

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

Parish Associate
Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig

Ministry of Music
Anne Wilson, MM, FAGO, ChM

Director of Christian Education
Liz Wollaeger. CACE

Director of Youth Ministries
Kristen Otte

3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts OH 44118
216-321-2660
Fax: 216-320-1214
Email: office@fhcpresb.org
Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Service of Worship

September 25, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

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*

In this time before worship may I open myself to you, O God. Liberate me from the slavery of expectation. Birth in me a response to your grace. Restore a balance in me and reclaim me as your own. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Welcome

Prelude

"Prelude in B Minor"

R. Schumann

Choral Introit

■■■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

Call to Worship

Lynn Bayer

Leader: In the beginning, when it was very dark, God said: "Let there be light."

People: And there was light.

(The sign of light – a lighted candle is placed on the table)

Leader: In the beginning, when it was very quiet, the Word was with God.

People: And what God was, the word was.

(The sign of the Word – an open Bible is placed on the lectern)

Leader: When the time was right God sent the Son.

People: He came among us. He was one of us.

(The sign of the Son – a cross is placed on the table)

Leader: Let us worship God.

* Processional Hymn No. 275

“God of Our Life”

■ ■ ■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Clover Beal

Leader: O Trinity of love, God in community, holy and one, look now on us who look to you,

People: And hear our prayer.

Leader: Where there is falseness,
Where there is coldness,
Where there is joy and hope,
And make us one.

**People: Smother it by your truth.
Kindle the flame of your love.
Free us to share it together.
As you are one.**

Leader: Before God and you who are near me, I release anything I hold against you; I regret all I have done to harm you; I stand beside the wrong in my life and ask God’s forgiveness.

People: Before God and you who are near, we release anything we hold against one another; we regret all the harm we have done; we stand beside the wrong in our lives and ask for God’s forgiveness.

“Make Us One,” from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

India

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

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Jesus says to each of us: “Go and sin no more, come and follow me.” Now bind our hands with honesty as we offer them to each other and our prayer to you.

The Lord’s Prayer

please use debts, debtors

*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.

Anthem

American Folk Song

“All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir”

Descant Choir

soloists: Pastor Lentz, Chloe Birdsell, Will Burleigh, Colin Burleigh, Zoe Hartz

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

Family Meditation

Liz Wollaeger

* Hymn

“A Mother Lined a Basket”

Children in Pathways may leave during the hymn

Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 1: 8-22

After the reading

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Dr. John Lentz

“Birthin’ Babies”

Prayers of the People

Ritual of Friendship

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

Offertory

J. Elliott

“Somebody’s Prayin’”

Beth Zych, soprano

*** 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*

*** Closing Hymn No. 411**

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

*** Commission and Blessing**

*** Choral Benediction**

*** Passing of the Peace**

■ ■ ■ *Postlude*

J. S. Bach

“Prelude in A Major”



■ ■ ■ *Parish Notes*

Chancel Flowers

The flowers this Sunday are given by Kate Monaghan in celebration and welcome to our visitors and guests this morning; by Marge Drollinger in honor of John and Deanne Lentz’s 25th anniversary; and by Margaret and George Sentell in memory of their parents.

Prayer Concerns this Week

Prayers are requested this week for the following:

Don Clark, George Dean, Bill Ferguson, Joy Ferguson, Dorothy Hales, Sharon Shumaker, Debbie Ungemach

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Bob Bielek, Pat and Fran Drake, Rose Eaton, Betty Farnfield, Marilyn Gifford, Elizabeth Kosnik, Merdine T. Morris, Marilyn Oviatt, Joyce Peters, Millie Skeivis, Anne Taylor

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**.

This Month’s Ushers

Scott Peters, Lead Usher; Tish Van Beers-Klein, assistant lead; Amy Davis, Chris Davis, Scott Duncan, Jean Duncan, Brian Klein, Jim Roosa, Ayodele Solaru. Roger Heineman, 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.

Please pick up your TOWER in the Garden Foyer!

