

Forest Hill Church PRESBYTERIAN



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

Pastor

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Associate Pastor

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Service of Worship

December 5, 2010 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*

God, our hope and our desire, we wait for your coming as a woman longs for the birth, the exile for her home, the lover for the touch of his beloved, and the humble poor for justice. Amen.

Welcome

The Prelude

"Magnificat"

M. Dupré

The Choral Introit

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

S. Schwartz

■■■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

The Call to Worship

Today's candles are lit by LeAnn West and the four generations of the Stauffer family:

Dwight and Margie Stauffer, Derry and Kathy Hanna-Stauffer,

Laura, Kevin, Jacob and Adam Stauffer

Leader: We light these candles 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, neither shall they learn war any more.

Leader: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

People: the calf and the lion and the fatling together,

Leader: and a little child shall lead them.

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

Leader: Let us worship God.

*** The Processional Hymn No. 13**

“Prepare the Way”

■ ■ ■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

The Prayer of Confession

Leader: Eternal God, in the long ago days when people believed the earth was flat, and heaven was above the clouds, and disease was caused by demons, your son was born to lighten all our darkneses. We now, after the enlightenment, are in bondage to different limitations. We doubt what we cannot prove; we ignore what we cannot see, and finding little room for faith, we must confess,

People: We suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

Leader: We admit to ourselves to be both infected and affected by the spirit of the times. Behind talk of world peace, we hear the machinery of war; beneath talk of global equality we detect the posturing of the powerful; beside talk of your church being renewed, we recognize the bondage to failed patterns of the past. Rather than embrace the light, we become fascinated by darkness, and must confess,

People: We suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

Leader: Ah, God, who will save us? Our cynicism is the fruit of our experience, not the key to the future. Our suspiciousness helps us to smell the rat, never to recognize the dove. Our perfect analysis may describe the mountain, but is helpless to move it. It is with little pride we must confess,

People: We suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

Leader: As Christmas approaches, give us a share of the divine naiveté enjoyed by Elizabeth and Zechariah, Mary and Joseph, and unnamed country folk, who encountered angels and believed the Good News and recognized Christ among them.

People: AMEN.

Kyrie eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

Malaysia

■ ■ ■ *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.*

The Anthem

“He Will Come When We’re Least Expecting Him”

Sine Nomine Choir

J. Bell

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

The Family Meditation

Elder Peg Weissbrod

*** Hymn No. 48**

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Children in Pathways may leave during the hymn

Prayer requests may be passed to the ushers during this hymn

The Scripture Lessons (read by Chris Henry)

Isaiah 7: 10-14

Luke 1: 26-38

After the readings

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

Rev. Clover Reuter Beal

“The Announcement”

The Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

please use debts, debtors

The Ritual of Friendship

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

The Offertory

T. Tallis, arr. Busarow

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

Lisa Koops, flute

*** The 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*

*** The Closing Hymn No. 16**

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

*** The Commission and Blessing**

*** The Choral Benediction**

*** The Passing of the Peace**

■ ■ ■ *The Postlude*

E. Pepping

“God’s Son Is Coming Soon”



■ ■ ■ *Parish Notes*

Chancel Flowers

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

Prayer Concerns this Week

Prayers are requested this week for the following:

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

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Ralph Dise, Pat and Fran Drake, Rose Eaton, Betty Farnfield, Marilyn Gifford, Mary Jean Kent, Elizabeth Kosnik, Mary Lewis, Merdine T. Morris, 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**.

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.

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!

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.

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 11: 2-11**.

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education: 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

Advent and Christmas Events at Forest Hill Church

- December 5: Lunch served by FHC Youth
Advent Workshop following lunch
December 5-12: IHN Hosting
December 11: The Group: Potluck supper and Christmas party, 6:30 p.m.
December 12: **Ten Thousand Villages** sale before and after worship
Christmas Pageant practice, 12:15 p.m.
December 14: Iris Circle: Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m.
Women's Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m.
December 18: Pacesetters: Christmas Party, 7 – 10 p.m. at the Lentzes'
Fish/Back Row/Young Adults (under 40, no kids): Christmas Party at the Hideks', 7:30 p.m.
December 19: Worship: Festival of Lessons and Carols
MOB: Christmas Party, 6 – 8 p.m. (Lentzes')
December 20: Worship: Christmas in a Minor Key, 7 p.m.
December 24: Family Christmas Eve Worship, 5 p.m.
Christmas Eve Worship, 11 p.m., followed by milk and cookies (music begins at 10:45)
December 26: Worship in Fellowship Hall, 11 a.m.

