

**Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian**  
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Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor  
Rev. Clover Reuter Beal, Assoc. Pastor  
Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Parish Assoc.

Anne Wilson, Ministry of Music  
Liz Wollaeger, Dir. Of Chr. Education  
Kristen Otte, Director of Youth Ministries

*Service of Worship*  
*December 4, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.*

*The Second Sunday in the Season of Advent*

*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*

On the mountains, in the cities, through the corridors of power and streets of despair, to help, to heal, to confront, to convert, O come, O come, Emmanuel.

**Welcome**

**Choral Introit**

■■■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

**Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle by the founding members of the Race Conversation Group**

**Leader:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

**Leader:** A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and or power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

**People: He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.**

**Leader:** In that day he will bring peace to the earth. The wolf will live with the lamb and the leopard will lie down with the goat. No one will harm or destroy another, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord.

**People:** Until that day we are called to live as Children of Peace, as ones who turn from the darkness of sin and death and walk by the light and in the spirit that God gives.

*The first and second candles are lit*

**Leader:** Loving God, we thank you for the light that you have sent and are sending into the world, the light that even now lights our path. Come among us and grant to us hearts that are humble and ready to receive your peace. Reveal to us your glory and comfort all your people. Fill us with your Spirit as we await the One in whom we hope. Amen.

\* **Processional Hymn No. 5**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

■ ■ ■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

**Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Clover Beal

**Leader:** Prepare the way of the Lord; make a path for our God in the desert.

**People:** Each valley shall be exalted; every mountain shall be laid low.

**Leader:** The crooked shall be made straight; rough places shall become plain.

**People:** O God, before you and one another we acknowledge our crooked and rough places.

**Time of Silent Confession**

**Kyrie eleison** (*Lord, have mercy*)

Felciano

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

**Assurance of Pardon**

\* **Gloria, Gloria No. 576**

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

*2<sup>nd</sup> time, men begin; women begin 2 measures later;*

*Children and youth begin 2 measures after that.*

**Anthem**

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

J. Bell

**Minute for Mission**

Doris Allen, Mark Chupp

“Racial Conversation Follow-up”

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

\* **Hymn No. 30**

“Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”

*Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn*

**Scripture Lesson**

Isaiah 40: 1-11

*After the reading*

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

Dr. John Lentz

“A Comforting Thought”

**Prayers of the People**

**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.**

**Ritual of Friendship**

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

**Offertory**

G. F. Handel

“O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion”

Mist’a Craig, countertenor

\* **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. 13**

“Prepare the Way”

\* Commission and Blessing

\* Choral Benediction

\* Passing of the Peace

■ ■ ■ *Postlude*

E. Pepping

“God’s Son Is Coming Soon”



■ ■ ■ *Parish Notes*

Many thanks to the Advent trumpeters, Scott Lafferty and Ahren Stock.

**Congratulations to Michelle Jean-Mary**, who was approved for Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of the Western Reserve on Monday, November 28. Michelle is currently a chaplain at the Cleveland Clinic. Michelle and her husband Ralph (who joined FHC recently and is involved in Faith Leaders) are actively engaged in the life of Forest Hill Church.

**Chancel Flowers**

The flowers today are given by the Dise family in loving memory of their sister, Ann Mercer Dise, and parents, Ralph and Molly Dise; and by Bobbi and Peter Van Dijk in loving memory of Millie and Edward Skeivis and Marilyn Skeivis Dougherty.

**Prayer Concerns this Week**

Don Clark, Bill Currie, Robin Craig, Ron and Florence Klein, Sharon Shumaker, Debbie Ungemach, Johanna Wilcott

**Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:**

Bob Bielek, Pat and Fran Drake, Rose Eaton, Betty Farnfield, Marilyn Gifford, Dorothy Hales, Elizabeth Kosnik, Merdine T. Morris, Marilyn Oviatt, Joyce Peters, 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.

**The Advent Candles**

The Advent “family” this week is Doris Allen, Mark Chupp, Ron Register and John Lentz, the four founding members of the Race Conversation Group. Forest Hill Church defines “family” in an inclusive and diverse way. We celebrate our call to be sisters and brothers in Christ.

**Today Is Hunger Sunday**

Any cash or checks in envelopes marked **Hunger** will be used 100% for support of hunger programs. Each month we send the money to the Heights Emergency Food Cupboard (Disciples Church, Cleveland Hts.), the New Covenant Lutheran Church Hunger Center (East Cleveland), and the Presbyterian Hunger Program in Haiti.

**Advent Workshop**

The annual intergenerational Advent Workshop is this afternoon. Stay for lunch and join us in making some Advent and Christmas decorations.

### **Holiday Angels**

There are still opportunities to participate in the Holiday Angels program this year. All you need to do is take an ornament off the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall and follow the directions on the label. The ornaments which remain support families at Boulevard School in Cleveland Heights (designated with a BF on the tag) or the Holiday Shop operated by Family Promise (designated with a FP on the tag). The Holiday Shop provides past and present Family Promise (IHN / New Life) families to choose gifts for their family members. If you have any questions about our Holiday Angels program, please contact Joanne Shaner at [joanne@shaner.cc](mailto:joanne@shaner.cc) or 440-796-5540. Thank you for your generosity.

### **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 lessons this week are **Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11** and **John 1: 6-8, 19-28**.

