

John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Rachel McDonald, Interim Associate Pastors

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



The Tower

October 2016

Dear Friends:

A most rewarding aspect of my job is relating to the senior adults in our congregation. I love hearing stories of how people have navigated life's joys and challenges and how they have graced this church (and other congregations as well) with their lives, labors, and love. We are a multi-generational church and as such we need to be mindful of the gifts all our congregants contribute. To that end, we are planning to recognize a part of our church family – our older adults – in worship on October 9, with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall. We are honoring those who have reached a certain age so some folks who have served this congregation for many years may not yet be in this cohort. Never fear! We intend to celebrate years of membership and service at another time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John", is written in the right margin of the page.

In the Presbyterian church, we use the word “elder” to refer to ordained lay leaders. However, “elder” can also refer to the wisdom-bearers of any community. Sadly, in our youth-obsessed modern culture elders are often devalued. In a society that glorifies youth and demonizes aging both sides suffer – older adults can feel marginalized and useless, while younger people lose the benefit of much life experience and wisdom.

We are called to be a counter-cultural people and to that end let's rejoice in the years God has granted our older adults. Let's continue to honor them, pray for them, and seek them out as wisdom bearers in our midst. I am reminded of the delightful musical "Fiddler on the Roof" in which Tevye sings and dances "L'Chaim--To Life!" It is an exuberant toast to the goodness of all life and a blessing for health and wholeness. So let us intentionally bless our older adults on October 9 and for years to come. L'Chaim! To Life!

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

A People of Prayer

Here are three ways the Forest Hill Church community practices our faith in prayer:

- ❖ Requests continue to be included in the worship service most Sundays. Use the slips in the pew racks and ushers deliver them to the pastor.
- ❖ Guests who attend the monthly free lunch have expressed their appreciation for having their individual concerns and gritudes recognized. White forms with their messages are available to pick up as you exit worship on the following Sunday.
- ❖ If you'd like a Pantry guest to pray for your request, sign the green form in the bulletin once a month and place it in the offering plate. Those requests will be passed out to guests who wish to connect.

Grace Uhle



The church you know is most likely an attractional church – a place where people come to worship on Sunday mornings. We invite people to come to church. But there is an alternative: a missional church, one that is sent forth to do God’s mission. The church isn’t a place, but people. Worship becomes an activity that can happen anywhere God’s people gather.

The conversation about attractional vs. missional church is much more complex than that. But the idea of a missional church is part of what excites me about the future of the church. I believe Forest Hill has an opportunity to continue to live into its identity as a missional church.

This won’t happen without all of you. Missional theology takes seriously the responsibility of all believers to take part in God’s mission. If worship is not just one time set aside during the week, it becomes the responsibility of all believers, not just the pastors and music director. The work of God in the world cannot be delegated away to pastors or church employees, but is the responsibility of all.

I invite you to be in prayer and discernment about what God’s call for you might be. But don’t stop there. Keep in community. Talk to one of the pastors for support and encouragement. Find a prayer partner. Test your ideas in a small group. Together we will witness to how God transforms lives.

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” John 20:21

Rachel McDonald
Interim Associate Pastor

Children's Ministries



Thanks to all of the faithful volunteers (Danielle Cosgrove, Karen Loughridge, Diane Moyer, Alisha Fiddler, Laurie Logan, Lisa Koops and Christina Hidek) who gave their time in September to allow programming to happen. Programming cannot happen without the commitment of invested adults. At baptism we commit ourselves to the babies being baptized. How are you giving your time and gifts to the children of Forest Hill? Christian education is evolving at Forest Hill Church. Let us be open to where we are being led.

Children's Worship

The children in this age group (3-5) follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story re-telling or clay, for example). In September the children spent time getting to know the format of their class. The September stories focused on communion and the church calendar. These stories will prepare everyone for World Communion Sunday, October 2, at which time the Children's Worship class will join their families for the first time (this year) in order to take communion.

