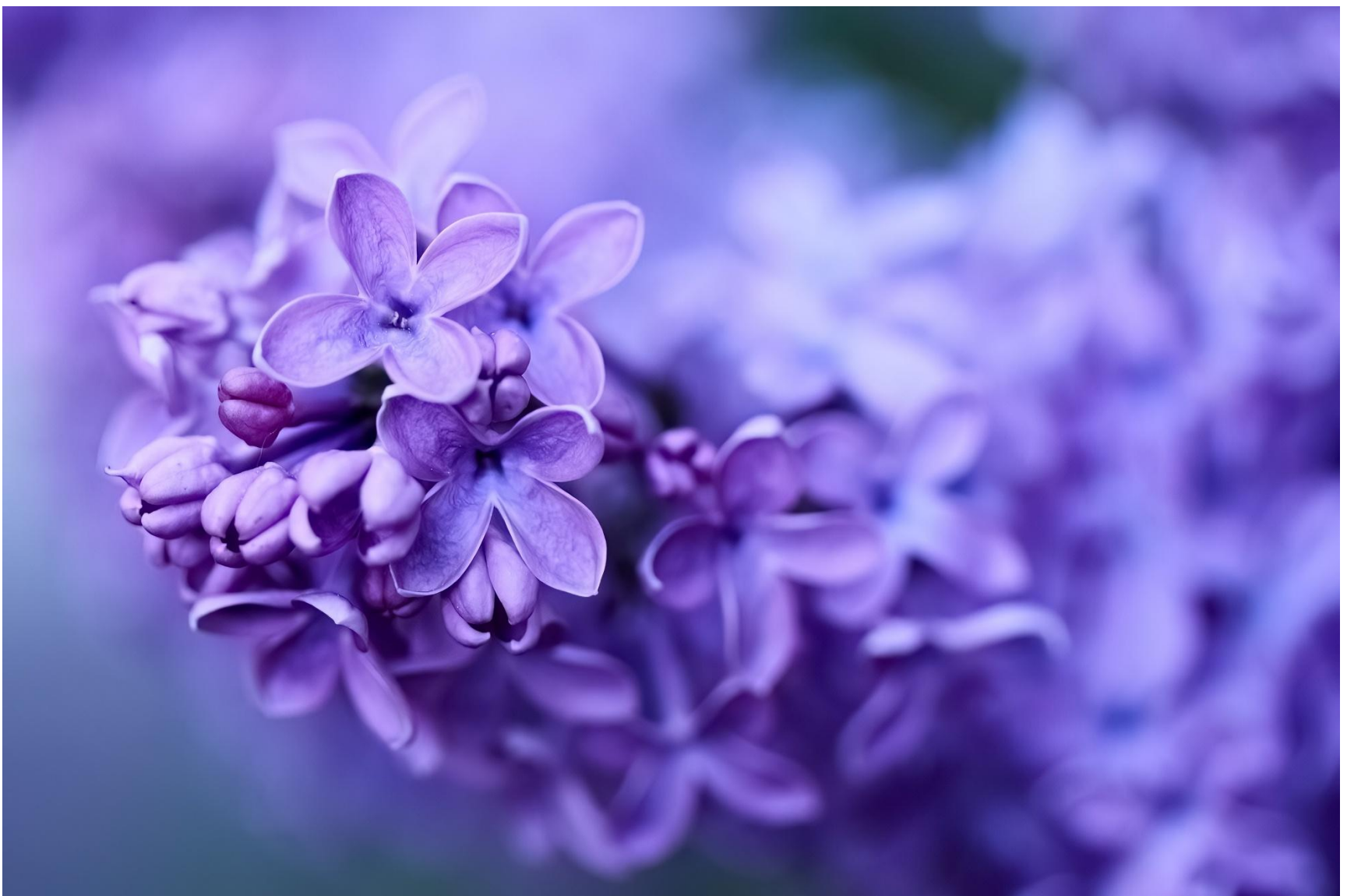


Forest Hill Church

presbyterian

**A Special Service of Witness to Camp Lilac:
Serving Transgender Youth Since 2017**



3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

Office: 216-321-2660

Custodian on Duty: 216-217-5257

Email: churchadmin@fhcpresb.org

Website: www.fhcpresb.org

**The Rev. Dr. Gene McAfee, Transitional Pastor
Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministry
Dr. QinYing Tan, Director of Music
The Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate**



Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

Prayer Requests: To request prayers for a personal concern, please email the church office (office@fhcpresb.org).

