

Forest Hill Church PRESBYTERIAN

*Discovering God's call, celebrating the Spirit's presence,
Witnessing to Christ's transformative power!*

Pastor
John C. Lentz, Jr., M Div, PhD

Associate Pastor
Director of Lay Leadership
Clover Reuter Beal, M Div

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Service of Worship

April 26, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Easter

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.

If you are visiting, please print your name on a name tag and wear it so that we might greet you. Large print editions of the Bible, the Hymnal, and today's bulletin as well as hearing devices are available from the ushers on request.

■■■ *Prayer of Preparation*

Lord, your people yearn for wisdom and strength to help restore and protect the wonderful gift of creation. Amen.

Welcome

The Prelude

"Flutedance"

J. Utterback

■■■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

The Choral Introit

The Call to Worship

from Psalm 19

Jack Lentz

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

People: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

Leader: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.

**People: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

* **The Processional Hymn No. 553**

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

■ ■ ■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

A Litany of Creation

Dr. John Lentz

Leader: Praise to you, O God, source of all waters. For vast oceans, flowing rivers, and gentle rains, we give you thanks.

People: Forgive our careless waste and polluting ways.

Leader: Help us to cleanse, conserve, and share; teach us to care for the gift of water.

People: Come and heal your people. Come and heal the waters.

Leader: Praise to you, O God, creator of the dry land. For mighty mountains, rolling hills, and fertile prairies, we give you thanks.

People: Help us to sow, till, and harvest with care; teach us to live gently on the land. Come and heal your people. Come and heal the land.

Leader: Praise to you, O God, breath of life and maker of air. For wind and wave, breath and breeze, light and life, we give you thanks.

People: Help us to live justly, simply, and wisely; teach us to care for the gift of the earth. Come and heal your people. Help us care for your people. Help us to care for your earth.

The Declaration of Hope

Leader: Stand at the crossroad, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16

ALL: We are standing at a crossroads. Together let us seek the good way and find rest for all of God's creation. So be it.

■ ■ ■ *Affirming the Good News in Our Lives*

***Gloria, Gloria No. 576**

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

2nd time, men begin; women begin 2 measures later;

Children and youth begin 2 measures after that.

Presentation of Pathways Bibles

Children in Pathways may leave following the presentation

■ ■ ■ *Opening Our Hearts to God's Word*

*** Hymn No. 267**

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Congregation, please sing the refrain

Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn

Testimonies for Faithful Stewardship

The Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 24: 1-13 (p. 567)

Romans 8: 18-25 (p. 919)

After the reading(s)

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

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Rev. Clover Reuter Beal

“And Creation Cries Out”

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

please use debts, debtors

The Ritual of Friendship

all are asked to sign the tablets as a record of attendance

The Offertory

A. Wilson (poem by Chief Noah Seattle)

“We Belong to the Earth”

*** The 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.

■ ■ ■ *Going Forth to Live as God's People*

*** The Closing Hymn** *(see p. 5) Choir will sing st.. 1*

*** The Commission and Blessing**

*** The Choral Benediction**

*** The Passing of the Peace**

■ ■ ■ *The Postlude*

J. S. Bach

Fugue in G (“the jig”)



The crucifer today is Sophie Beal.

In the Beginning
(choir will sing st. 1)

Song here

■ ■ ■ *Parish Notes*

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Karen and Clyde Loughridge in memory of Karen's mother, Arlene Rosengarten; and by Cindy Newton in memory of her father, William Brandt, and her grandmother, Clara Brandt.

Prayer Concerns this Week

Wendy Anderson	Marian Frederick	Jane Little
William Bidelman	Charles Gilbert	Rebecca Martin
Dick Bloomquist	Dorothy Hales	Aiesha Minor
Allen Bloomquist	Jason Himmelsteib	Austin Schwaderer
Ralph and Molly Dise	Carson Kent	Debbie Ungemach
Carolyn Doggett	Katie Kickel	Dennis Wedding
Fran and Pat Drake		Doug, Marcie and Lucy Harvey

We invite you to write prayer requests on a slip of paper from the envelope rack and pass it to an usher during the singing of the middle hymn, to be included in the prayers later in the service.

This Month's Ushers

Kevin Stauffer, Lead Usher; Joe Andrews, Nick Baumgartner, Bill Currie, Kay Currie, Charles Ishler, Jane Ishler, Kate Monaghan, Daryl Musick, Victoria Sampson. Sam Manu, Head Usher

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

■ ■ ■ *Announcements*

TODAY
Welcome Visitors!

