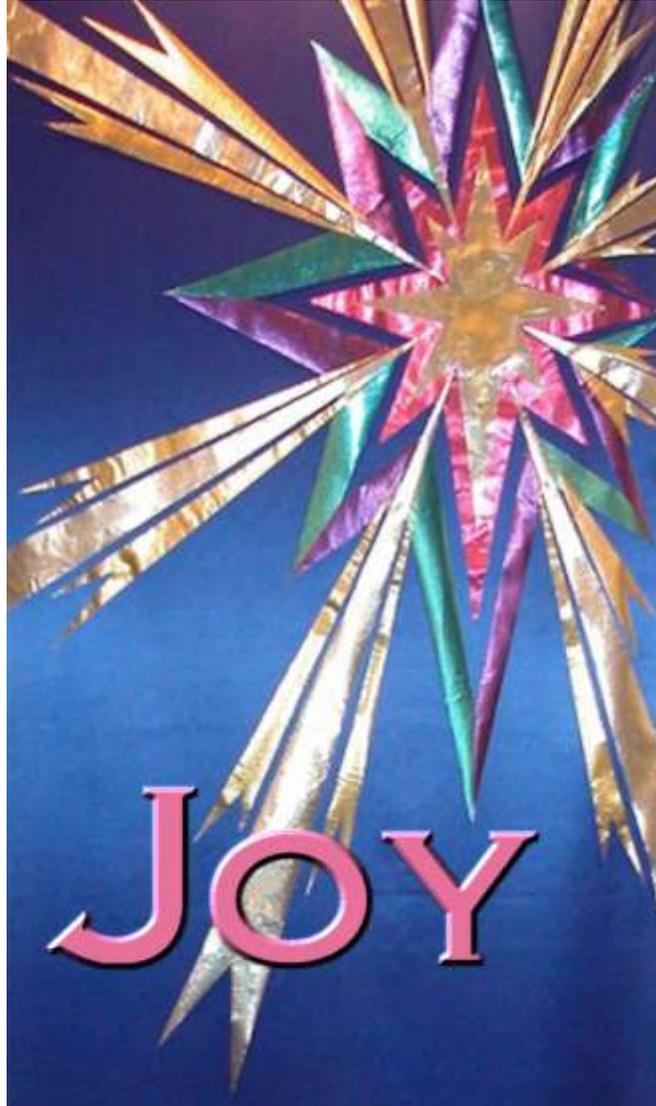


Forest Hill Church

presbyterian



3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts OH 44118

216-321-2660

Email: office@fhcpresb.org

Website: www.fhcpresb.org

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor
Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig, Parish Assoc.
Rev. Lois Annich, Interim Assoc. Pastor
Rachel McDonald, Interim Assoc. Pastor

Anne Wilson, Director of Music
Kate Burleigh, Dir. of Children's Ministries
Shannon Headen, Dir. of Youth Ministries

*Forest Hill Church seeks to be diverse, inclusive and welcoming.
All God's children have a place in this choir!*

Service of Worship
December 13, 2015 at 11:00 am

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today for worship.

If you are visiting, please join us in wearing a name tag so that we might greet you.

Our ushers have hearing devices, large print editions of the bulletin, activity bags for children staying in worship, and directions to our nursery for babies and young children.

Prayer of Preparation

In this hour of worship, let me let go. Allow me to be still and know that You are God. Settle me so that I may hear good news of great joy. Comfort me, afflict me; whatever it is you know I need. In the name of Jesus, I pray.

Welcome

Prelude

English trad., arr. Laura Page

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

Voices in Bronze

Choral Introit

African American spiritual

“There’s a Star in the East (Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow)”

Cherub Choir; Lisa Koops, director

Greeting Our God with Joy

Call to Worship

The Sampson family

Leader: Christ draws near.

People: A new day is dawning.

Leader: God’s kingdom is here.

People: A new day is dawning.

Leader: It’s time to wake up.

People: A new day is dawning.

Leader: Christ draws near.

People: A new day is dawning.

The Advent Candles are lit

* **Processional Hymn No. 141** “On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

**please stand if able*

Renewing Our Relationship with God

Prayer of Confession

We confess that it is hard to prepare for you, Jesus. There are too many distractions. Terror and fear surround us. We are divided and not at peace. It feels as if nothing ever really changes in our world, or in our hearts. But it was to just such a world that you came. It was to just such a world that you saved. It was to just such a people that you forgave. Help us not give up hope, but to press on into the light of your love, forgiveness and power. AMEN.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

John Merbecke

Affirming the Good News in Our Lives

Assurance of Pardon

* **Alleluia**

Jeannette Sorrell

5 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Al -
- le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Anthem

English traditional

“The Seven Joys of Mary”

Descant Choir

Opening Our Hearts to God's Word

Family Meditation

Rev. Lois Annich

* **Hymn No. 123**

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

stanzas 1, 3, 5

Children in Pathways may leave during the hymn

Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 12: 2-6 *(to be read responsively)*

Rosanna Sprague, lay reader

Leader: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid,

People: For the Lord God is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.

Leader: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

People: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that God's name is exalted.