Prayers are requested this week for: Greg Hall, Kathryn Himmelsteib, Deborah Howard, Jane Ishler, Ellie Linden, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Linda Martin, Roz Peters, Joyce Senger, Kate Tzeffronis, Doreen Underwood, Sharon Wiggins, Ann Williams, and Warren Young.

Care Groups will assist our pastor with members' needs. Please call the church office to report an illness, hospitalization, family emergency, birth or death. Information will be passed on to the head of the Deacons.

The Deacon Card Ministry, with cards for all occasions, is available in Fellowship Hall most Sundays after worship. Deacon Nathaniel Martin will be happy to help you pick a card for someone who needs to hear from you and our church. Brighten someone's day with a reminder of our care.

Thank you, office volunteers: Joan Bacon, Lynda Bernays, Cathy Ghiandoni, Nancy Grube, and Kim Hill.

Thank you, Stream Team Volunteers! Anyone interested in helping stream Sunday services should contact Kurt Haas at kurt@dangereddy.com.

Please remember to leave your name tag in the appropriate column on the magnetic board outside Fellowship Hall before you leave today. You want it to be waiting for you next week!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, July 3:

- Church office will be closed for the July 4 holiday.

Sunday, July 5:

- Summer Choir rehearsal at 9:15 am.

Saturday, July 11:

- Memorial Service for Charles (Chuck) Ishler at 11:00 am.

Sunday, July 12:

- Outdoor worship at 10:00 am.

Saturday, July 18:

- FHC Connects: Hawaiian Luau Pool Party at the Nemcek/Caminiti home at 2:00 pm.

June 28, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

Please take a moment, as you prepare for worship, to silence any electronic device(s) you may have with you.

Children of all ages join their families for worship on the lawn this morning; there is no indoor childcare today.

Asterisks () indicate standing in body and/or spirit.*

CENTERING WORDS

“All of us are put in boxes by our family, by our religion, by our society, our moment in history, even our own bodies. Some people have the courage to break free.”
-Geena Rocero, transgender advocate

CENTERING MUSIC

George Gershwin
“Summertime”
Summer Choir

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Gene McAfee

Come, people of God, let us worship the God who created each of us in love and calls us by name.

We come to worship the One whose image shines in every person.

Come, people of God, let us worship the Christ who welcomed those pushed to the margins and proclaimed good news to all.

We come to follow the One who taught us to love without fear and without exception.

Come, people of God, let us worship the Spirit who continues to create, renew, and transform.

We come as beloved children of God, diverse in our experiences, united in grace. Let us worship God.

***HYMN**

“Let All Things Now Living”

1
Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our creator triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God’s banners are o’er us, God’s light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished
As forward we travel from light into light.

2
God’s law still enfolds us, the sunlight upholds us,
And stars in their courses obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,

The deeps of the ocean proclaim the Divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"

Words: Katherine K. Davis, alt.
Music: Ash Grove

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, you create every person in your image and call your creation good. Yet we confess that we have not always honored the dignity you have given to all your creation. Today, we remember especially our sins against gender-diverse people. We have judged when we should have listened. We have excluded when we should have welcomed. We have remained silent when words are needed. We have failed to see Christ in those whose experience differs from our own. Teach us to be a community where all people are valued, respected, and celebrated as your beloved children. We pray in the name and spirit of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ.

SILENCE

KYRIE

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom. (repeat)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**

Lead me, guide me, along the way,
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

To participate in our online Friendship Register, please leave a comment in the Live Chat box listing the names of those participating in this morning's Live Worship or email the office.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 139:1-18

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me,”

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

Galatians 3:1-4, 27-29

¹ You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified!

² The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard?

³ Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh?

⁴ Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing.