Women's Service of Lessons and Carols

Tuesday, December 14th, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel

A Women's Service of Lessons and Carols is a unique worship service utilizing Scripture's narrative focusing on the female characters of faith throughout the bible. The nine lessons also include contemporary women writers. Anne Wilson will be leading us in music. Numerous women will be reading and leading. Join us for this intimate setting celebrating the coming Light of God. In the darkness of winter, a light shone forth. May that Light illumine our lives. All are welcome. Please invite a friend to this very special worship service.

Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 19, 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

FHC's annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held during morning worship on December 19. The Chancel, Sine Nomine and Descant Choirs are all rehearsing for this beautiful and celebrative service. Invite friends!

Christmas in a Minor Key

~ a service for the sadness of the season

Monday, December 20, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian welcomes you to an early evening service of readings, music, and silence designed as a time apart for those challenged by the holidays. The death of a loved one, a relationship or family separation, a job layoff, or another form of personal or family loss -- these events make it difficult to find joy or even to cope with the holiday season. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 20, 2010 to celebrate Christmas quietly, in a way that honors the darkness as well as the light. Coffee and hot cider will be available afterward if you would like to stay for conversation

Care Group

All FHC members will be responsible for meeting members' needs during December. 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.

Today's CARE Group volunteers: Julie Waring (Continental Breakfast); Rosaneil Schenk and Betty Clark (Greeting Cards); Beth Feroe and Ahren Stock (Greeters)

Calling All Bakers!

As you are baking for this holiday season, consider setting aside a dozen here and a dozen there and bringing them on Christmas Eve for the traditional post-midnight milk and cookies time! Contact Melody Obery (216-291-8323 or obery@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

■ ■ ■ *Youth News*

Next Sunday: Senior Highs will meet from 5 – 7 p.m.

Looking Ahead

December 12: Deposits for Sr High mission trip are due! All youth currently in grades 8-12 are encouraged to attend our week of mission, July 10-16 in Washington DC. Secure your spot with a \$25 deposit. Contact Kristen Sloan (kristens@fhcpresb.org) for more information.

December 19: MOB Christmas Party at the Lentz home

■ ■ ■ *The Lessons*

Next Sunday: Isaiah 35: 1-10; Psalm 146: 5-10; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11. 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. 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 December” page of the **TOWER**.

■ ■ ■ *FHC Staff Emails and Phone Extensions*

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Calendar: December 5 - 12, 2010

IHN families will be in the CE wing every evening

<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 Abundance Cupboard mtg 12:45 The Advent Workshop 5:00 Faith Leader IHN Hosting begins</p> <p>Monday, December 6 6:00 p.m. Progress not Perfection (Al Anon) 7:00 p.m. Al Anon 7:30 p.m. Borton Group (AA) Boy Scout Troop #403</p> <p>Tuesday, December 7 7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #36</p> <p>Wednesday, December 8 7:30 a.m. Bible & Bagels 5:45 p.m. Yoga 12:00 p.m. Hilltop Garden Club 7:00 p.m. Ministries meet</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 8 7:30 a.m. Bible & Bagels 5:45 p.m. Yoga 12:00 p.m. Hilltop Garden Club 7:00 p.m. Ministries meet</p> <p>Thursday, December 9 6:20 p.m. Voices in Bronze 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Forest Hill Swim Club</p> <p>Saturday, December 11 6:30 p.m. The Group – Christmas Potluck</p> <p>Sunday, December 12 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 Sine Nomine Choir 5:00 Faith Leader MOB: Sr High</p>
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Isaiah 7: 10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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.