Preschool and kindergarten

Pathways to the Promise Land

In September, Pathways met on 3 Sundays. Our focus was on one of our FHC core values, **WELCOMING**. The kids gathered in the Chapel on kick-off Sunday to welcome one another back to the program year. Essential agreements were made, and a scavenger hunt allowed the kids to become more familiar with the building. Extending that theme of welcome, we also examined Hebrews 13:2 and discussed how someone new to FHC would know where to go or what to do on a Sunday morning. What types of items might one find in the pews? The children created maps to help new visitors find their way around the CE wing. Most importantly, the kids deepened their relationships with one another.

Grades 1-5

October Dates to Know

October 2: World Communion Sunday

Kids in Sunday Service

Pathways children, grades 1-5, remain in worship to celebrate the Lord's Supper with their families. The Children's Worship class will start in their classroom on the second floor of the CE wing. They will then be brought down to the sanctuary to join their families for communion. Children's bulletins will be provided for the kids to help them engage and connect to the liturgy.

October 9

Kids in Sunday Service

Pathways children will attend worship with their families

October 16

Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel at 11:00; then be excused with their shepherds to their workshops.

October 23

Pathways classes meet at 11:15

Pathways children will begin in worship and then be dismissed to their workshops.

October 30

Kids in Sunday Service

Pathways children will attend worship with their families.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh

Director of Children's Ministries



Music Notes



The choirs are off to a fine start! I'd like to congratulate the new **Chancel Choir officers**: Beth Zych, President; Kermit Lind, Vice President and Social Chair; Laura Minder, Secretary; Bob Jeffreys, Treasurer; Nancy Grube, Librarian; Pat Musick, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Carl Jenks, Poet Laureate.

The new **Descant Choir officers** are: Lotus Headen, President, and Vaughn Ullom, Vice President. Our **Voices in Bronze President** is Carol Gifford. Elections for the **Sine Nomine Choir** have not yet taken place at the time I'm writing this article, so I'll announce them next month.

I'd like to welcome all our new choir members (as of this writing on September 15): In the Chancel Choir, we welcome Garrett Vandall and Grant Heineman as well as returning members Jed Koops, Jeanette Nemcek and Shelley Jesberger. Carolyn Smith will sing with us when her busy vocal coaching schedule permits. Garrett Vandall is also a new member in Voices in Bronze, our handbell choir. The Descant Choir welcomes new members Eli Cosgrove, Lyric Headen and Capri Gerteis. New members of Sine Nomine Choir will be announced next month.

On Sunday, October 2 we'll celebrate **World Communion Sunday** with global music and visual arts as we are mindful of the great world-wide community of saints. This will be an **AWE service** (Alternative Worship Experience) and we will have members of ROAM (Roots of American Music) joining us that day: Kevin Richards, guitar; Eric Seddon, clarinet; Gene Epstein, bass.

And now, here's something new and different: We're going to have a **Beer-n-Hymns evening** on Sunday, October 23 at 7:00 pm at the Bottlehouse Brewery, 2050 Lee Rd., Cleveland Hts.

(<https://thebottlehousebrewingcompany.com>)

Together with drummer Chris Vandall, trumpeter Ahren Stock, guitarist and bassist Andrew Marunowski, we will simply have a fun social evening in the format of an old-fashioned hymn sing. Pizza by the slice (and cookies!) will

be sold. You are welcome to bring your own food or side dishes. The BottleHouse does not serve food (we will bring the pizza). It's a family-friendly place with pinball machines and games for children, and lots of large picnic tables (and beer consumption is not required). We're bringing FHC to the community and it should be a blast. If you're interested in reading about this idea, do a search for Denver-based, counter-cultural Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber who initiated it (try "Nadia Bolz-Weber Beer and Hymns")

An NPR article that may interest you may be found by searching for "To Stave Off Decline, Churches Attract New Members With Beer."

I would like to thank our generous donors to the **Friends of Music Fund**. This fund makes it possible to put on special events like our AWE services and concerts, and it covers the costs of guest instrumentalists and singers. If you would like to offer your support to this fund, I and those who love the role of sacred music in our worship would be most grateful!

Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson

216-870-2729 annew@fhcpresb.org



Welcome to Stewardship Season 2017! It is the time we reflect on how our lives have been transformed through our involvement at Forest Hill Church. It is the time we prayerfully decide how to continue to support the church with our financial commitment in the coming year.

For some, it can be a stressful time. Uncertain whether a financial commitment can be met, you may wonder if you can take the leap. If so, we ask you to pray about what is right for you at this time and then commit as you feel called to help support the mission of Forest Hill Church.

The majority of the church's income comes from the pledges of members and friends. It is the one source of income we rely on. It is the money we use to provide food to hungry neighbors, provide Christian education for our children, pay our staff, and maintain our buildings.

The 2017 Stewardship Campaign will kick off on Sunday, October 23. The theme, based on 1 Peter 4:10, is "Serve One Another." The campaign will end on November 6 with a celebratory Cornucopia Luncheon after the worship service.

When you receive your campaign materials in the mail during the week of October 17, please read them carefully. This year's packet includes

- Stewardship letter from Pastor John Lentz
- Personal note from a fellow member
- Narrative Budget that tells the story of how your donations transformed lives in the past year and of our aspirations for the year ahead
- Confirmation of Pledge/Gift card to be completed and returned to the church.

We encourage you to pray and then act as you feel guided, whether it is to increase your current pledge or to pledge for the first time. At this time, we are all called upon to commit to continuing God's work through Forest Hill Church.

Elder Melanie Alban
The Ministry of Stewardship

The Deacons' Corner

The fall season is upon us. In Cleveland the month of October can be a crazy mix of hot, cold, windy, wet....even snow!

There are many things in life that we can't control, and the weather is certainly one of them. While we know we can't change the forecast, we still strive to prepare for it each day with our choice of clothing, and how we care for our homes, our places of work, and our cars.

But others kinds of preparation, not so easy to achieve, are also needed. As Thomas Merton wrote:

You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.

Accepting that much of our lives can't be fixed by wearing the right hat or gloves, we discover that we aren't really as in charge of things as we'd like to be. At times like these we need to trust in God and believe we are not on this journey alone.

We hope you find in the days of this season moments of renewal, joy and the knowledge that you are loved and cared for. Have faith, find your spiritual gloves, accept the care of others, and go forth!

Deacon Kathy Carr

Greater Cleveland Congregations

GOTV (Get Out the Vote) is under way. A group of us canvassed in the Noble neighborhood on September 25 after receiving training on listening campaigns by national experts. The goals of GOTV are to:

1. Encourage and facilitate voting in this important precinct in both national and local elections
2. Learn about the criminal justice, housing, police or other issues confronting the residents
3. Identify leaders to become involved in these issues.

We will be back in Noble area on October 22, and you are encouraged to continue the efforts, even if you haven't been trained. You can double up with someone who was.

Jennifer Blakeney

Save the date: GCC Criminal Justice Assembly, November 17, 2016

Announcements! Announcements!

November ministries meet on Nov. 9
November Session meets on Nov.16
Thanksgiving is Nov. 24

Save Nov. 20
for FHC's holiday
shopping op

TOWER deadlines: **7 am** on
Oct. 14, Nov. 18, Dec. 9

Cleveland Heights Police-Community Relations

The Cleveland Heights Police-Community Relations leadership team has created a vision for FHC's effort to explore community relationships between residents of color and Cleveland Heights police. Work groups are forming, relationships with key leaders and actions such as a community forum to address issues, if revealed, will then be developed

The Race and Inclusion Committee (formerly Race Core Team) called a meeting on September 4 to encourage volunteers to take leadership in creating a response to the concerns of many of our congregants over Cleveland Heights police relations with the community. This renewed concern and desire for action came out of discussion groups on the book ***More Than Equals*** and was the impetus that led to the formation of the original Race Core Team a number of years ago.

