

Forest Hill Church
Service of Worship
December 1, 2019 at 11:00 am
Advent 1

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.
Please sign in and join us in wearing a name tag so that we might greet you.

Centering Words/ Prayer of Preparation

The baby is coming. It is almost here. What are you expecting?

Welcome

Choral Introit

Don Cason

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship:

Paula Harvey

Keep awake!

Christ is coming.

Wait for the Lord.

Love is coming.

Prepare the way.

Hope is coming.

Worship the Lord.

Christ is coming soon!

Come! Let us worship.

*** Processional Hymn No. 82**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

**please stand as able*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Debbie and Zusia Wilbur

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession:

Another season of Advent. We confess mixed feelings: excitement and dread. It is the best of times and the worst of times. We want to believe that Christ is coming, that Jesus is here. But our lives are jumbled. The world is a mess. The way is crooked. The mountains are too high to climb over. The valleys are cast in shadows and we can't find our way. But there is a longing in us for faith, hope and love. Ignite the fire in us and show us the way.

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

The Assurance of Pardon:

Hear the good news: Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first came to believe. The one who came as a child long ago, will awaken our hearts and give us peace. We will accept the good news. Thanks be to God.

Response: "Be Still and know"

John Bell

All sing first time. Second time: low voices, begin; upper voices begin 1 measure later.

5 Be still and know that I am God.

Be__ still and know__ that I__ am God.__

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a half note G4. The lyrics 'Be still and know that I am God.' are written below the notes. The second staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a half note G4. The lyrics 'Be__ still and know__ that I__ am God.__' are written below the notes, with horizontal lines under the words 'know', 'I', and 'God'.

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

Children's Moment

Rev. David Wigger

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

Scripture Passages

Isaiah 2:1-5 (page 550); Matthew 24:36-44 (page 806)

Paula Harvey

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz Jr.

"What to Expect When You Are Expecting"

Ritual of Friendship/ Offering

Offertory

arr. John Bell

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

***Response**

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be,
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Eucharist

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Sanctus

Paul Ferguson

Prayers of the People /The 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.

Communion of the People

Music during Communion

Karl Jenkins

“Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)”

Prayer after Communion

God of our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness and peace of your promised new creation. You have strengthened us with your heavenly good so that we might seek to serve you faithfully. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Going Forth to Live as God's People

* Closing Hymn No. 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

* Commission and Blessing

* Choral Benediction No. 701

“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

“Sleepers Awake”



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:

- Betty Clark in memory of Don, Irma and Raymond Clark, and Betty and Herbert Fritz.
- Barb Hansen, Linda & Mark Davidson, Mark & Linda Hansen, Sharon Hansen, Jill & Kevin White in loving memory of Lamont Hansen.
- Bill Finn and Rachel Martinez-Finn in memory of their loved ones.

Prayer Requests:

If you would like to request prayers for a personal concern, please use one of the slips of paper in the pew rack. Ushers will collect the requests during the middle hymn and pastors will include them in the congregational prayer.

Prayers are requested this week for the following: Cheryl Anderson, Mary Ann Breisch, Kathy Carr, Mark Davidson, David Hunter, Joanna Klingenstein, Keith Logan, Grace Uhle, and Carolyn Vrtunski.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Marge Drollinger, Iris and Al Gilbert, 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: All Church Care Group will assist our pastors in meeting members' needs during **December**. 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 leader, Elaine Turley**.

Thank you, Deborah Erwin and Robyn Hales, head ushers, along with Mark Wedell and the rest of today's usher team.

Thank you, all office volunteers: Ellen McChesney, Cathy Ghiandoni, Lynda Bernays and Anne Smith. You are appreciated!

Thank you, sound board team: David Bell, Bader Boland and Steve Marunowski.

The deadline for the bulletin or weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **12/12/19 at 8:00 am**. You may submit your written request to office@fhcpresb.org.

To stay up to date on family programming, please subscribe to the Christian Education Newsletter: bit.ly/ceNewsletter.

Please start saving your egg cartons again! Place all donated egg cartons in the pantry shopping cart.

