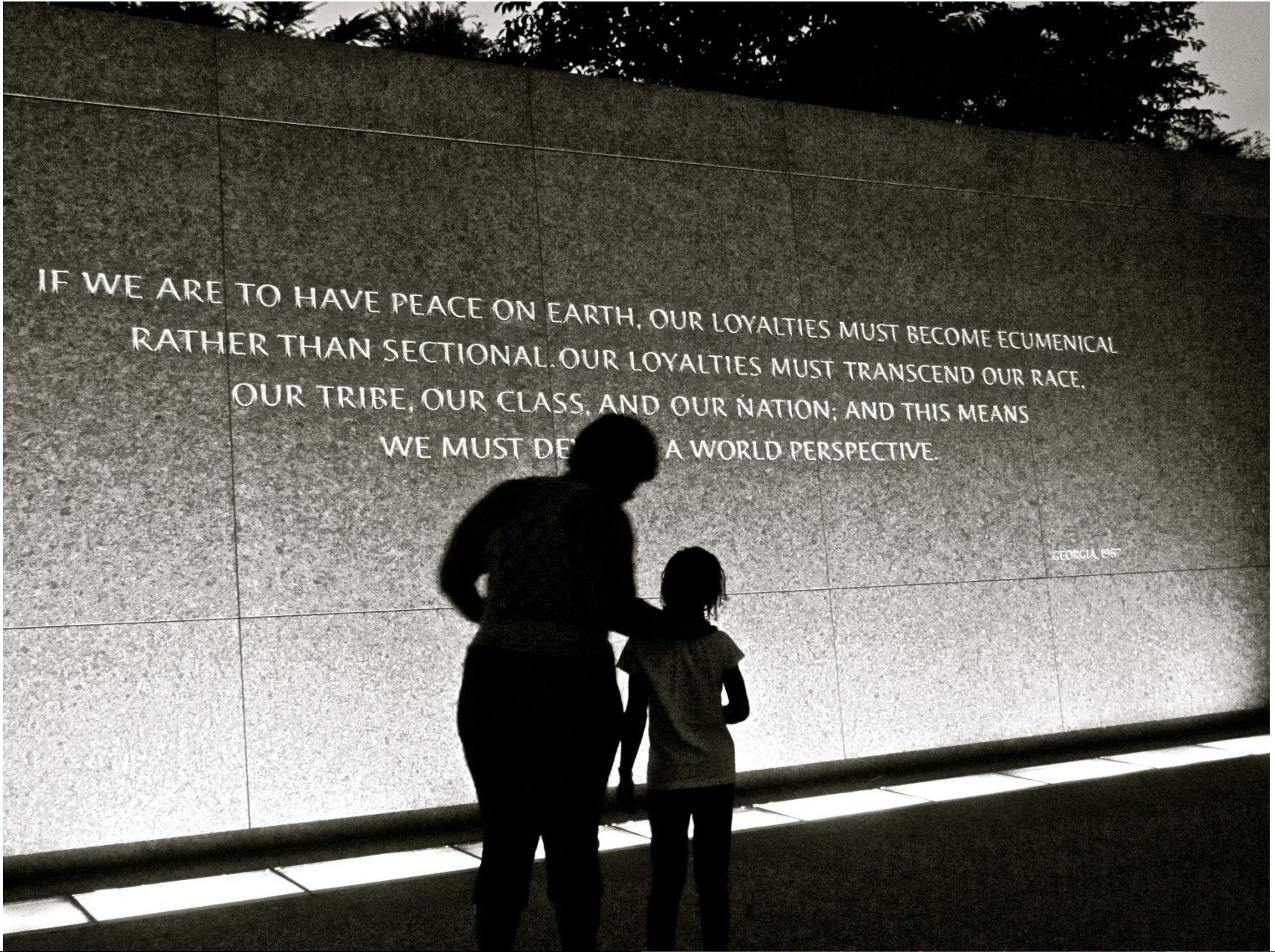


*Forest Hill Church
Service of Worship
January 19, 2020 at 11:00 am*

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.



Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Centering Words/ Prayer of Preparation

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.
Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”
From “Letter From Birmingham Jail”
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr.