At this gathering, Dele Solaru, Dean Sieck, Pat Jenkins and Jennifer Blakeney stepped up to take leadership roles and facilitate efforts within the church (others, not in attendance, may join the leadership committee). This group then met to create objectives and work groups. A group of dedicated individuals then met on September 11, during the Fall Festival, to identify participants and leaders of the work groups. The objectives/work groups are as follows (* indicates the group leaders):

1. Build a non-adversarial relationship with Cleveland Heights Police Department as an avenue for ongoing dialogue, determine the department's attitudes toward African Americans in the community and discover their operations and training methods as they pertain to these residents. Work group volunteers and leaders: Melanie Alban* and Dean Sieck*.
2. Discover Cleveland Heights residents' experiences with CHPD by holding listening campaigns of members or friends of FHC, members of the broader community, and residents in and around Heights High School. Volunteers: Ajah Hales*, Ann Williams*, Mark Chupp, Vikki Nowak, Virginia Weiss, Jennifer Blakeney.

3. Initiate and foster conversations between the mayor, CHPD and the residents of Cleveland Heights, possibly holding one or more large meetings at FHC. Pastor Lentz and a few others are already building relationships with Mayor Stephens. Other aspects of this objective will be addressed upon issue clarification by the other three work groups.
4. Collaborate with the efforts of any other, particularly African American, churches in Cleveland Heights that may be addressing these matters. Volunteers: John Lentz*, Pat Jenkins*, Barb Cloud*, Karen and Clyde Loughridge.

Talk to Dele, Jennifer, Pat, or Dean if you would like to participate in any aspect of this committee or if you have any questions or concerns .

Jennifer Blakeney

The Race and Inclusion Committee will present a Report to the Congregation on Sunday, October 16 after worship highlighting its updated purpose statement, past activities, and plans for the future. Please plan to stay to celebrate our commitment to being the Beloved Community.

News of Our Church Family

New email: Marcia Grant, marciagrants413@gmail.com

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Ruth Brickel, Bill Currie, Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, Jack Quinn, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas

Ushers Roger Heineman and his faithful teams of ushers help every week's worship service go smoothly. If you'd like to join the usher teams, please contact Roger (216-371-6395 or rheineman@jencen.com) or call the church office.

Care Group

The Nazareth CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in meeting members' needs during October. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Nazareth CARE Group are:

Suzanne Marcy, Deacon leader	Barb & Kermit Lind
Melanie Alban	Laura Minder
Doris Bartlett	Dave & Allie Neff
Marcia Beck	Cindy Newton
JoAnne Black	Dora Owusu
Deborah Chapman & Lyn Hale	Elspeth & Richard Peterjohn
Ron & Patty Console	Scott Peters, Jeannine Gury & family
Jim & Terry Daedelow	Lois Reilly
Melinda Dus & Curtis Jastremsky	Eric Rich & family
Beth Garrett	Jim Roosa & family
Jennifer & Barry Hartz & family	Peggy Sasso
Kathryn Himmelsteib	Kevin & Laura Stauffer & family
Audrey & Bob Kellermeyer	Megan & Peter Tzefronis & family
Jane & Cliff Kowall	Matt & Sarah Winters & family
Wafa Kuri	

Volunteer Hours in August

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Pat Jenkins, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, and Elspeth Peterjohn–worked a total of 84 ½ hours in August. Special thanks to Peg Weissbrod, who took care of office matter while I was away. Thank you all! Welcome to Ellen McChesney and Kathy Molyneaux, who recently joined the office force.

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (60s – 70s): Suburban Symphony

Please join The Group for the Suburban Symphony Orchestra concert on Sunday, October 9 at 3:30 pm at Beachwood High School (25100 Fairmount Blvd.) and for dinner following the concert at Anatolia Café (2270 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights). The concert, East of the Danube, features the Glazunov Concerto for Alto Saxophone and the Peacock Variations by Kodaly. For reservations email Anne Hunter (anneshunter8@gmail.com).

Please note that all SSO concerts this season will take place at Beachwood High School in the new auditorium. An added plus for this location is that parking will be much easier.

