

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian



*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.*

3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Hts OH 44118

216-321-2660 Fax: 216-320-1214

Email: office@fhcpresb.org Website: www.fhcpresb.org

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 2, 2012 at 11:00 am

First Sunday in the Season of Advent

Celebration of Holy Communion

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.

■■■ *Prayer of Preparation*

Welcome

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader 1: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *(Isaiah 9:2, 6)*

Reader 2: Today we remember the prophets of old, who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come, unexpected liberator of the people, vulnerable incarnation of the Holiest of Holies, a new name for God.

People: Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the box, who show us a future we never anticipated.

Reader 3: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be.

(Light a purple candle)

Choral Introit

■ ■ ■ *Greeting Our God with Joy*

Call to Worship

Edie Duncan

Leader: Now is the time of watching and waiting:

People: The time of pregnant expectation of new life.

Leader: Now is the season of hope unfolding:

People: The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.

Leader: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

All: Amen.

*** Processional Hymn No. 9**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

■ ■ ■ *Renewing Our Relationship with God*

Prayer of Confession

Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. AMEN.

Time of Silent Confession

Kyrie eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

Merbecke

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

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.

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

Reception of New Members

Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Luke 21: 25-36

After the reading

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Clover Reuter Beal

"Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign"

Ritual of Friendship

all are asked to sign as a record of attendance

Offertory

John Bell

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Lisa Koops, flute

*** 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.

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by the Dise family in loving memory of their sister, Ann Mercer Dise, and parents, Molly and Ralph Dise; and by Bobbi and Peter van Dijk in loving memory of Millie and Ed Skeivis and Marilyn Skeivis Dougherty.

Prayer Concerns this Week

Prayers are requested this week for the following:

Ruth and Arthur Brickel, Bill Currie, Dorothy Hales, Marian Frederick, Iris Gilbert, Ron and Florence Klein, Lissa McKinley, Dave Neff, Chris Patterson, Arlene and Jack Quinn, Elaine Tapié, Debbie Ungemach.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Dick Bloomquist, Pat and Fran Drake, Marge Drollinger, Betty Farnfield, Elizabeth Kosnik, Emelia McGuire, Merdine T. Morris, Joyce Peters, Anne Taylor.

This Month's Ushers

Scott Peters, Lead Usher; Tish Van Beers-Klein, assistant lead; 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.

Attendance last week (including Christian Education children): 225

■■■ Announcements

Please contact the church office if you need to reach someone associated with a church activity

TODAY

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 Hts Emergency Food Cupboard (Disciples Church, Cleveland Hts.), the New Covenant Lutheran Church Hunger Center (East Cleveland), and the Presbyterian Hunger Program in Haiti.

Holiday Angels

Our Holiday Angels program began last Sunday. Once again we are providing gifts for families at Boulevard Elementary School, to families in Cleveland Heights through the Heights Emergency Food Center, and for the Family Promise Holiday Store. To participate, please choose an ornament from the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall, follow the instructions, and return the gift to the stage in Fellowship Hall by next Sunday, December 9. Please attach the ornament to your gift when you return it – and note that the instructions will tell you whether the gift is to be wrapped or not. You may also decorate the tree with new or gently used children's hats, gloves and scarves for Boulevard School. Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

Advent Workshop

Celebrate the season of Advent at Forest Hill Church's annual Advent Workshop today after worship. Have lunch (prepared and served by our youth groups) immediately following worship, then come create a family Advent craft and Christmas decorations to celebrate the season. All are welcome!

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 **Luke 3: 1-6**.

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Education, 9:30 in South Hall

During Advent we will present a series of lessons on Advent and Christmas hymns and music:

- ✦ **December 9** Beth Zych will lead a study of Advent hymns.
- ✦ **December 16** Professor David Rothenberg will tell us about the annunciation scene in Renaissance music for Advent. (Find out about Amber Wednesday!)
- ✦ **December 23** FHC choirs, led by Beth Zych, will help us revel in joyful singing in the spirit of Christmas.

Ten Thousand Villages and Interfaith Peace Builders

Ten Thousand Villages and Interfaith Peace Builders will offer fair trade, handmade goods and olive oil for sale on December 9 from 10 am – 1 pm. We need help setting up, selling and cleaning up – please contact Jennifer Blakeney.

LOOKING AHEAD

Labre Ministry

On the fourth Sunday of every month the FHC Labre Ministry group will partner with the Salvation Army canteen to deliver meals, hygiene kits, blankets, clothes and fellowship in East Cleveland. Donations may be placed in the Labre donation basket in Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Mary Ann or Jack Breisch.

Care Group

The Deacons are 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.

✦ FHC Deacons are:

Deb Adrine	Carol Leslie	Carol Phillips
Mary Ball	Robin Mervine	Ahren Stock
Barb Cloud	Daryl Musick	Julie Waring
Carol Hopkins-Lutz	Richard Peterjohn	Nancy Wyss

This week's CARE Group volunteers: Pat Seeders, continental breakfast; greeters, Carol Scott and Mel Mervine; coffee hour, Robin Mervine; greeting cards, Betty Clark.

Christmas Cookies

Looking for the perfect gift for a friend, co-worker or family member? Buy a gift box of delicious cookies from the FHC Youth! The youth are hosting a Cookie Walk on Sunday, December 16 from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm. We will sell cookies by the pound, complete with a gift box and ribbon. All money raised goes towards our Nicaragua trip next summer.

