

Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



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Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines, Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastors

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

Ministries

Anne Wilson, Director of Music

Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Service of Worship
March 17, 2019 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 large print editions of the bulletin and
directions to our nursery for babies and young children.

Prayer of Preparation

I believe I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;

Wait for the Lord!

Psalms 27:13-14

Welcome

Prelude

Anne Wilson;
Poem by Brian Wren

“When Children Pray”

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship (From Psalm 27)

Elder Derry Stauffer

The Lord is our light and our salvation;

Whom shall we fear?

The Lord is our stronghold,

Of whom shall we be afraid?

We shall offer in God’s tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

We will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Let us worship God!

*** Processional Hymn No. 65**

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

**please stand as able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to
your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.

In your abundant love and mercy, forgive us, O God.

For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.

In your abundant love and mercy, forgive us, O God.

Against you, and you alone, have we sinned, and done what is evil in your
sight.

In your abundant love and mercy, forgive us, O God.

Create in us a clean heart, O God! Place a new and right spirit within us!

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

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The past is left behind; everything has become fresh and new. We will believe in the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Be Still and Know John Bell

5 Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

All sing first time; 2nd time lower voices begin;
upper voices begin 1 measure later

Anthem Arr. Shawn Kirchner

“Unclouded Day”

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

Children’s Moment

Children are welcome to stay up front for a quiet activity during the sermon

* Hymn No. 834 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 (God's Covenant with Abram)

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.'

Luke 13:31-35 (The Lament over Jerusalem)

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

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.

“In the Middle of the Muddle”

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

Children may return to their families

Offering

Offertory

Bette Midler

“From a Distance”

Lily B, soloist

*** Response**

Hymn No. 697

5 Take my life_ and_ let it be con - se - crat - ted, Lord, to_ thee;

8 take my mo - ments and my days;_ let them flow in

cease - less_ praise;_ let them flow in_ cease - less praise.

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

*** Closing Hymn No. 543**

“God, Be the Love to Search and Guide Me”
(O Christ, Surround Me)

* Commission and Blessing

* Choral Benediction

Sanctuary

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

“Prelude in A Major”



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 Flower Donations:

- Roz, Graham and Joyce Peters in loving memory of parents Evelyn and Vladimir Peters and Flora Dannemiller, grandparents of Scott Peters and Deborah Peter and great-grandparents of Alexandra, Mackenzie, Cameron, Caleb and Aiden
- Nancy Grube in loving memory of Donal Grube.

Prayers are requested this week for the following: Laura Bell, Mark Davidson, Dan Fuller, Grace Glaros, David Hunter, Darla Character-Johnson, Wanda Nelson, Jim Seeders, Elizabeth Shaw, Jimmy Strong, Wesley Washington, and Ollie.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Marge Drollinger, Iris and Al Gilbert, Carol Himmelsteib (mom of Kathryn Himmelsteib), Florence and Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Judy Sieck, 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 one or more of our homebound members. We will address and mail the card for you.

Care Group: The Eden Care Group will for assist our pastors in meeting members’ needs during March. 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 Deborah Erwin and Robyn Hales, head ushers, and today’s usher team.

Coming Up

TODAY

The Sine Nomine Choir will rehearse after worship.

We welcome guest soloist Lily B to our service this morning. She sang for us during February, and her soulful voice inspired an additional invitation to sing for us. Lily sings a diverse repertoire (jazz, soul, gospel, classical) and is highly regarded in the Cleveland metropolitan area.

Engaging the Spiritual Practices: Join us on March 24 and 31, along with April 14 at 9:30 am in the Chapel for a Lenten Study/practicum. Pastor Goines will teach basic principles of spiritual disciplines, introduce various weekly practices, and lead participants in communal practices to encourage the development of a rule of life for deepening faith. Please notify the office (office@fhcpresb.org) if you plan to attend.

Are you interested in joining Forest Hill Church? We are excited about our Exploring New Membership classes are being held on March 17, 24, and 31 from 12:30-2:00 pm. Please reach out to the FHC office if you are interested and we will connect you with the Church Growth Team!

THIS WEEK

Bible and Bagels (Bible Study) discusses next Sunday’s text(s) on Wednesday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30. The lessons for this week are **Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63: 1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9.**

The deadline for the bulletin or weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. **The next TOWER deadline** is 04/11/19 at 8:00 am. You may submit your written request to office@fhcpresb.com.