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 lesson this week is **Exodus 3: 1-15**.

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education, 9:30: Kerygma Bible Study

The lesson for October 2 is Exodus 3: 1-15.

LOOKING AHEAD

Care Group

The Canaan Care Group is responsible for meeting members' needs during September. 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:

Joy Stang, Deacon leader	Ginie Mast
Mark Chupp, Sharon Shumaker & family	Laurie & Eric Muller-Girard & family
Lisa Chuppa	Jeanette Nemcek
Robin Craig	Vikki Nowak, Todd Webster & family
Chris & Amy Davis & family	John Prentice
Bob & Joanne Dawson	Margaret & George Sentell
Muriel & George Dean	Franklin & Naana Soadwa
Val Flechtner	Chuck & Rosanna Sprague
Beth & Bill Forsythe & family	Anne Taylor
Cathy & Don Ghiandoni	Debbie & Don Ungemach & family
Allen & Zivile Khoury	LeAnn West
Lisa & Jed Koops	Peggy Yeager
Laurie & Keith Logan & family	

Exploring Membership

The next class will be held October 15-16. Please contact the church office if you are interested in attending (see the **TOWER** for more information).

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (singles and couples, 60s-70s)

The Group will gather at The Cleveland Institute of Music on October 28 at 7:30 pm for a concert in Mixon Hall. We will hear CIM pianist Sergei Babayan in a recital featuring music of Tchaikovsky and other favorite composers. The concert is free but requires seating passes which will go quickly. RSVP to Anne Hunter (anneshunter8@gmail.com) to reserve your seat.

Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering (all women of the church)

Presbyterian Women from throughout the Presbytery of the Western Reserve are invited to a Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 8, 2011 from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm at Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Hts. Jinny McCook from the Synod will speak on the mission trip to a Native American reservation. Morning coffee and lunch will be served. To register, please send a check for \$8.00 to: Nancy Sabo, 2020 Tillotson Rd., Ashtabula, Ohio 44001

■■■ **Youth News**

Today: Mid and Sr High classes meet from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Sine Nomine Choir will rehearse in the Chapel after worship.

Thursday: Sr High Group Development @ Kristen's, 7:00 pm

Looking Ahead: Watch the **TOWER** and your email for October activities

■■■ **The Lessons**

Next Sunday: Exodus 3: 1-15. As part of your daily devotions, read the lesson. 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. Links to the readings for each Sunday appear on the church's Facebook page, the **Upcoming Sundays** page of our website (<http://www.fhcpresb.org/worship-music/upcoming-sundays/>), and on the "Sundays in October" page of the **TOWER**.

■ ■ ■ *FHC Staff Emails and Phone Extensions*

Program Staff

Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr. / pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org ext. 200
 Rev. Clover Beal / pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org ext 201
 Liz Wollaeger / lizw@fhcpresb.org ext. 206
 Anne Wilson / annew@fhcpresb.org ext. 208
 Kristen Otte / kristeno@fhcpresb.org ext. 207

Office Staff

Becky Austin / beckya@fhcpresb.org ext 203
 Lynda Bernays / office@fhcpresb.org ext 202
 Stavros Gazis / office@fhcpresb.org ext 202