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, for God has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

People: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear

good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Just Do It”

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

Offertory

French tune, arr. David Wilcocks

“Ding Dong, Merrily on High”

* 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. 127

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing... Jesus, the Light of the World”

* Commission and Blessing

* Choral Benediction

* Passing of the Peace

Postlude

J. S. Bach

“In dulci jubilo”



Welcome Visitors!

We look forward to greeting you and answering any questions you may have. Visitor welcome bags are available in the foyers and the narthex. Take one home with you! Be sure to visit our website, **www.fhcpresb.org**, to find a complete list of upcoming events, education programs for all ages, and texts and audio of past sermons.

Congregational Notes

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by the Khoury family in memory of Brian; by Paula Bodwell Harvey and Tom Harvey in loving memory of Paula's parents, George and Ginny Bodwell, and Tom's parents, Mary and Robert Harvey; and by Consuelo Heineman to celebrate Grant and Roger's birthdays.

Prayer Concerns this Week

Prayers are requested this week for the following:

Lucy Conde, Doris Brandt, Marge Drollinger, Carol Himmelsteib, Mary Hosier, Chuck Ishler, Shelly Jesberger, Mary Lewis, Mel Mervine, Dorothy Turick, Debbie Ungemach, and Robert Vandall.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Bill Currie, Betty Farnfield, Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, Jack Quinn, George Sentell, Margie & Dwight Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas.

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.

Thank you to head usher Roger Heineman and today's ushers. Please contact the church office if you are interested in joining an usher team.

Announcements

TODAY

Thanks to today's Advent Family: Sampson Tedunjaiye, Victoria, Iyabo and Mercy Sampson.

Pilgrimage to Memphis, TN

You are invited to join us in Bodwell Hall TODAY at 12:30 to learn more about our Spiritual/Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Memphis from April 14 – 17, 2016. All adults and teenagers are welcome to join us; please invite anyone else you think might be interested. Planners Barb Cloud, Ron Register and Kermit Lind will talk about the itinerary, costs and other information. We look forward to having you join us.

THIS WEEK

Advent Art Series for Young Adults

Young Adults (you know if you qualify) are invited to drop in for the final art session on December 15 to listen to Christmas music and enjoy some low-stress craft time. Contact Rachel McDonald (rachelm@fhcpresb.org) for more information.

Bible and Bagels

Bible and Bagels meets Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 am in the Jin Room. All are welcome! The lesson this week is from **Luke 1**.

NEXT SUNDAY

Amahl and the Night Visitors will be presented next Sunday during worship at 11 am, and at 7 pm (see p. 12)

Adult Education, 9:30 in South Hall

All are invited to the Advent Adult Education series, which concludes next Sunday with “The Baby Jesus: Vulnerability and Need Incarnated.”

The guest lecturer is Natalie Kertes Weaver, Ph.D., Chair and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Ursuline College and the director of the Humanities program. We are delighted to welcome her back to Forest Hill!

Labre Project

Warm, gently-used clothing and accessories – coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, blankets for men, women and children – are appreciated for the Labre Project in East Cleveland. Please leave donations in the bin in Fellowship Hall.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Homeless Stand Down: January 23

Want to have a memorable Saturday morning this January? Join the Forest Hill Church Stand Down Team! The Homeless Stand Down, an annual service event scheduled for January 23, 2016 at Public Auditorium, needs volunteers. As a member of our team, you would be serving as “personal shoppers” for families or individuals. Our shift runs from 7:30 – 11:30 am, and we’ll meet afterwards for a celebratory lunch at Nighttown in Cleveland Hts.. For more details and to sign up, please go to [this address](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4baaaa22a3fd0-homeless):

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4baaaa22a3fd0-homeless>.

Social Groups and Circles

Iris Circle (all women of the church)

Iris Circle will visit the Violins of Hope exhibit at the Maltz Museum at 11 am on Tuesday, December 15; they will then go to Valenti's Ristorante for lunch. Please see p. 21 of the December TOWER for details. RSVP to Karen Loughridge today.

Youth News

Every Sunday

- Mid and Sr High classes meet from 9:30 – 10:30 am.

Today

- The Sine Nomine Choir will rehearse in the Chapel after worship today.

Next Sunday

- Gala Christmas party at the Lentzes' – 5:00 – 6:30

FHC Staff Emails

Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.	Pastor	pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org
Rev. Lois Annich	Interim Assoc. Pastor	pastorannich@fhcpresb.org
Rachel McDonald	Interim Assoc. Pastor	RachelM@fhcpresb.org
Anne Wilson	Music	annew@fhcpresb.org
Shannon Headen	Youth	shannon@fhcpresb.org
Kate Burleigh	Children	kateb@fhcpresb.org
Lynda Bernays	Administration	office@fhcpresb.org
Becky Austin	Finance	beckya@fhcpresb.org
Peg Weissbrod	Outreach	webeditor@fhcpresb.org
Stavros Gazis	Custodial	office@fhcpresb.org

The Lessons

Next Sunday: Micah 5: 2-5a; Luke 1: 46b-55; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45. Set aside time each day for prayer and study. As you read the lessons for the week, consider how they settle or challenge you? What image or word catches your attention? Keep notes of your observations in a journal.