Welcome

Prelude arr. Joe Utterback
“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship: Nora Duncan

Our help is in the name of the Lord!
Maker of heaven and earth.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God’s presence with singing.
Let us worship God!

*** Processional Hymn No. 835** “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”
**please stand as able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession:
O God, we confess that the sin of racial hatred and prejudice distorts your divine plan for our human lives:
You created us in divine likeness, diverse and beautiful: In every person, every race is your image.
But too often we fail to recognize your image in all: Forgive us.
You created us in divine freedom, to be free: In every decision, every choice is your possibility of justice.
But too often we fail to choose to advocate for your justice for all: Forgive us.
You created us for divine abundance, to tend and share: In every garden, every social structure is your seed of community.
But too often we fail to create that community which includes all, and gives to all equal access to your abundant life: Forgive us. Open our eyes to distinguish good from evil. Open our hearts to desire good over evil. Strengthen our wills to choose good over evil, so that we may create among us your beloved community.

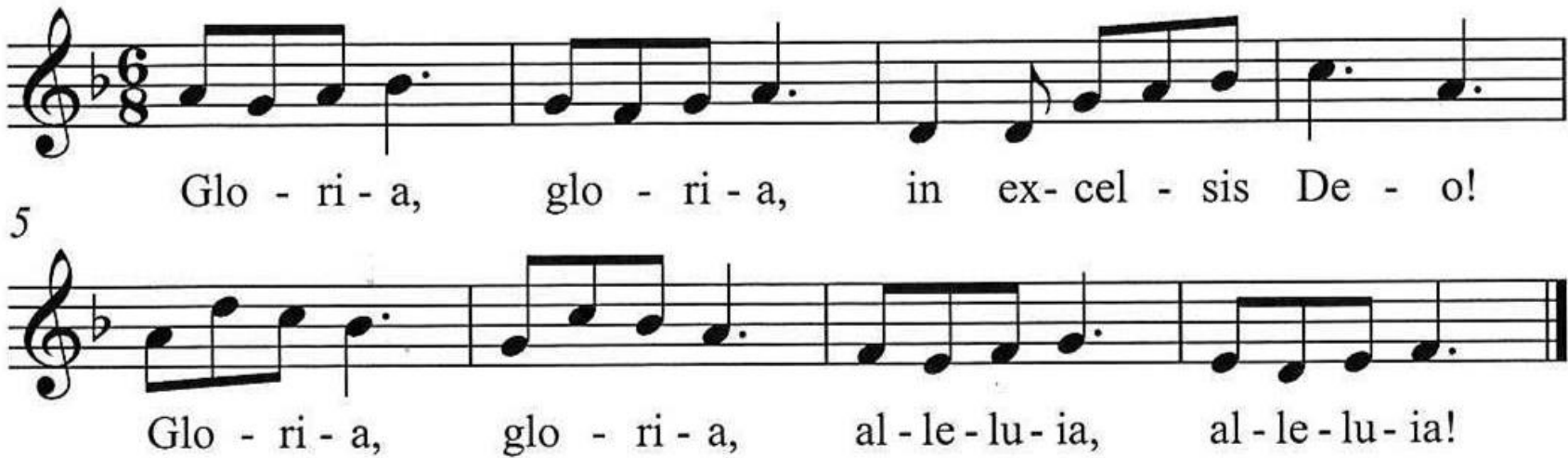
Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie Eleison (*Lord, have mercy*) Appalachian melody

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

The Assurance of Pardon:
Hear the good news: God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ forgives us and sets us free to live full human lives in community. We may go forth confident of the grace to see with new eyes beyond racial prejudice; to imagine with renewed fervor justice and mercy for all, and to create with a new will a community where all are given access to God's abundant life. Thanks be to God!

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



Anthem

Glorraine Moone and Rev. Freddie Washington

“Unity”

Opening Our Hearts to God’s Word

***Hymn No. 792**

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

During the hymn, children are welcome to come up front for a quiet activity during the sermon.