October 9, Beachwood High School, 3:30 pm

Hilltoppers (retired) : Winery tour

The Hilltoppers will tour Debonne Winery in Madison on October 14 at 12 noon. The tour is free; the cost for a tasting of 6-8 varieties is \$10 and may be shared. We'll have lunch (probably at the winery café) afterwards. Please contact Nancy Grube (440-461-4693) by October 7 to make a reservation; once reservations are in we will determine a meeting spot from which to carpool, and distribute maps.

October 14, Debonne Winery, 12:00

Save the date: Hilltoppers will go to Heights High's production of "Anything Goes" on Sunday, November 6 at 4 pm. Please contact Lucy Conde (216-382-5177) or Carol Scott (216-932-0313) for reservations.

Pacesetters (40s – 60s): The Unexpected Guest

There's still time to register for the Pacesetters' all-church event, The Unexpected Guest, on October 8. Sign up for dinner, and you will be assigned to a host and join fellow guests for dinner. Everyone is the Unexpected Guest! See the church website or weekly email to sign up on line, or call Sue Lafferty (440-669-4885).

October 8, The Unexpected Guest Dinner, 7 pm

Iris Circle (all women of the church): Garden Valley visit

Please join us on a trip to Garden Valley Neighborhood House, 7100 Kinsman Road, on October 18. We will see recent renovations and learn about their programs from the unpaid director, Jan Ridgeway. We will also hear from Robyn Hales about a new project in which Forest Hill Church is partnering with Garden Valley. We will have an opportunity to eat a catered lunch there (watch for information). Meet at the church at 10 am so we can carpool, as parking at Garden Valley is quite limited.

In the past Forest Hill Church was quite active with Garden Valley, and they need our help now.

For further information, please contact Carolyn Vrtunski (216-752-7131 or carolynvrtunski@yahoo.com).

October 18, Garden Valley Neighborhood House, 10 am

Sundays in October

- 9:00** Child care begins
- 9:30** Adult education
Youth education (gr. 6-12)
Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
- 10:15** Descant Choir activity
- 10:30** Continental Breakfast
Chancel Choir
- 11:00** WORSHIP
Children's Worship class (preK, K)
Pathways to the Promise Land. (Gr. 1-5) *See schedule below*
- 12:15** Fellowship Hour
Exploring Membership class (Oct. 9 and 23)
- 4:00** Labre Project
Class: Your Spiritual Autobiography (begins Oct 9)

<p>October 2 World Communion and Peacemaking 8:30 Nominating Committee 11:00 Worship: Communion AWE: Roots of American Music 12:15 Whole Life Stewardship program 4:00 Apollo's Fire rehearsal</p>	<p>Lamentations 1: 1-6 Psalm 137 2 Timothy 1: 1-14 Luke 17: 5-10</p>
<p>October 9 12:30 Speaker: CHUH School levy 1:30 Youth to Eddy's Fruit Farm 3:00 The Group to Suburban Symphony concert</p>	<p>Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7 Psalm 66: 1-12 2 Timothy 2: 8-15 Luke 17: 11-19</p>
<p>October 16 10:30 Cherub Choir 12:15 Blood Pressure check Race and Inclusion Committee: Report to Congregation 6:00 Youth: Haunted Hayride</p>	<p>Jeremiah 31: 27-34 Psalm 119: 97-104 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5 Luke 18: 1-8</p>
<p>October 23 8:30 Nominating Committee 7:00 Beer 'n Hymns (BottleHouse Brewery)</p>	<p>Joel 2: 23-32 Psalm 65 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18 Luke 18: 9-14</p>

October 30 Reformation Sunday

Youth will sell caramel apples and cider as a fundraiser

Habakkuk 1: 1-4; 2: 1-4

Psalm 119: 137-144

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Luke 19: 1-10

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

Pathways schedule in October

October 2, 9, 30: Attend worship with their families

October 16: Gathering Time: Meet in the Chapel at 11 am

October 23: Leave worship at 11:15 for classes

The church phone number is 216-321-2660.

Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

Emails for the staff are as follows:

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

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

