

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

Ministry of Music

Anne Wilson, MM, FAGO, ChM

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Service of Worship

November 28, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

First Sunday in the Season of Advent

Celebration of Communion

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*

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Welcome

The Prelude

"Sleepers Awake"

J. S. Bach

The Choral Introit

■■■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and the Call to Worship Jack and Mary Ann Breisch

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming.

People: **We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,**

Leader: and their spears into pruning hooks;

People: **nation shall not lift up sword against nation,**

Leader: neither shall they learn war any more.

People: **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

*** The Processional Hymn No. 9**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

■ ■ ■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. Clover Beal

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

A Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

J. Bell

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

The Assurance of Pardon

***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.*

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

Family Meditation

Liz Wollaeger

The Scripture Lesson (Reni Solaru, lay reader)

Matthew 24:36-44

After the reading

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Advent Weirdness”

The Ritual of Friendship

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

The Offering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

arr. A. Thomas

■ ■ ■ *The Eucharist*

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: **The Lord be with you.**

People: And also with you.

Leader: **Lift up your hearts.**

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Leader: **Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Merbecke

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

(please use debts, debtors)

The Communion of the People

Music During Communion

“Comfort, Comfort You My People” (choir)

Geneva Psalter

Hymn No. 559 (*all sing*)

“We Gather Together”

Prayer after Communion

We have shared the kingdom feast and we await the coming Christ Child. Eternal God, by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

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

*** The Closing Hymn No. 15**

“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

*** The Commission and Blessing**

*** The Choral Benediction**

*** The Passing of the Peace**

■ ■ ■ *The Postlude*

J. S. Bach

“Come, Savior of the Gentiles”



■ ■ ■ *Parish Notes*

Chancel Flowers

The flowers today are given by Betty and Don Clark in honor of their parents, Ray and Irma Clark and Herbert and Betty Fritz; by Elspeth and Richard Peterjohn in memory of Barbara Beesley; and by the Hansen, White and Davidson families in memory of Lamont Hansen.

Prayer Concerns this Week

Prayers are requested this week for the following:

Bill Burcham, Pam Conover, George Dean, Robert Eaton, Joy Ferguson, Merdine T. Morris, Arlene Quinn, Debbie Ungemach, Ted Woodbridge

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Ralph Dise, Pat and Fran Drake, Rose Eaton, Marilyn Gifford, Mary Jean Kent, Elizabeth Kosnik, Mary Lewis, Joyce Peters

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. Lists of ongoing prayer concerns are in each month’s **TOWER**.

Welcome to the newest members of the FHC family – Brendan Haas West, son of Brian and Becky West, who was born November 20. Brendan joins brothers Charlie and Jude as well as grandparents Sandy Schultz and Walter Schultz; Sandy reports that he was born on the birthday of his great grandmother, Mignon Emily Haas Schultz, who was a member of Forest Hill Church. **Peyton Marie Yoe**, daughter of Robert and Julie Ann Yoe, was also born November 20. All are reported to be doing well! Congratulations!

This Month’s Ushers

Roger Heineman, Lead and Head Usher; Robyn Hales, Paula Harvey, Tom Harvey, Jason Hidek, Diane McFiggen, Tom McFiggen, Dick Peterjohn (assistant lead), Chuck Smith.

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.

Visitors and newer members – If you have a few minutes after church and would like to meet and get to know other members of Forest Hill Church, come to **Connections Corner** in Fellowship Hall. Look for the table to the left as you enter the room. Come for coffee, a tasty treat, conversation and connection!

Art Exhibit

The exhibit of works by Daryl Musick is open in the chapel after worship. This is the final day of the show.

Steel Drums

The steel drums have arrived! A group will be formed in January to learn how to play them. Please contact Anne Wilson (annew@fhcpresb.org) if you are interested.

Mini Holiday Bazaar

The Pathways to the Promise Land children will be having a mini holiday bazaar today after worship. Proceeds will go towards their mission opportunity, Bright Stars of Bethlehem. All items have been made in Pathways workshops. Please stop by the table in Fellowship Hall and support the children’s efforts.

THIS WEEK

Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels will meet Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Jin Room. All are welcome! The lesson this week is **Matthew 3: 1-12**.

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education: Mary, Mother of God, for Protestants

Dec. 5: **Medieval Music and Marian Devotion**

Dr. David Rothenberg, Assistant Professor of Music at CWRU will give a lecture called "Lady of the Heavenly Court: Secular Love Songs and Devotion to the Virgin in Fifteenth-Century Music and Art." This will draw on material in his book, *The Flower of Paradise: Marian Devotion and Secular Song in Medieval and Renaissance Music*, which will be out this spring from Oxford University Press. David has been a guest lecturer before at FHC and has been enthusiastically received. He's a gifted teacher. Please join us for the second lecture in our series on Mary, Mother of God, for Protestants.

Dec. 12: **Depictions of Mary in Sacred Art**

Dr. Tim Beal, CWRU

Dec. 19: **Mary in Contemporary Theology and Spirituality**

Dr. Natalie Weaver

LOOKING AHEAD

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (singles and couples 60s – 70s)

The Group's Christmas Potluck will be held at the home of Joe and Betsy Andrews, 2740 Fairmount Blvd., on Saturday, Dec. 11 starting at 6:00 p.m. We will collect gifts for a Boulevard School family. Please contact Cathy Ghiandoni (216-691-1905 or cgghiandoni@aol.com) for reservations and food and gift assignments.

Iris Circle (all women of the church)

Iris Circle invites all women of the church to join us for a Christmas Potluck on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in Bodwell Hall. We will rejoice in the season and enjoy the fellowship of women from Forest Hill Church. After our potluck we will attend the Women's Lessons and Carols service in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m. Come join us for good food, fellowship and a unique service. Any questions, please contact Karen Loughridge (karengr3@gmail.com or 216-831-1759) or Cathy Ghiandoni (216-691-1905 or cgghiandoni@aol.com).