Scripture Passages

Philippians 1:12-18 (page 953); Matthew 5:1-12 (page 785-786)

Nora Duncan

Robyn Hales

Selection from “Letter from Birmingham Jail”

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

My dear fellow clergymen: While confined here in the Birmingham city jail, I came across your recent statement calling my present activities “unwise and untimely.” Seldom do I pause to answer criticism of my work and ideas...But since I feel that you are men of genuine good will and that your criticisms are sincerely set forth, I want to try to answer your statement in what I hope will be patient and reasonable terms. I think I should indicate why I am here in Birmingham, since you have been influenced by the view which argues against “outsiders coming in.” ... I am in Birmingham because injustice is here. Just as the prophets of the 8th century B.C. left their villages and carried their “thus saith the Lord” far beyond the boundaries of their home towns, and just as the Apostle Paul left his village of Tarsus and carried the gospel of Jesus Christ to the far corners of the Greco-Roman world, so am I compelled to carry the gospel of freedom beyond my home town....I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial “outside agitator” idea. Anyone who lives in the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds.

After the readings

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“A Letter for Our Time”

Ritual of Friendship/ Offering

Offertory

George N. Allen, arr. Thomas A. Dorsey

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

***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**

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.

Going Forth to Live as God’s People

Closing Hymn

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the itty bitty baby in His hands

She's got a-you and me brother in His hands

He's got a-you and me sister in His hands

She's got the whole world in His hands
She's got the whole world in His hands
She's got the whole world in His hands
She's got the whole world in His hands
She's got the whole world in His hands

***Commission and Blessing**

***Choral Benediction No. 701**

“Sanctuary”

The image shows a musical score for a choral piece titled "Sanctuary". The score is written on three staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a measure number of 3 and the lyrics "Lord pre-pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, pure and". The second staff begins with a measure number of 6 and the lyrics "ho - ly, tried and true, With thanks -giv-ing, I'll be a". The third staff continues the lyrics "liv - ing sanc-tu - ar - y for you." The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and ties.

*** Passing of the Peace**

Postlude

Joe Utterback

“His Eye is On the Sparrow”



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 celebration of the Clark and Fritz family birthdays.

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: Doris Brandt, Breisch family, Kathy Carr, Mark Davidson, Marcie Denton, Rita Grube, David Hunter, Joanna Klingenstein, the Loughridge family, Derrick Matthews (custodian), Bill Proudfit, Jeff Smith and Kathy Hanna-Stauffer.

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: *The Calvary Care Group* will assist our pastors 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 leader, Mary Hosier**.

Thank you, Deborah Erwin and Robyn Hales, head ushers, along with 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 **1/16/19 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.

Coming Up

TODAY

The Immigration Task Force is seeking volunteers to assist with welcoming our guests from Burkina Faso. Current volunteer needs include: overnight volunteers (male only), daytime hospitality volunteers, and meal drop-off. Future needs may include English tutoring and transportation. **Please email the Immigration Task Force at ITF@fhcpresb.org** if you are interested in becoming involved. Thank you for your support!

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. 9:1-4; Ps. 27: 1, 4-9; 1 Cor. 1:10-18; and Matt. 4:12-23.**

NEXT WEEK

The Adult Education classes will continue their study of 1st Samuel. Join us as we read and discuss scriptures to determine why it was written for the people of ancient times and what it could mean to us in today’s complicated life. Class begins at 9:30 am in South Hall and Bodwell Hall.

The Adult Education class with Pastor Lentz, titled “Questions of Faith,” will continue in the chapel at 9:30 am.

Please join our knitting, sewing and crocheting group, "Fiber and Fellowship." Next meetings are: **January 28 at 10 am and February 8 at 9 am.** Please contact **Carol (216-598-9730)** or **Chris (chris3040@aol.com)** for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities for ongoing support of Leonor and family.

