please be as specific as you can. Include the chapter and verse (ie. John 3:16) or a description of the passage (ie. the story where Jesus talks about an injured guy in a ditch that no one will stop to help). Then — here's the catch — come to church each Sunday to see if the preacher has chosen your passage!

Social Groups and Circle

The Group (singles and couples 60s - 70s - 80s) Save the date: July 22 – Shakespeare in the Park at the Grove in Mayfield Hts. Details are in the July-August TOWER (p. 18).

All Labre Volunteers on Deck...our annual OFHC cookout is Sunday 15 July, 3 – 5 pm. If you're not on our group email list and want to help out, send an email to Jack Breisch (jbrei@hawken.edu).

Staff Emails

Rev. Lois Annich Interim Assoc. Pastor <u>pastorannich@fhcpresb.org</u>

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Peg Weissbrod Outreach pegw@fhcpresb.org

Rev. David Wigger Interim Director of Youth & Children's Ministries

CE@fhcpresb.org

Anne Wilson Director of Music annew@fhcpresb.org

Calendar: June 24 - July 1, 2018

Monday, June 25

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

Tuesday, June 26

1:00 pm Abundance Pantry 7:00 pm CPNC meeting

Wednesday, June 27

7:30 am Bible and Bagels 12:30 pm Wed. Women's AA 7:00 pm Session meeting

Thursday, June 28

5:00 pm Fitness Fusion

Friday, June 29

10:00 am Al Anon 1:00 pm Hilltoppers (at Nancy Burcham's)

Saturday, June 30

9:00 am Scouts (small meeting)10:00 am xxx Rally in Market Square12:30 pm Gifford family party

Sunday, July 1

8:30 am Child care begins
8:45 am Adult Education
9:30 am Continental Breakfast
Summer Choir
10:00 am WORSHIP

11:00 pm Coffee and Conversation

Cover image: Photo by Stan Smith, debugged by Peg Weissbrod

from Professor Mark Joseph's talk on Building a Racial Equity Lens June 10, 2018

Racial Equity Vigilance



Constant self-education
Listen more to people different from you
Get a racial equity buddy
Interrogate your assumptions
Lean into discomfort and get a tougher skin
Build antiracist muscle
Focus on micro-intentional actions
Use your Racial Equity Lens!

Greetings from St. Louis

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is meeting in St. Louis, MO this week. This is the 223rd time this denomination has done this—meeting, praying, worshiping, deciding, leading, listening—on behalf of the church for the good of God's created world. When the Presbyterians come to town, we stay in hotels, eat in restaurants, and all around add to the local economy of the host city. Yesterday, we did something we've never done before. We left the comfort of the convention hall and literally took to the streets.

At opening worship on Saturday, the offering taken was dedicated to provide bail for people who have been prescreened for release. We raised more than \$47,000. \$47,000!!!!!!! Presbyterians partnered with The Bail Project, a community group that screens incarcerated individuals and seeks to help those whose bail is less than \$5000. I learned that jails are full of people being held on minor offenses who are unable to pay cash bail. That I didn't know this is embarrassing. Cities and states that require cash bail is another form of oppression. If you have enough money, you can post bail and then work and be with your family while you await trial. If you don't have the money, you stay in jail.

So, on Tuesday afternoon, about 500 Presbyterians walked from the Convention Center to the City Justice Center. Once there, the money was presented to the coordinators of The Bail Project. Over three dozen people will now be leaving jail.

It would be easy to pat ourselves on the back for this one. And I have to

guard against "feeling too good" about walking in the heat and being one of the marchers. The truth is this is what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus Christ—embodying the truth of Matthew 25.

We are brothers and sisters with all God's people. Injustice exists based on race, gender, economic disparity, sexual orientation, country of origin, religious



beliefs. It is incumbent upon those of us who claim Jesus as Lord and Savior to learn the life situations that so many people created in the image of God know as a daily reality. And then to step out of our churches, out into the streets and do something about it in the name of Jesus. Thank you 223rd General Assembly for the witness.

Posted by Rev. Sharon Core, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve on https://faithofthefuture.wordpress.com/category/general-assembly/

Image Source: Presbyterians taking to the streets; June 19, 2018; St. Louis, MO;

Mel Tubb via Guidebook



Join us to send a clear message to Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress: Families Belong Together!

<u>Families Belong Together Rally</u>

Rallies in Cleveland or Washington on Saturday, June 30

Children are being cruelly separated from their families seeking refuge and asylum. We cannot allow this morally wrong practice to continue. On June 30 there will be rallies in Washington DC, and around the country to send a clear message to this administration to stop this injustice. Please join your concerned and outraged neighbors and friends at one of two events:

Washington's rally, 11 am

Lafayette Square (directly north of the White House on H Street) At this time we are not aware of any buses chartered for Washington.

Cleveland's rally 10 am

Market Square Park (across from the West Side Market, West 25th and Lorain)

Please RSVP for the Cleveland event **to Jeff Smith (jeffsmith2756@gmail.com)** and advise if you need a ride or can provide rides.

Note: Despite Trump's recent executive order to stop separating families, many questions remain about the implications of the policies still in effect and the logistics of enforcement. The rallies are as important as ever!