Care Group

The Corinth Care Group is responsible for meeting members' needs during November. 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:

Robin Mervine, Deacon

Kate Monaghan

Joan Bacon

Margery & James Nokes

Molly Bergman

Linn & Melody Obery

John & Patricia Borthwick

David & Susanne Peterjohn & family

Ed Briskey

Bill Proudfit

Jeffrey & Kathy Cameron

Susan & Randy Reese & family

Barbara Cloud & family

Ron Schmidt

Joy Ferguson

Sandy Schultz

Kurt Haas & Dee Dee Pim

Dan & Joanne Shaner & family

Robert & Lisa Higgs & family

Vincent Taylor & family

Brian & Tish Klein & family

Bobbi van Dijk

John & Deanne Lentz & family

Kevin & Jill White & family

Tom & Diane McFiggen

Dene Young

Robin & Mel Mervine & family

Today's CARE Group volunteers: : Ellen McCumber, David Schellenberg (Coffee Hour); Rosaneil Schenk and Betty Clark (Greeting Cards); Evan Tuttle, Demo Solaru (Greeters)

■■■ Youth News

Today Please bring \$3 for pizza.

Senior Highs will meet today from 5 – 7 p.m.

Looking Ahead

Sunday, December 12: MOB – Sr High, 5 – 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 19: Christmas Party for all youth – 6-8 p.m.

■■■ The Lessons

Next Sunday: Isaiah 11: 1-10; Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19; Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12. 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.

■■■ *FHC Staff Emails and Phone Extensions*

Program Staff

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2011 Stewardship Campaign Update

“More Than Enough”

Pledge Goals	255 Pledges	\$650,000
Current Pledge Total	167 Pledges	\$461,507
Progress towards Goals	73%	71%

Urgent Need! Our current forecast pledge total will leave us over \$100,000 short of our goal. Unless resolved, this shortfall will require severe and substantial budget cuts.

We have 41 current pledges totaling \$78,000 which haven't yet been renewed – please turn your pledge cards in today.

We are running significantly short of goal on new pledges (19 pledges vs. a goal of 55 pledges). If you are able, please start a tradition of pledging to support Forest Hill Church this year – your support is truly needed.

Calendar: November 28 – December 5, 2010

<p>Sunday, November 28: 1 Advent 9:15 Child care begins 9:30 Adult and Youth Education Descant Choir 10:15 Descant Choir Activity 10:30 Chancel Choir Continental Breakfast 11:00 WORSHIP: Communion <i>Pathways children will attend worship with their families today</i> Children in Worship Little Explorers 12:15 Coffee Hour Pathways: Christmas Bazaar Sine Nomine Choir 5:00 Kerygma Faith Leader</p> <p>Monday, November 29 6:00 p.m. Progress not Perfection (AI Anon) 7:00 p.m. AI Anon Cub Scout Pack #36 (dens) 7:30 p.m. Borton Group (AA) Boy Scout Troop #403</p> <p>Tuesday, November 30 7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #36 (dens)</p> <p>Wednesday, December 1 7:30 a.m. Bible & Bagels 5:45 p.m. Yoga</p>	<p>Thursday, December 2 6:20 p.m. Voices in Bronze 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir</p> <p>Friday, December 3 5:00 p.m. Cub Scout Camp-in</p> <p>Saturday, December 4 8:00 a.m. Men's Group 9:00 a.m. Excell: Pancake Breakfast</p> <p>Sunday, December 5 9:15 Child care begins 9:30 Adult and Youth Education Descant Choir 10:15 Descant Choir Activity 10:30 Chancel Choir Cherub Choir Continental Breakfast 11:00 WORSHIP Children in Worship Little Explorers 11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land 12:15 Coffee Hour / Lunch 12:45 The Advent Workshop 5:00 Kerygma Faith Leader IHN Hosting begins</p>
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Matthew 24:36-44

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Poinsettias for Christmas

Once again we are ordering poinsettias for the sanctuary. If you would like to order one or more (they are \$7 each), please complete this form and put it in the offering, or contact the church office, by December 6:

Your name

In whose honor or memory are you donating the flowers?

In honor of

In memory of

Number of plants

Do you want to take your poinsettia home, or donate it?

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on December 19 and on Christmas Eve. They may be taken after the candlelight service on Christmas Eve or on December 26.

Calling All Angels

For several years, Forest Hill Church members have supported several Boulevard School families with holiday gifts, bringing a little joy into their holiday season. In recent years, we have expanded our support to New Life Community and Heights Interfaith Council. This year we will also be supporting the Interfaith Hospitality Network. On Sunday, November 21, tree ornaments will be available on the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall.

- Each ornament will contain directions and a gift description (type of gift, age and size of child, if needed).
- Before or after church, please take one of the ornaments off the tree and **register the code number** with the volunteer next to the tree.
- PLEASE NOTE, a few gifts are due back to the church by Dec. 2 while others are due back by Dec. 12.
- The directions will indicate if your gift needs to be wrapped or left unwrapped.
- To help with delivering the right gift to the correct child/location, **please attach the portion of the ornament with the gift description to the gift.**
- Please place your gift on the stage in Fellowship Hall. We will deliver all the gifts to the appropriate locations.

If you would prefer to make a financial donation, you may put cash or check made to Forest Hill Church in the offering plate with the notation Holiday Angels. Financial gifts will be used to purchase grocery certificates for the families. For more information regarding the organizations we are supporting, please see any member of the Justice and Mission Ministry.

Blessings to you this holiday season, and thank you!

Joanne Shaner, coordinator