- 1. Transportation to/from Akron for periodic visits to the church
- 2. Invite the family for a meal when they visit
- 3. Invite the family for an overnight in your home.
- 4. Activities for the boys when they are in town.
- 4. Help with food preparation when Leonor does food sales at the church
- 5. Transport groceries from the food pantry to Leonor in Akron

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 Signup Genius list and you will be contacted as needed. Thank you for you continued support! - **FHC Immigration Task Force**

"BE COUNTED FOR WHAT COUNTS - GCC Public Meeting, Thursday, February 27, 7 PM, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, 8712 Quincy Ave, Cleveland. **WE NEED YOU** to be part of Forest Hill's commitment to bring 101 people to support GCC's action to secure one or more off-site, pre-booking Mental Health and Addiction Crisis Centers in Cuyahoga County, so police will have an alternative to jail for persons suffering such a crisis. Greater Cleveland Congregations has been pushing for the creation of these centers for the past two years because we know they work; they will save lives and public money – and they will reduce the overcrowding in our County jail that unduly burdens people of color. If you have not already let us know, sign-up and commit to attend on Feb. 27. Carpools will be organized. **We will have signups in Fellowship Hall on Sundays following worship or signup by email to Diana Woodbridge (diana@ninthrung.com) or Scott Lafferty (swlaff@sbcglobal.net).**"



10th! Annual Seed Swap & Seed Starting Workshop
Forest Hills Presbyterian Church
3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
February 1, 2020 11:00 - 2:00 p.m. Potluck to follow.

CALLING ALL PACESETTERS! IT IS TIME TO PLAN FOR 2020!

What is a Pacesetter? Pacesetters began 35 years ago (or so) as a social group of 20-30 year olds at Forest Hill. Pacesetters, (now 50 -70 somethings) includes a mix of long-time and brand-new members and visitors, singles and couples, folks with kids or not who gather throughout the year for a variety of activities, both social and service-related.

All are Welcome to the 2020 Pacesetters Planning Party, hosted by Scott and Sue Lafferty.

When: Saturday, January 25 at 7 pm

Where: 1969 Bromton Drive, Lyndhurst

Bring along your ideas of activities you would like to join in with the Pacesetters along with an appetizer, salad, beverage or dessert to share. Some soft drinks and juices will be provided. No RSVP necessary! As we seek to be the Welcoming Community, we encourage long time Pacesetters to greet a new member or visitor and bring them along with you on January 25. AND new members or visitors to Forest Hill to take a chance and Come and See what the fellowship of this group looks like! You won't be disappointed! **Questions or directions, call Sue 440-669-4885 or Scott @ 440-429-2937 or email swlaff@sbcglobal.net.**

“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).**

Black Caucus Book Club: On Saturday morning, **March 21**, in Bodwell Hall beginning at 10 am. We will discuss the book “Strength to Love,” a compilation of sermons given by MLK, Jr. All people of good will are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Caucus has access to a few copies of the book “Strength to Love.” **If you wish to borrow a copy please see or email Nicole Lawrence at nalawrence3@gmail.com.** Although the book is not in the Cleveland Heights library, you can get copies from the ClevNet consortium. Alternatively, one can order the book via EBAY or Amazon. -Black Caucus Book Club

Calendar: January 19-26

<p>Sunday, January 19: 11:00 am Worship and Children’s Worship 12:00 pm Coffee and Conversation Sine Nomine Rehearsal 7:00 pm AA: Promises on Sunday</p> <p>Monday, January 20: Office Closed 5:30 pm Apollo’s Fire 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</p> <p>Tuesday January 21: 12:00 pm Abundance Pantry Registration and Distribution 5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise Bulletin and Email Deadline 7:15 pm Black History Team Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday, January 22: 7:30 am Bible and Bagels 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 12:30 pm Wednesday Women's Group 3:30 pm Apollo’s Fire 7:00 pm Guest Group: Speak Life Bible Study</p>	<p>Thursday, January 23: 1:30 pm English Country Dance 5:00 pm Fitness Fusion Exercise 6:20 pm Voices in Bronze 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>Friday, January 24: 10:00 am Al Anon: Hand in Hand</p> <p>Saturday, January 25: 8:30 am CEIRS Class 9:00 am Fiber and Fellowship</p> <p>Sunday, January 26: 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 Congregational Meeting & Lunch 5:00 pm House Church 5:30 pm AA: Promises on Sunday Anniversary Celebration</p>
---	--

3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts. OH 44118
Office: 216-321-2660 Fax: 216-320-1214

Pastoral Care Emergencies: 216-319-3596

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