Blue Christmas Service

If this holiday time is not all that joyful for you...

Fairmount Presbyterian Church is offering a Blue Christmas service on Tuesday, December 22 at 6:30 pm

Fairmount Presbyterian Church	2757 Fairmount Blvd
Cleveland Heights	216-321-5800

Use this for any type of donation to FHC:



Online Giving

Use a QR code reader to find a link to donate securely via PayPal.

<http://www.fhcpresb.org/about-us/giving>

Calendar: December 13-20, 2015

Sunday, December 13: 3 Advent

HOLIDAY ANGELS GIFTS DUE

- 9:00 Child care begins
9:30 Adult Education
Youth Education
Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
10:15 Descant Choir activity
10:30 Continental Breakfast
Chancel Choir
11:00 WORSHIP
Children's Worship class (pre-K, K)
11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land
(gr. 1-5)
12:15 Coffee and fellowship hour
Sine Nomine Choir (gr. 6-12)
Memphis Pilgrimage meeting
4:00 Labre Ministry
5:00 Faith Leader
7:45 Apollo's Fire rehearsal

Monday, December 14

- 6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA)
7:00 pm Al Anon
7:30 pm Borton Group
Boy Scout Troop #403

Tuesday, December 15

- 1:00 pm Abundance Pantry opens
5:00 pm Fitness Fusion exercise class
6:00 pm Hts High Vocal Music Dept.
7:00 pm Young Adults: Advent Art

Wednesday, December 16

- 7:30 am Bible and Bagels
12:00 pm Bullshevicks
12:30 pm Wednesday Women's AA
7:00 pm Session meeting

Thursday, December 17

- 6:20 pm Voices in Bronze rehearsal
7:30 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Friday, December 18

- 10:00 am Al Anon

Saturday, December 19

- 9:00 am Recital (students of Anne Wilson)
10:30 am Rehearsal for **Amahl**

Sunday, December 20: 4 Advent

- 9:00 Child care begins
9:30 Adult Education
Youth Education
Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
10:15 Descant Choir activity
10:30 Continental Breakfast
Chancel Choir
11:00 WORSHIP:
Amahl and the Night Visitors
Children's Worship class (pre-K, K)
12:15 Coffee and fellowship hour
Blood pressure check
4:00 Labre Ministry
5:00 Faith Leader
Youth: Christmas party (at Lentzes')
7:00 **Amahl and the Night Visitors**
Reception following

***Last chance to order poinsettias for Christmas!
Orders are due Monday, December 14***

You may call or email the office with this information, or put this in the offering:

Name (as you would like it in the bulletin):

_____ *Please print*

Total # of poinsettias @ \$7.50 each: _____
you will take _____ # to be donated _____



Total cost: \$ _____

Dedication: PLEASE PRINT
In honor
of _____

In memory of

In thanksgiving for

Please make checks payable to Forest Hill Church, memo: POINSETTIAS

Your name _____

Phone or email _____



2016 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Matthew 6:21

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Stewardship Ministry sends a hearty thank you to the 211 members and friends of Forest Hill Church who have participated in the 2016 Stewardship Campaign! Your generous gifts provide the resources necessary to support our outstanding staff and the crucial mission work of the church in the year ahead.

To date, over \$705,600 has been pledged or given to the 2016 Stewardship Campaign -- that's truly outstanding. Only \$22,400 in pledges is needed to reach the goal of \$728,000. Not meeting the goal has consequences -- cuts to staff and/or mission.

If you have yet to pledge, please do so as soon as possible. A pledge of any size makes a difference.

If you are able to add to your existing pledge, please either:

1. **fill out a pledge card this Sunday** found in the pews and place a “+” by the amount of your increase and drop it in the collection plate or,
2. **email the Church's Financial Administrator**, Becky Austin with this information at BeckyA@fhcpresb.org.

Thank you for all you do for Forest Hill Church!

The Stewardship Ministry

Forest Hill Church
presbyterian
presents

Amahl and the Night Visitors

A Christmas
opera by
Gian-Carlo
Menotti

Featuring Henry Dyck as Amahl and Lara Troyer as Amahl's mother
with Mist'a Craig, Carl Jenks, and Caleb Wright
as the Three Kings and Jack Lentz as the Page



Sunday, Dec. 20: 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Free admission
216-321-2660

3031 Monticello Blvd.
www.fhcpresb.org

The Chancel Choir will present the Christmas opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors* on Sunday, December 20 during a special AWE service at 11 am and then again at 7 pm, followed by a festive wassail reception. The main roles will be sung by Henry Dyck (Amahl), Lara Troyer (Amahl's mother), Mist'a Craig, Carl Jenks and Caleb Wright (the Three Kings) and Jack Lentz (the page). The story is about Amahl, a boy who can walk only with a crutch and who tends to tell tall tales. He and his mother are visited by the Three Kings, and a miracle occurs.

*Please invite friends to join you at the morning service
or the 7 pm performance.*

A festive reception will follow the evening performance.