Coming Up

TODAY

The registration for the upcoming Adult Education class, studying 1 Samuel. Register today with Pat Seeders before or after service in South Hall. Class will begin January 5.

Christmas Angels for Boulevard School: Thank you to all who chose an ornament from the Christmas tree for the Boulevard children. We have only one ornament left. There were some ornaments that were taken but not signed off last week. **If you took one of these ornaments please see Barb Hansen by the Christmas tree after church.** We need to know that all the gifts will be purchased and returned wrapped to church by **December 15** at the latest. Thank you for supporting the Boulevard Angels.

The Sine Nomine Choir will rehearse after worship.

All Ushers will meet today after worship in South Hall for training.

THIS WEEK

Bible and Bagels (Bible Study) discusses next Sunday's texts on Wednesday mornings from 7:30 am to 8:30 am The lessons for this week are: **Isa. 11:1-10; Ps. 72:1-7,18-19; Rom. 15:4-13 and Matt. 3:1-12.**

NEXT WEEK

Adult Education (Advent day 2) at 9:30 am located in South Hall. Pastor Goines will be discussing the depression, anxiety, and Seasonal Affective Disorder which strikes so many during the Holiday Season.

Yoga for Women of Color: This class offers a place for women of color to learn and explore this spiritual practice, whether they attend Forest Hill Church or not. Class is led by Dawn Rivers of Daybreak Yoga and is designed for all skill levels! Classes are offered on **December 14, 21 at 1:30 pm in Bodwell Hall.** Cost is \$12 per session. Spread the word! **For more information, contact Marcie Denton at marciedenton70@gmail.com. THERE IS NO YOGA CLASS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7.**

****Forest Hill is a community, and we are here to help each other out. If the cost for any of these Small Plates could be a barrier to your participation, please contact one of the organizers. ****

Pantry Request for Gift Items and Reusable Bags

The Abundance Food Pantry here at our church would like some help in setting up a holiday gift shop again this year. This will enable our pantry guests to give gifts to the youngsters in their lives. Please help us gather things like toys, games, puzzles, stuffed animals, children's books, crayons, wrapping paper, and Christmas decorations. These can be your own used items, goodwill items, or dollar store items. We will let our pantry guests do the wrapping. From now until Christmas, please put your items in the box marked "Pantry Gift Items" on the stage in Fellowship Hall. We also need reusable bags. If you prefer to give a donation, please write a check to Forest Hill Church and put "Food Pantry" in the memo line. **Contact Paul at jennings_paul@att.net or 440-570-6736, if you are interested in volunteering for the pantry.**

Racial Equity Buddies Outing: All Are Welcome

The Racial equity Buddies Group will visit the exhibit 'Undesign the Redline' Wednesday evening, **December 4** at 5:30 pm. The exhibit is showing at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, located at 2230 Euclid Avenue. A carpool will leave from FHC at 5 pm. Others will meet us at the exhibit at 5:30 pm. All are welcome to join us. We'll be there learning, talking, connecting...together! The exhibit is described as a transformative interactive exhibit exploring the history of race, class, and U.S housing policy. This legacy of inequity and exclusion continues to shape our communities. The exhibit seeks to spark public discourse on how discriminatory federal policies from the 1930's and continue to impact Cleveland neighborhoods today." The evening promises to be both entertaining and educational. It also will allow for us to get to know one another better as together we embark on this Racial Equity Journey. **Please contact Quentin Smith (qsmith47@mac.com)** know if you will attend. Also, please state whether you will carpool or arrive on your own.

Cookie Carnival and Parenting Musically Event: Saturday, December 7 from 5:00 pm-7:30 pm

Join us for a family Christmas party led by Dr. Lisa Koops in celebration of her new book: *Parenting Musically*. Come decorate cookies, sing, dance, and make a joyful noise! Families will receive music bags to take home. All are welcome! We will provide pizza and cookie supplies and ask families, as they are able, to bring some kind of side dish to share. **Please RSVP to David Wigger by Wednesday, December 4: CE@fhcpresb.org.**

From Antoinette Richardson:

I truly want to thank everyone from the bottom on my heart for your prayers and calls. Thankfully my nephew does feel better. Although we are not aware of the cause, I am glad he is out of the hospital. I truly appreciate everyone! God Bless you all.