Please stop by the Visitor Information table in the Courtyard Foyer following worship. We're looking forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. Visitor welcome bags are available in the foyers and the narthex.

Today's Music

Many thanks to Jane Kowall for penning the hymn text for our closing hymn, "In the Beginning." Jane volunteered to write this poem in order to draw attention to environmental stewardship issues.

Pictures

Your free Life Touch pictures have arrived. Pick yours up from Cathy Ghiandoni in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. Cathy will also schedule portrait sessions for June 8, 9 or 10 for those of you who haven't yet signed up.

Softball

Both Forest Hill softball teams kicked off the season last week. Team A lost two close games against Grace Lutheran 12-10 and 14-13. They were led by Dana Obery who had 7 hits and 2 home runs. This week they play Church of the Saviour 'B' team at 3:30 at Monticello Middle School. The inaugural season of the Forest Hill 'B' team started with two victories over Central Bible Baptist, 14-9 and 17-6. Brian West had 5 hits and Lauren Wyss had 4 to lead the way. This week they play Church of the Redeemer at 3:30 at Roxboro Middle School.

Big Give information

Information about Big Give projects may be found on the website and in the weekly email. Posters and flyers announcing your wares and services may be hung on the dividing wall in Fellowship Hall – look for the little Velcro dots, stick a few on your flyer, and stick 'em up! Be sure to include contact information for you, the seller/provider.

Look for information about the following offers:

- Some participants of the Big Give have combined their monies and purchased a 40" Toshiba flat screen HDTV to raffle off at the Big Give Festival. If anyone would like to assist in selling advanced raffles, please contact Jason Hidek @ 330-284-5007 or jason.hidek@att.net, Chances are \$10 or 3 for \$25.
- Ice Cream Social
- Bake Sale
- Indians tickets
- Hot fudge sauce

THIS WEEK

Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels meets Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Jin Room. All are welcome! The reading for this week is **Acts 4: 5-12.**

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education: 9:30 in South Hall

May 3 and 10

"Who are we? We are Forest Hill Church."

Answering the question, *Who are we and how did we get this way?* will not be complete without a conversation about our own congregation's identity and history. We will have members of our church – long time, middlers, and newbies – discuss their perspectives on our congregation's past and future.

On May 10, Pastors John Lentz and Clover Beal will discuss their visions for our church's life. **Please join us!**

May Cabaret

Our annual *MAY CABARET* will take place next Sunday, May 3rd beginning with a Morag Keefe-prepared supper (yum!) at 6:15 p.m. and continuing with our lively, intergenerational variety show at 7:00. Some highlights this year include: a special appearance by the Heights Barbershop Group, the Descant Choir and Voices in Bronze version of the *Addams Family Theme*, a jump rope competition (hot pepper!), and a return of the much loved Male Ballet (men in tutus are so cute, aren't they?). Barb Cloud is also running an ice cream social at this event (a Big Give idea), so you can purchase your tickets for that in advance or at the event.

Softball

Games are at 6 p.m.: Team A vs Church of the Savior A, Monticello Middle School; Team B vs Hillcrest UMC, Monticello Middle School (*these may be rescheduled to accommodate the May Cabaret*)

LOOKING AHEAD

Lay Readers

Ann Williams is beginning to schedule Lay Readers for June through September. If you would like to join the group of people who lead the call to worship and read the scripture each week, please contact her (216-470-0074).

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (*singles and couples 50 – 70ish*)

The Group will go to the JCC Stonehill Auditorium on Saturday, May 9 for a concert by singer Helen Welch. RSVP by April 28 to Cathy Ghiandoni (216-691-1905) or Pat Musick (440-442-3592). Tickets are \$15.

The Group will also go see the Lake County Captains play on Saturday June 13 at 7:05 p.m. Ticket orders are due May 24 – contact Jane or Chuck Ishler (216-382-7590).

Hilltoppers (*retired singles and couples*)

The Hilltoppers’ annual dinner is on Friday, May 22. We begin with appetizers at the Grubes’ at 5:30 and will come to the church at 7:00 for dinner and entertainment. The cost is \$18 per person. Please call Margaret Sentell by May 17 for reservations (330-528-6171).