Exodus 1: 8-22

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

■ ■ ■ *Calendar: September 25 - October 1, 2011*

<p>Sunday, September 25 9:00 Child care begins 9:30 Descant Choir Adult and Youth Education Descant Choir 10:15 Descant Choir activity Cherub Choir 10:30 Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir 11:00 WORSHIP Children in Worship Little Explorers 11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land 12:15 Coffee Hour Sine Nomine choir 1:00 Racial Conversations: Closing Retreat 5:00 Kerygma class Faith Leader</p> <p>Monday, September 26 5:00 pm PWR Meeting (Wickliffe PC) 6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA) 7:00 pm Al Anon Boy Scout Troop #403 7:30 pm Borton Group (AA)</p> <p>Tuesday, September 27 6:00 pm Discernment Task Force 6:30 pm Kerygma class 7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #36: Dens</p>	<p>Wednesday, September 28 7:15 am Bible and Bagels</p> <p>Thursday, September 29 7:00 pm Youth: Sr High Group Development @ Kristen's 6:20 pm Voices in Bronze 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>Friday, September 30 9:30 am Al Anon</p> <p>Saturday, October 1 8:00 am Men's Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, October 2 World Communion and Peacemaking Sunday</p> <p>9:00 Child care begins 9:30 Descant Choir Adult and Youth Education Descant Choir 10:15 Descant Choir activity 10:30 Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir 11:00 WORSHIP: Communion Children in Worship Little Explorers 12:15 Coffee Hour 12:30 20s-30s Lunch 5:00 Kerygma class Faith Leader</p>
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October 2: World Communion and Peacemaking Sunday

Lend your mementos and enrich our worship!

World Communion Sunday is intended to remind us of our rich connections to Christians in other parts of the world. This year, for the October 2 service, we would like *you* to participate in that remembrance... by loaning whatever *visible* objects, pictures, and mementos you would care to offer for public display during World Communion Sunday worship. This “enhanced worship exhibition” will be set up on Saturday (by Ministry of Worship volunteers) and will take place *in the sanctuary*, as a part of our worship on Sunday morning.

Each loaned object should

- be visually appealing and/or interesting -- and somehow relate to your own sense of the worldwide church (objects of all sizes, colors and descriptions are welcome and encouraged!)
- be accompanied by an *attached* 3 x 5 index card -- which includes the owner's name and briefly expresses how it symbolizes, or reminds you of, its connection to Christians in other parts of the world
- not be unduly fragile, irreplaceable or precious. (*Those setting up the display agree to take very prudent care of the objects loaned, however, those loaning the objects agree to do so with the understanding that the church and its volunteers cannot be held responsible for any accidental loss or damage that may be beyond their control.*)

Logistical details

- No more than two contributions per person, please.
- Loaned objects (with cards attached) should be left in the Lee Blvd. transept of the sanctuary on September 28, 29 or 30 (the office is open 8:30 – 5; please call for other times)
- After the October 2 worship service, loaned objects should be picked up by their owners; 12:45-ish at the earliest.
- Questions? Contact Elder Eric Muller-Girard: 216-752-7006 or Multimg@wowway.com

Peacemaking - Far and Near “A harvest of justice is sown in peace” (James 3:18)

The Peacemaking Offering, to be received on World Communion Sunday, October 2, supports efforts of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and our Ministry at the United Nations work for the protection of individual integrity and human rights, for elimination of poverty and homelessness, and to halt open warfare and abate violence in many forms.

The Peacemaking Offering also allows congregations to designate one-quarter of the funds collected for some local project. This year, we will support the Home Repair Resource Center. Longtime church members will recall that in 1971, following an adult education class, the church created a nonprofit Housing Corporation as a faithful response to racial tensions and "white flight" that characterized Cleveland Heights at the time. The thinking was that by ensuring the upkeep of the community's older housing stock, property values would be maintained, and peaceful racial integration and economic stability would more likely succeed.

In the four decades since that seed was planted, the Forest Hill Church Housing Corporation – now the Home Repair Resource Center – grew into a broad-based community housing organization. It made good on its initial goal of building community confidence, facilitating about \$14 million in repairs to Cleveland Heights homes, and enabling hundreds of homeowners to respond positively to their housing maintenance needs with financing and hands-on training. More recently, HRRC began offering foreclosure prevention counseling for those with distressed mortgages, and has been rehabilitating vacant Cleveland Heights homes for resale to new owner occupants. HRRC continues "to support the community's rich diversity" through its multi-faceted work.

Forty years is a long time – whether in the wilderness or in a community. On World Communion Sunday we will celebrate the faithfulness of this unique Peacemaking ministry created and supported by Forest Hill in worship, by our offering, and with personal reflections and refreshments following the service in Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

Elder Dick Obermanns