Come to the KOINONIA MARKETPLACE on Sunday, December 8, from 9 am - 1:30 pm (or later) in Fellowship Hall. This is your annual opportunity to buy amazing gifts from minority artisans-- locally and from around the world. Your purchases support vendors representing global and local justice and contribute to the mission of bringing justice to all of our siblings. Come browse among some of our longtime favorites—One World Shop and Canaan Fair Trade--as well as new global vendors representing Nepal, Ghana and Palestine. We have expanded local vendors with jewelry, beauty products, hand sewn gifts, plus delicious Mexican specialties made by Leonor. These unique gifts won't be found at any Black Friday sales!

Adult Education's Advent Program

Advent: It's not just a WREATH; what are you waiting for?

December 8: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel": Depression, Generalized Anxiety, and Seasonal Affective Disorder: Exploring the spiritual and psychological implications of Advent.

December 15: Advent in the Bible: A panel discussion of the lectionary texts.

December 22: Music of Advent, both old and new.

December 29: Christmas Celebration! A breakfast for the entire church family at 9:30 am. Main entrée will be provided. Bring a sweet treat to share with your church family.

Please contact Pat Seeders (216-832-7915 or @plseeders@gmail.com) for more information.

Our Family Home Center/ Labre Gifts and Gloves

The ministry of Justice and Mission is looking to raise \$550 to give presents to 57 children at Our Family Home Center in East Cleveland, Ohio. Your financial support will allow us to provide gloves and a small gift for our friends and neighbors at OFHC. With your help, we can reach our goal of distributing over 100 gifts for families in need this Christmas. Please visit our table located in Fellowship Hall before or after service to place your donation in the box. **For more information please contact Jennifer Blakeney (216-526-8744), Ajah Hales (216-401-3412) or Jessica Kelley (410-562-1797).**

Please join our knitting, sewing and crocheting group, "Fiber and Fellowship". The next meeting is **December 10 at 10 am.** Please contact **Carol (216-598-9730) or Chris (chris3040@aol.com)** for more details.

Pacesetter Christmas Party -All are welcome!

Saturday, December 14 – 7:00 pm at the Bell's (3040 Scarborough Rd., Cleveland Hts.)

Join with friends (old and new) as we welcome the season, sharing food and fellowship. No gifts. Please bring: an appetizer, beverage, or a dessert to share, along with an item or two for the food pantry donation box. Some soft drinks will be provided. RSVPs are not necessary. (Because this group is just that good!) **Questions? Call Chris or Dave Bell at 216-932-6992.**

Group/Hilltoppers

We are having a CHRISTMAS PARTY at the home of Diana Woodbridge. On **Saturday, December 14, at 6:30 pm**. We will enjoy appetizers, desserts (please bring your own beverages) and celebrate our Boulevard family that we are supporting for Christmas this year. This year we will help a great-grandmother raising four children attending Boulevard School, two girls and two boys, ages 5 to 13. We will buy clothes and toys for the children and gift certificates for the great-grandmother and the family. **Specific purchase information will be given when you RSVP to Cathy Ghiandoni at ghiandoni.c@gmail.com or 216 691-1905.** Help us give this family a blessed Christmas and join the holiday festivities with Forest Hill Church friends.

Youth Christmas Party

Joy to the World! Please mark your calendars for our upcoming FHC Youth Christmas Party on Sunday, **December 15 from 5 pm - 7:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate the birth of our Heavenly Father with decorations, dinner, cake, eggnog, fellowship, music and karaoke, and more games! Happy Birthday Jesus!

Poinsettia Order form – 2019

Orders are due by December 20 at 8 am

Once again we will be adorning the sanctuary with poinsettias during Advent. The cost is \$15.00 each and you can purchase one or more to take home with you after Christmas Eve Candlelight service, or leave them to be delivered to our home bound members.

If you wish to contribute, Please let Antoinette Richardson know and forward your payment to the Church office.