- ✦ If you would like to contribute your favorite cookie to the cookie walk, please bring in a double batch (or the cookie dough for same) by 4 pm on Saturday, December 15, when we will be baking and setting up for the Cookie Walk.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Forest Hill's Festival of Lessons and Carols will take place this year on Sunday, December 16, during the 11 am worship service. The Chancel, Sine Nomine, Descant, Cherub and Voices in Bronze choirs are all rehearsing for this beautiful and celebrative service. Consider inviting your non-Forest Hill friends to join you for this service!

Social Groups and Circles

Please contact the church office for contact information

The Group (60s – 70s)

We will celebrate Christmas with a potluck dinner at the home of Joe and Betsy Andrews on Friday, December 14 at 6 pm. We will be assembling gifts for a family from Boulevard School that evening. RSVP to Cathy Ghiandoni for food and gift suggestions.

Pacesetters (50s-60s)

Pacesetters' Christmas party will be held at the home of John and Deanne Lentz at 7 pm on Saturday, December 15. Bring a white elephant gift, an appetizer or dessert, and BYOB; bring some canned goods for the food pantry as well.

Iris Circle (all women of the church)

Iris Circle will meet at Ten Thousand Villages, 12425 Cedar Rd, at 11 am on Tuesday, December 18 to do last-minute shopping, followed by lunch at Nighttown. RSVP to Cathy Ghiandoni.

The Back Row (30s-40)

The Hideks will host a post-holiday social at their house on Saturday, January 5 at 7 pm. Leave the kids behind, bring a dish to share and enjoy the new year! RSVP to Jason or Christina Hidek.

■ ■ ■ *Youth News*

Today: Mid and Sr High classes meet from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Sine Nomine Choir will rehearse after worship.

Friday: Mid High Christmas Party at Trammells'

Next Sunday: Converge! 7 pm at First Baptist Church. Sine Nomine Choir will participate.

Looking Ahead: Cookie Bake, December 15 & Cookie Walk, December 16!

■ ■ ■ *The Lessons*

Today's Scriptures

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Luke 21: 25-36

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Next Sunday: Malachi 3: 1-4; Luke 1: 68-79; Philippians 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6.

■■■ *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

■■■ **From the Financial Office**

2013 Pledges: \$590,000 have been pledged to date. Please turn in your 2013 pledge as soon as possible so that the Budget Committee of Session can complete its work. Thanks!

2012 Pledge Payment: Please refer to your recent statement for balances. The 2012 pledges and gifts are coming in nicely, but we still are expecting to receive \$150,000 before the end of the year. You may always email or call Becky Austin, our Financial Administrator, for information (321-2660 x.203; beckya@fhcpresb.org);).

If you are planning on giving a stock gift, would you please set the sale in motion no later than December 12th? With the holidays and various office and bank closings, the extra time will insure that the stock can be sold and your gift properly credited to your statement. Forest Hill Church will be closed December 24, 25, 31, and January 1.

If you have had an unexpected crisis and might be unable to fulfill your pledge this year, please contact Graham Peters, Treasurer, or Becky Austin, so that adjustments can be made as we begin to finalize spending and close the year.

With much appreciation for the time, talents and tithing you have given to the church this year, have a very merry Christmas and happy New Year!

■■■ *Calendar: December 2 - 9, 2012*

<p>Sunday, December 2 8:00 Family Promise hosting ends 9:00 Child care begins 9:30 Adult Education Youth Education Descant Choir 10:00 Cherub Choir 10:15 Descant Choir activity 10:30 Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir New Members meet with Session Christmas Pageant Players reh. 11:00 WORSHIP: Communion Little Explorers Children in Worship 12:15 Lunch Sine Nomine Choir rehearsal BHM Committee meeting 1:00 Advent Workshop 5:00 Faith Leader</p> <p>Monday, December 3 8:30 am Food Pantry Breakfast 6:00 pm Progress not Perfection (AA) Al Anon 7:30 pm Borton Group (AA) Boy Scout Trp #403</p> <p>Tuesday, December 4 7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 36</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 5 7:30 am Bible and Bagels 7:00 pm Ministries meet</p> <p>Thursday, December 6 6:20 pm Voices in Bronze 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>Friday, December 7 7:00 am TOWER deadline 9:30 am Al Anon meeting</p> <p>Saturday, December 8 8:00 am Excell: Pancake Breakfast</p> <p>Sunday, December 9 9:00 Child care begins 9:30 Adult Education Youth Education Descant Choir 10:00 Ten Thousand Villages and Interfaith Peace-Builders sale 10:15 Descant Choir activity 10:30 Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir 11:00 WORSHIP Little Explorers Children in Worship Pathways to the Promise Land 12:15 Coffee Hour Sine Nomine Choir rehearsal 5:00 Faith Leader</p>
---	--

Advent and Christmas at Forest Hill Church, 2012

Sundays at 9:30 in South Hall

Adult Education: Advent Alleluia!

Advent and Christmas hymns and music

December 2, 12 – 3 pm: Lunch and Advent Workshop

December 9, 9:30 am – 1 pm:

Ten Thousand Villages and Interfaith Peace-Builders shop

December 16, 9:30 am – 1 pm: Cookie Walk

(Youth mission trip fund-raiser)

December 16, 11 am: Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 24-25: Office closed

December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

5 pm Family Worship

10:45 pm Musical Prelude

11 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship

December 30, 11 am: Worship in Fellowship Hall

December 31 - January 1: Office closed

Ministries will meet on December 5

Session will meet on December 19

Poinsettias for Christmas

Name: (as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

Number of poinsettias (\$7 each): _____ total cost: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Forest Hill Church; write POINSETTIAS in the memo line

Dedication:

___ In memory of

___ In honor of

___ Other: _____

I would like to _____ take the poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve service

_____ donate them to a shut-in member of the church

You may place this in the offering, mail it or email the church office