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

#### **Adult Education, 9:30 in South Hall**

On December 11 and 18, Barry Hartz will facilitate discussions entitled "From Longing to Receiving: An Advent Study," based on the Advent lectionary texts.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### **Social Groups and Circles**

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

The Group will gather for a Christmas pot luck dinner at the home of Joe and Betsy Andrews, 2740 Fairmount Blvd. Cleveland Heights, **Friday, December 9** at 6:00 pm. (Note that this is a change from the **TOWER** announcement.) Appetizers, salads, vegetables and desserts are needed. Main course provided. We will collect gifts for the Boulevard School family we are helping this year. Contact Cathy Ghiandoni at 216 691-1905 or [cgghiandoni@aol.com](mailto:cgghiandoni@aol.com) for reservations and more information about the gift-giving.

##### **Pacesetters (singles and couples, 35 – 60s)**

Thanksgiving is over, the turkey is cold, but do not think you are growing old. The Pacesetter party is drawing nigh...I am telling the truth, I do not lie. December the 10th, come around 6:30 (John will make you leave by 10) Bring wrapped treasure to share... But not too dirty!

Just call Deanne - she'll tell you what to bring and what to do,

But above all else come, because we want YOU!

(if you are between the ages of 35-60ish....)

Christmas Party at the Lentzes' – 1619 Compton, CH – December 10, 6:30 - 10

RSVP: 216-371-8470 or [Lentz.deanne@gmail.com](mailto:Lentz.deanne@gmail.com)

##### **The Back Row (singles and couples 20s – 40s)**

Ho Ho Ho! Mark your calendar for the Back Row Annual Christmas Party! Plan to join us December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at the home of the Hideks, 5284 Golfway Lane, Lyndhurst 44124. Please bring an appetizer to share and any special drinks you may want. Book your babysitters now so that you can enjoy some adult-only social time! Contact Christina Hidek ([christina.hidek@gmail.com](mailto:christina.hidek@gmail.com) or 440-646-9093).

##### **Care Group**

The YOU CARE Group – all members of the church – are responsible for meeting needs that arise this month. 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.

This week's YOU CARE volunteers: Continental Breakfast - Chessie Bleick; Greeters - Cathy Ghiandoni, Jon Wm Newton; Coffee Hour - Anne Hunter; Greeting Cards - Betty Clark; Flower Delivery - Jon Newton

##### **■ ■ ■ Youth News**

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

**Looking Ahead:** Sr High Christmas Party – December 18, 5 – 8 pm at Kristen's.

■ ■ ■ *The Lessons*

**Next Sunday: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28.** 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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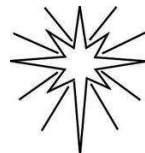
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**Advent and Christmas Worship**

Dec. 18 Festival of Lessons and Carols, 11 am  
 Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve**  
 Family Worship, 5 pm  
 Candlelight Worship, 11 pm (music at 10:45)  
 Milk-and-cookies reception following worship  
 Dec. 25 **Christmas:** No classes or choirs  
 Informal worship, 11 am in Fellowship Hall  
 Jan. 1 **New Year's Day:** No classes or choirs  
 Informal worship, 11 am in Fellowship Hall



■ ■ ■ *Calendar: December 4 - 11, 2011*

<p><b>Sunday, December 4</b>  <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>                  9:00 Child care begins                  9:30 Descant Choir                  Adult and Youth Education                  Descant Choir                  10:15 Descant Choir activity                  10:30 Continental Breakfast                  11:00 WORSHIP                  Children in Worship                  Little Explorers                  Pathways to the Promise Land                  12:15 Lunch                  1:00 Advent Workshop                  5:00 Faith Leader</p> <p><b>Monday, December 5</b>                  9:30 am PWR Committee mtg                  6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA)                  7:00 pm Al Anon                  Boy Scout Troop #403                  Youth Core Team                  7:30 pm Borton Group (AA)</p> <p><b>Tuesday December 6</b>                  7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack #36</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 7</b>                  7:15 am Bible and Bagels                  7:00 pm Ministry meetings</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 8</b>                  6:20 pm Voices in Bronze                  7:30 pm Chancel Choir                  Forest Hill Swim Club</p>	<p><b>Friday, December 9</b>  <b>7:00 am TOWER deadline</b>                  9:30 am Al Anon                  6:00 pm The Group: Potluck Christmas party</p> <p><b>Saturday, December 10</b>                  12:00 pm VASA Lucia Festival                  6:30 pm Pacettters: Christmas party                  7:30 pm Back Row: Christmas party</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 11</b>  <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>Christmas poinsettia orders due</b>                  9:00 Child care begins                  9:30 Descant Choir                  Adult and Youth Education                  Descant Choir                  10:15 Descant Choir activity                  10:30 Continental Breakfast                  11:00 WORSHIP: Baptism of                  Eloise Dus-Jastremsky                  Children in Worship                  Little Explorers                  11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land                  12:15 Coffee Hour                  Sine Nomine Choir                  12:30 Racial conversation follow-up                  5:00 Faith Leader                  7:00 Youth: <b>CONVERGE</b> at                  First Baptist Church</p>
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**Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.



**Order poinsettias for Christmas!**

Poinsettias are \$7.00 each and may be ordered through December 11. Please complete the order form below and contact the church office with the information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Plants given by (if different from above name):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to donate them or take them home after the Christmas Eve service?  D  T

Plants given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Total : \_\_\_\_\_ plants @ \$7 each = \_\_\_\_\_