Care Group

The Nazareth Care Group is responsible for meeting members’ needs during April. 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 this month’s Care group are:

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| Cindy Newton, Deacon and Leader | Audrey & Bob Kellermeyer |
| Doris Bartlett | Jane & Cliff Kowall |
| Marcia Beck | Barb & Kermit Lind |
| JoAnne Black | Mel, Robin, Amanda and Emily Mervine |
| Deborah Chapman & Lyn Hale | Daryl Musick |
| Ron and Patty Console and family | Dave & Allie Neff |
| Jeff and Holly Daedelow | Eric Rich, Deborah Peters and family |
| Jim and Terry Daedelow | Lois Reilly |
| Pat Drake | Jim Roosa and family |
| Jeannine Gury, Scott Peters and family | Peggy Sasso |
| Jennifer and Barry Hartz | Kevin & Laura Stauffer and family |
| Kathryn Himmelsteib | Megan & Peter Tzefronis and family |
| Jean Izant | Matt & Sarah Winters and family |

■■■ *FHC Youth*

Today: MOB: Mid High, 4:00; Sr High, 5:00

■■■ *The Lessons*

Next Sunday: Acts 4: 5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3: 16-24; John 10: 11-18. As part of your daily devotions, read the lessons. What image or word catches your attention? How do they settle or challenge you? Keep notes of your observations in a journal. Set aside part of each day for prayer and study. The lectionary readings for each Sunday are included in the “Sundays in May” page of the **TOWER**.

■■■ *FHC Staff Emails and Phone Extensions*

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■■■ *Calendar: April 12 – 19, 2009*

Sunday, April 26

3 Easter

- 9:30 Child care begins
Adult and Youth Education
Confirmation class
Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
10:15 Descant Choir activity
10:30 Chancel Choir
Continental Breakfast
11:00 Little Explorers (3 and 4 year olds)
Children in Worship (older 4s, k)
WORSHIP
Pathways to the Promise Land gr. 1-5
12:15 Coffee hour
MOB: Mid Highs to the zoo
1:00 Cello Society Scholarship Competition
3:00 Softball:
A vs Church of the Savior B, MMS
B vs Church of the Redeemer, RMS
5:00 MOB: Sr High
5:30 Parent meeting

Monday, April 27

- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout den (Pack #36)
7:00 p.m. Sycamore Group
7:30 p.m. Borton Group (AA)
Boy Scout Trp #403

Tuesday, April 28

- 7:00 p.m. Cub Scout dens (Pack #36)
MOB: Mid High Bible study

Wednesday, April 29

- 7:30 a.m. Bible and Bagels
7:00 p.m. Min. of Justice and Mission
7:30 p.m. Confirmation Bible study

Thursday, April 30

- 6:20 p.m. Voices in Bronze
7:00 p.m. Living Fit program
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Saturday, May 2

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Spirituality
7:00 p.m. NOAH Banquet (at Shaw HS)

Sunday, May 3

3 Easter

- 9:30 Child care begins
Adult and Youth Education
Confirmation class
Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
10:15 Descant Choir activity
Cherub Choir
10:30 Chancel Choir
Continental Breakfast
11:00 Little Explorers (3 and 4 year olds)
Children in Worship (older 4s, k)
WORSHIP: Communion
Pathways to the Promise Land gr. 1-5
12:15 Coffee hour
Sine Nomine Choir
6:00 Softball:
A vs Church of the Savior A, MMS
B vs Hillcrest UMC, MMS
6:15 May Cabaret:
Dinner, Ice Cream Social, and Show

Isaiah 24: 1-13

Now the LORD is about to lay waste the earth and make it desolate, and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants. And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the slave, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the creditor, so with the debtor. The earth shall be utterly laid waste and utterly despoiled; for the LORD has spoken this word. The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth dwindled, and few people are left. The wine dries up, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh. The mirth of the timbrels is stilled, the noise of the jubilant has ceased, the mirth of the lyre is stilled. No longer do they drink wine with singing; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it. The city of chaos is broken down, every house is shut up so that no one can enter. There is an outcry in the streets for lack of wine; all joy has reached its eventide; the gladness of the earth is banished. Desolation is left in the city, the gates are battered into ruins.

For thus it shall be on the earth and among the nations, as when an olive tree is beaten, as at the gleaning when the grape harvest is ended.

Romans 8: 18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.