²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

AFTER THE READINGS

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

MUSIC Lydia Pollack

“The Lopper”

“The Lopper” draws on the myth of Procrustes, a bandit who cuts travelers to fit his bed. The song uses this story as a metaphor for people who, driven by insecurity, diminish others to make themselves feel adequate.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Loving Parent, 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

CALL TO GIVING

OFFERING

*By texting: 216-400-5300
You may give online with PayPal, credit or debit card: www.fhcpresb.org
Or you may also mail a check to the church office.*

OFFERTORY Menken/Slater

“I See the Light”
London Duncan

***SONG OF DEDICATION**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, we dedicate these gifts to your service. Use them and use us to proclaim your love, pursue your justice, and extend your welcome, we humbly pray. May they support ministries that heal wounds, build community, and affirm the sacred worth of every person and your love for every creature. Through the One for Others, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

“Now There Is No Male or Female”

1 Now there is no male or fe-male; now there is no free or slave;
2 Cru - ci - fied with Christ the Sav-ior, bap-tized in his ho - ly death,
3 Death has no do - min-ion o'er him, so for us death holds no power;

now there is no Jew or Gen-tile in the earth Christ died to save.
and as Christ was raised to glo - ry we have new life on this earth.
life's own wa-ters now have marked us, born to God this ver - y hour.

Christ has set us free for free-dom: we no more sing slav-ery's creed;
Power of wa-ter and God's nam-ing, turn-ing us from dark to light,
From this mo-moment and for - ev - er dead to sin, a - live in Christ,

old sub - mis-sions can - not claim us; Christ has set us free in - deed.
joins us to those who, be - fore us, ran the race and fought the fight.
born of wa - ter and the Spir-it, now in Christ we find our life.

Opening with an allusion to Galatians 3:28 and closing with one to John 3:5, this text is filled with specific scriptural phrases related to baptism. It also includes larger themes like the parallels with the deliverance of Israel from slavery through the waters of the Red Sea.

TEXT: Lynette Miller, 1985
MUSIC: *Gesangbuch*, 1695
Text © 1986 Lynette Miller

OMNI DIE (Trier)
8.7.8.7.D

WITNESSING TO CAMP LILAC

Nora Mahon, Rose Solomon, and Ann Williams

*HYMN

“For Everyone Born”

(vv. 1, 4 by Shirley Erena Murray; vv. 2-3 adapted by Avery Smith)

1
For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

2

For woman and man, a place at the table —
and all those between, beyond, and besides;
expanding our world, dismantling power,
each valued for what their voice can provide. **[Refrain]**

3

For gay, bi, and straight, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and color
for queer, trans, and ace, the chalice of grace. **[Refrain]**

4

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free. **[Refrain]**

CAMP LILAC SONG

The congregation is invited to join in the following refrain the second time it’s sung:

**I’m a nonbinary camper
I am a transgender kid
Let me tell you about camp
And the awesome things we did
We made some friends and campfires
And a brand new family
Camp Lilac is just the place
Where I’m safe being me**

***BENEDICTION AND CHARGE**

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy,
tried and true; With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.**

DEPARTING MUSIC

George Gershwin

“I’ve Got Rhythm”

Special thanks to our guests and witnesses on behalf of Camp Lilac this morning.

- Nora Mahon (she/her) is Director of Camp Lilac. Nora is also a Speech-Language Pathologist at the OPMC Voice, Airway and Swallow Center, specializing in gender-affirming voice and communication training. Nora loves to hike and to read.
- Rose Solomon (she/her) is Activity Staff for Camp Lilac and Director of a math tutoring center. Rose is also a blacksmith.
- Dr. Ann Williams (she/her) is Co-founder of Camp Lilac and Camp Grandma. Ann has two well-loved dogs and a thriving garden and has been a member of Forest Hill Church since 1997.

Thank you to Lydia Pollack and London Duncan for providing music in our worship service today. Lydia is an engineer living in Cleveland Heights with her three children and wife, Katie. She often presents her intriguing songs at local spots like Wizbang and BottleHouse. London is a student at Euclid High School. She recently received third prize in a talent competition at the African American Garden Association Juneteenth celebration.