Linda Martin

Worship Ministry

Name: _____

Phone or email: _____

Number of poinsettias @ \$15 each _____

Would you like to donate or take the arrangement? _____

Dedication: in memory of, in honor of, in thanksgiving for, to celebrate WHOM or WHAT.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Did you know, every 2 minutes someone needs blood and just 1 pint of blood can help up to 3 people in need? FHC will be sponsoring a Blood Drive on **Sunday, December 22 from 12:15 pm – 5:15 pm** in South Hall. The FHC Blood Drive will be in memory of Connie Reynolds, FHC Member Rob Reynolds’ mother. Connie received blood from the kindness of strangers during her 5-year battle with cancer, which she lost 3 years ago. Everyone in good health is encouraged to donate; online appointments are encouraged. You can make your life-saving appointment at RedCrossBlood.org and typing in the Sponsor Code – FHC. **If you have questions about making your appointment, or about the blood donation process, please contact Rob Reynolds (robert.reynolds@redcross.org).**

Volunteer Opportunities

The following are ways in which you can help Leonor and her family as needed:

1. Picking up Leonor and/or the boys when they need to come to Cleveland from Akron
2. Taking Leonor and the boys back to Akron
3. Providing meals when the family is in Cleveland
4. Providing activities for Luis Mario (8) and Adan (6) during the day and evenings when they are in Cleveland
5. Overnight stays with the family at the church
6. Food preparation with Leonor for special events (she is trying to earn money by cooking and selling her food and by catering events)
7. Transport of food from our food pantry to Leonor every week

If you are interested in becoming a part of this effort, please contact Charity Stock at charityrmcdonald@gmail.com. Your name will be added to the Sign up Genius list and you will be contacted as needed. Thank you for your continued support! -FHC Immigration Task Force

The bread baking small plate has concluded. Many thanks to this group for sharing their yummy “finished products” with the FHC community!

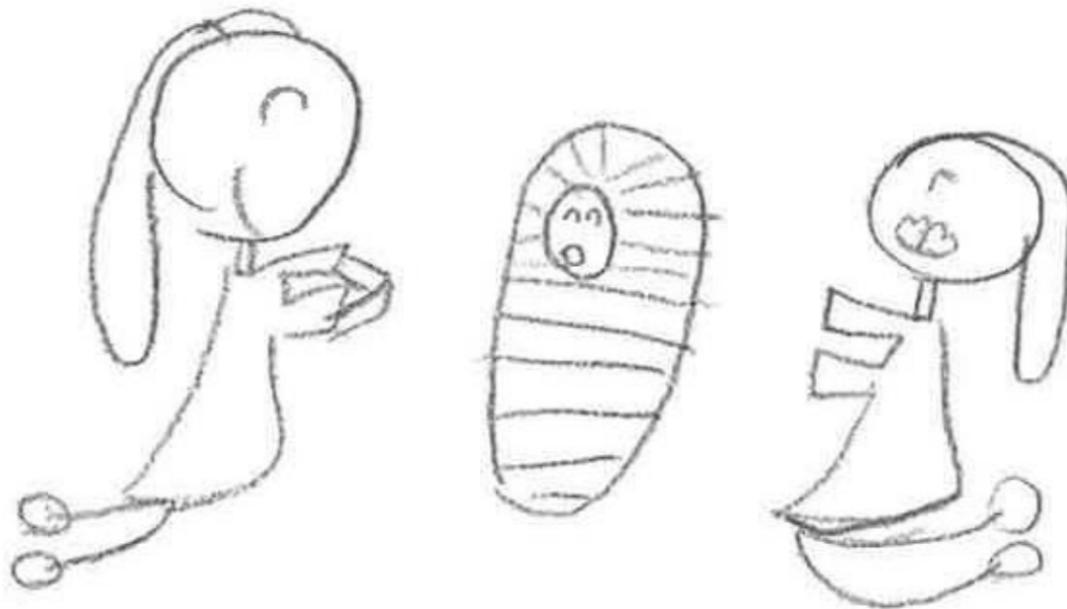
The “White Fragility” small plate has concluded. We are grateful for all who were able to participate in this transformative study.