Pastor Lentz will lead a Lord's Prayer Retreat on March 23 at 9 am. Please RSVP with the office (office@fhcpresb.org) if you plan to attend.

Iris Circle and Women of Forest Hill Church will enjoy a Pot Luck in Bodwell Hall on March 19 at noon. Our guest speaker will be Humera Khan from the Cleveland Chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations will speak about being Muslim and focusing on what connects us. She will help us plan a trip to the Islamic Center on Chardon Rd on April 5. Bring your favorite dish and see you there! **If you have any questions please, contact Joyce Pope (teach1pope@gmail.com) or Cathy Ghiandoni (ghiandoni.c@gmail.com).**

Abundance Pantry News: On March 12, the pantry provided an average of 50 pounds of groceries and lunch for 200 families. Monetary donations to the pantry ministry may be made to Forest Hill Church; in the memo line, please write Abundance Pantry or Abundance Lunch. Abundance Pantry is open every Tuesday from 12-3 pm. Volunteers are needed. The next pantry lunch is April 2. **Email Paul Jennings (jennings_paul@att.net) for more info.**

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education classes will continue studying from the book of Revelation through March 24. Classes start at 9:30 am and are located in South Hall and Bodwell Hall. **Please see page 12 for the updated class information.**

LOOKING AHEAD

On March 23 from 5-8 pm, Camp Lilac will host a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser in Fellowship Hall. There will be live music and all you can eat spaghetti for \$25. **Please RSVP using this link: <https://www.camplilac.org/>. If you have any questions please contact Ann Williams (asw1217@gmail.com) for details.**

The Group and Hilltoppers: Sunday March 24 at 3:00 pm: The Singers Club along with the Forest Hill Church Chancel Choir will present a concert in memory and honor of Don Grube and the many years he sang with these wonderful groups. The concert will be held at Forest Hill Church and there will be a reception that will follow the concert in Fellowship Hall.

Lunch with Hilltoppers: There will be a lunch following church service on March 24 from 12:30-1:30pm at Anatolia Café (2207 Lee Road). Please **R.S.V.P. to Nancy Grube 216-245-6290 or donance@sbcglobal.net by March 22. All are welcome!**

Free Concert for the Pacesetters on March 29 at 8:00 pm at Kulas Hall located at the Cleveland Institute of Music (11021 East Blvd. Cleveland, Oh 44106). Margaret Brouwer's orchestral piece "Remembrances" will be first on the program.

There will be three services of communion in April (04/7, 04/18, and 04/21). Anyone who has been received as a member of FHC can serve communion. Each time communion is served, eight volunteers are needed. This commitment does not require any extra meetings, just attendance at worship service. **If you are willing to add your name to the list of servers, please contact Mary Ball (ml.ball47@gmail.com or 216-255-0842).**

The (aging) Forest Hill softball team is looking for the next generation of players to join the team. Starting the last week in April through the last weekend of July, the softball team plays other churches on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 across the street at Forest Hill Park. We are looking for a handful or more of new players to join the team. Members, visitors, friends, or family 16 and over should contact Jason Hidek at jason.hidek@att.net or by phone 440-264-3296 if you are interested.

Lenten Privilege Fast: In conjunction with One Great Hour of Sharing, the Ministry of Justice and Mission and the pastors encourage you to consider taking a "Privilege Fast" for Lent. Look at aspects of your life that so many in our country and around the world must do without. We don't ask you to give these up, but to put aside a coin or a dollar bill for each privilege you have as guided by the One Great Hour of Sharing bi-fold. For instance, you may also contemplate your education and career opportunities: What skills and talents do you have that you might share with someone in the community? You may mentor or tutor a student, help an entrepreneur develop a business plan, offer your legal services pro bono. Lenten Privilege Fast, week 2 meditation for the One Great Hour of Sharing box. Consider people who walk barefoot to school. Give two coins for each pair of shoes you have. Orphans of war and poverty. Give two coins for each living parent and grandparent. Those without public sanitation infrastructure. Give three coins for each time you flush the toilet.

“Lenten Privilege Fast with Justice and Mission Upcoming Dinners”

Reservations are needed by April 1st

Name(s) _____

How many individuals attending dinner? _____

Yes, I/we will attend ____ on April 3 ____ on April 12

You may place this in the offering plate

Youth News

Every Sunday:

Classes for all youth (gr. 6-12) meet at 9:30 am in the Ruah Room.