As of November 26, Stewardship has received 172 pledges for a total amount of **\$677,145**. That is approximately 83.5% of our total 2020 budget of \$810,000. We are almost there! If you have not turned in your pledge, please consider doing so. Please help the children and youth continue with their faith journey in a safe and caring environment, along with helping our volunteers continue to fight hunger in the neighborhood through our meals programs. We want to help our various ministries support partners in their fight for justice and mission and finally, support the pastors and staffs of the church as we seek to live our mission of creating a more equal and diverse congregation.

“Reconnecting with God’s Creation” is back for a third year! The course is one of several “small plates” offerings by the Ministry of Education and Spiritual Formation. Classes consist of readings, mixed media presentations, small group discussion, adoption of a place for nature observation, and field trips. Through the course, you will more clearly understand the deep connections between humans and nature and explore how you can act on your responsibility as a Christian for stewardship of the natural world. The 10 classes are focused around 4 themes: preservation and protection, stewardship, wonder and magic, and restoration. Environmental justice and climate change will be emphasized throughout the course. By the end of the course, you will draw closer to, learn from, and be empowered to serve God’s creation. A suggested \$10 donation by participants would be appreciated to offset the cost of class materials and facility rental fee at one of the field trip locations. Please sign up soon as the course is limited to 12 people. **Classes will take place on Sundays from 4-6 pm March 15 to June 7, 2020 excluding Easter (April 12), Mother’s Day (May 10) and Memorial Day (May 24).** They will be held at FHC in South Hall or will include field trips to nearby parks/nature preserves. **If you have any questions and/or are interested in participating please contact Kemp Jaycox (kempjaycox@yahoo.com; 216-785-5375) or Steve Sedam (Goldens101@aol.com; 614-783-4467).**



Name: Lucas Age: 9



Thank you Children, Youth and family for the wonderful drawings.

Calendar: December 1-8

Sunday, December 1: Advent

12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation
Usher Training
Sine Nomine Rehearsal

7:00 pm Promises on Sunday

Monday, December 2:

6:00 pm AA: Progress not Perfection

7:00 pm Al Anon: Now There's Hope
OA Big Book Meeting

7:30 pm AA: Borton Group

Tuesday December 3:

12:00 pm Abundance Pantry
Registration

5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise
Bulletin and Email Deadline

7:00 pm Black Caucus Meeting
Black History Team Meeting
Heights Friends of Immigrants

Wednesday, December 4:

7:30 am Bible and Bagels

12:00 pm Staff Meeting

12:30 pm Wednesday Women's Group

7:00 pm Speak Life Bible Study

Thursday, December 5:

1:30 pm English Country Dance

5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise

6:20 pm Voices in Bronze

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, December 6:

9:30 am AMIS Board meeting

10:00 am Al Anon: Hand in Hand

7:00 pm: Jung Education Center

Saturday, December 7:

9:00 am AKA Holiday Bazaar

9:30 am Jung Education Workshop

~~1:30 pm Yoga (Small Plates)~~

Sunday, December 8: Advent

9:15 am Childcare begins

9:30 am Adult Education

Youth Education

Descant Choir

10:10 am Pathways

10:30 pm Continental Breakfast

Chancel Choir

11:00 am Worship and Children's
Worship

12:00 pm ~~Coffee and Conversation~~

Fair Trade Bazaar

7:00 pm Promises on Sunday

3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts. OH 44118

216-321-2660

Fax: 216-320-1214

Email: office@fhcpresb.org

Website: www.fhcpresb.org

**Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines, Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Co-Pastors
Rev. David Wigger, Interim Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministries**

Tara Beverly, Youth Leader

Anne Wilson, Director of Music



GEAR UP FOR THIS YEAR'S

Koinonia Marketplace



**FOR GLOBAL & LOCAL
ECONOMIC JUSTICE**



**SUNDAY, DEC. 8
9:00 AM - 1:30 PM**

One World Shop
Canaan Fair Trade
Nepalese Fair Trade
Local minority artisans
Camp Lilac jams and arts
Mexican and local foods
and MORE



Forest Hill Church

3031 Monticello in Cleve Hts

www.fhcpresb.org 216.321.2660





SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7: 5:00-7:30PM

COOKIE CARNIVAL AND PARENTING MUSICALLY EVNET

Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 4: CE@FHCpresb.org