Looking ahead for the Youth (watch email for details):

Friday, March 22: Field Trip to Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, 5:15pm

Sunday, March 31: House Church with Fairmount Pres. and Church of the Covenant

Friday, April 12: Fish Fry - Intergenerational Outing (we plan to carpool)



Please join us for Easter cookie decorating! We will decorate cookies and enjoy a casual dinner on April 13, 2019 from 5:30-7:30 pm, in room 106 and Bodwell hall. Please bring a salad, side or dessert to share. We will have pizza, plus cookies and decorating supplies, on hand for this event appropriate for all ages. All are welcome! **Please RSVP to Davis Wigger (ce@fhcpresb.org) by March 23.**

Calendar: March 17th -24th

<p>Sunday, March 17:</p> <p>9:15 am Childcare begins</p> <p>9:30 am Adult Education</p> <p> Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)</p> <p> Youth Education</p> <p> (gr. 6-12)</p> <p> Confirmation Class</p> <p> Engaging the spiritual</p> <p> Practices Class</p> <p>10:10 am Pathways (gr. 1-5)</p> <p>10:30 am Chancel Choir</p> <p> Continental Breakfast</p> <p>11:00 am Worship and Children’s</p> <p> Worship</p> <p>12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation</p> <p> BP check</p> <p> Sine Nomine Rehearsal</p> <p>12:30 pm Exploring Membership</p> <p> Class For new members</p> <p>4:00 pm Reconnecting with</p> <p> God’s Creation Class</p> <p>Monday, March 18:</p> <p>6:00 pm AA: Progress not Perfection</p> <p>7:00 pm Al Anon: Now There’s Hope</p> <p>7:30 pm AA: Borton Group</p> <p> Boy Scout Troop #403</p> <p>Tuesday, March 19:</p> <p>12:00 pm Abundance Pantry</p> <p> Registration</p> <p> Iris Circle Meeting</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise</p> <p>6:00 pm HCC Training</p> <p>7:00 pm Stewardship Retreat</p> <p>Wednesday, March 20:</p> <p>7:30 am Bible and Bagels</p> <p>12:30 pm Staff Meeting</p> <p> AA: Wednesday</p> <p> Women’s Group</p> <p>1:00 pm Hilltop Garden Group</p> <p> Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm TransFamily East</p> <p> Meeting</p>	<p>Thursday, March 21:</p> <p>1:30 pm English Country Dance</p> <p>4:00 pm ICE vigil</p> <p>5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise</p> <p>5:30 pm Ladies in Training (Drill</p> <p> Team Practice)</p> <p>6:20 pm Voices in Bronze</p> <p>7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Friday, March 22:</p> <p>10:00 am Al Anon: Hand in Hand</p> <p>Saturday, March 23:</p> <p>3:00 pm Lord’s Prayer Retreat</p> <p>6:00 pm Camp Lilac Fundraiser</p> <p>Sunday, March 24:</p> <p>9:15 am Childcare begins</p> <p>9:30 am Adult Education</p> <p> Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)</p> <p> Youth Education</p> <p> (gr. 6-12)</p> <p> Engaging the spiritual</p> <p> Practices</p> <p>10:10 am Pathways (gr. 1-5)</p> <p>10:30 am Chancel Choir</p> <p> Continental Breakfast</p> <p> Cherub’s Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>11:00 am Worship and Children’s</p> <p> Worship (Baptism)</p> <p>12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation</p> <p>12:30 pm Exploring Membership</p> <p> Class For new members</p> <p> GCC Training Session</p> <p>3:00 pm Concert in memory of Donal</p> <p> Grube</p> <p>4:00 pm Reconnecting with</p> <p> God’s Creation Class</p>
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Adult-Ed
Lenten Program on Salvation
“Why Did Jesus Die?”

Our Lenten practices often focus on sacrificing a bit of life’s pleasures and preparing for Easter. We often fail to consider how Jesus’ death was and is a miraculous act of love in and of itself. Our three-week study will explore the why and the how crucifixion and death of Jesus provides a model of selfless love and what it means to triumph over death. We will use art, history, and as always our Biblical text to explore the meaning of Good Friday.

Class will begin March 31st and will include April 7th and April 14th. We will meet in South Hall at 9:30 am. Tom Zych will lead class. All are welcome!

Adult-Ed along with Justice and Mission will also lead a group discussion on April 28th at 9:30 am that will go over the experience of the Lenten Season.

