

**RESPONSIVE POEM**

(modified) By Ross Gay

“Thank You”

If you find yourself hearing, again, the earth's great moan  
that says you are the air of the now and gone, that says all  
you love will turn to dust, do not raise your fist. Do not  
raise your small voice against it. And do not take cover.  
Instead, curl your toes into the grass, watch the cloud  
ascending from your lips. Walk through the garden's  
splendor. Say only, thank you.  
**Thank you.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 623**

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

**\*BENEDICTION**

Kaylin Haught

“God Says Yes To Me”

*If you’d like, please pick up the poetry sheet  
from today’s service at the exits.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Friday, August 8:**

- Pacesetters – Sunset and Socialize at 3:00 pm.

**Sunday, August 10:**

- Summer Choir rehearsal is canceled.
- Outdoor worship at 10:00 am.
- Exploring Membership at 11:00 am.

**Wednesday, August 13:**

- Eastside Citizens’ Meeting with Amy Acton at 5:00 pm.

**Sunday, August 17:**

- Summer Choir resumes at 9:15 am.
- Beginning Genealogy at 11:15 am.

**Sunday, August 24:**

- Labre Ministry Serving at North Church at 10:15 am.
- Pacesetter Pool Party at 12:00 pm.
- *Singing for Justice* at 2:00 pm.

**Thursday, August 28:**

- Engage GCC Meeting at 7:00 pm.

**Please Note:** Pastor Gene will be on vacation from July 28 through August 3. During that time, the Rev. Carol Wedell will provide on-call pastoral coverage from July 28 through July 30, and the Rev. Susan Holderness will be on call for pastoral emergencies from July 31 through August 3.

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

**Prayers are requested this week for:** Jennifer Blakeney, Elsie Boyd, Nancy Burcham, Janet Dauer, Bob Dawson, Diane Doyle, Deborah Howard, Chuck and Jane Ishler, Kemp Jaycox, Jessica Owusu, Roz Peters, Ron Register, Henry Rodionov, Joyce Senger, Eileen Vizcaino, and Amy Wheatley.

**Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:** Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Pat Musick, Grace Uhle 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](mailto: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!

**3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118**  
**Office: 216-321-2660**

**Custodian on Duty: 216-217-5257**

**Email: [churchadmin@fhcpresb.org](mailto:churchadmin@fhcpresb.org)**

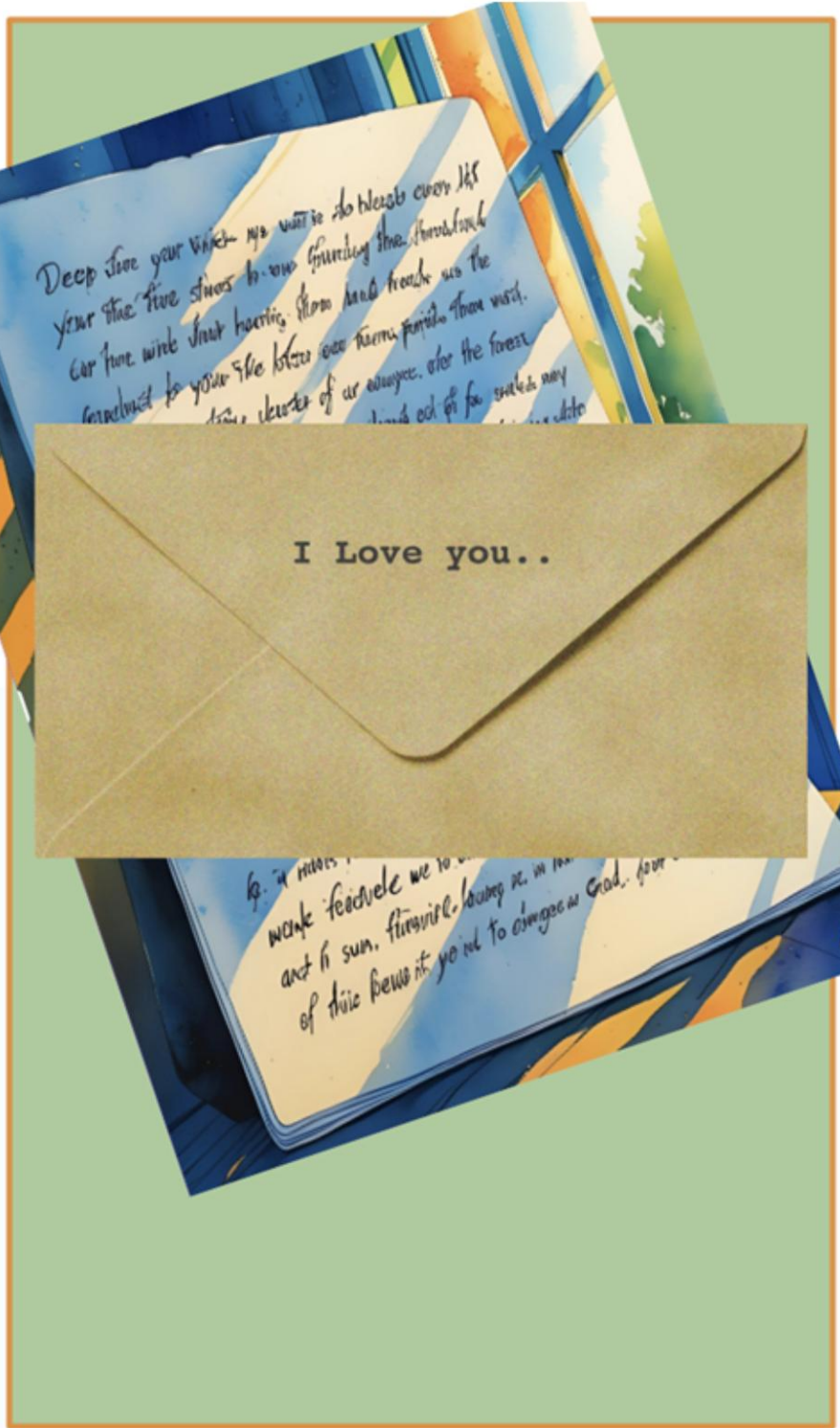
**Website: [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)**

**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**

*Special thanks to Elder Mary Ann Breisch,  
Brian Misch, Frances Pawuk,  
Elder Jean Reinhold, and The Rev. Sally Wile  
for their help in worship today.*

**FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN**

**August 3, 2025 – 10:00 AM**



**You may also join worship online using this link:**  
**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3sOqDAM>**

***\*Please stand in body and/or spirit.***

Childcare is provided for children ages birth to five years from 9:45 am – 11:15 am in Rooms 201/203. Older children (ages 6+) join their families for summer worship in the sanctuary.

**CENTERING WORDS**  
*Lately I've been thinking about who I want to love, and how I want to love, and why I want to love the way I want to love, and what I need to learn to love that way, and who I need to become to become the kind of love I want to be. And when I break it all down, when I whittle it into a single breath, it essentially comes out like this: before I die, I want to be somebody's favorite hiding place, the place they can put everything they need to survive, every secret, every solitude, every nervous prayer, and be absolutely certain I will keep it safe. I will keep it safe. ~Andrea Gibson*

**PRELUDE** Karen Lafferty  
“Seek Ye First”

**WELCOME**  
*Please read your bulletin for announcements.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Prayer by Mary Oliver  
It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones;  
**just pay attention,**  
then patch a few words together  
**and don't try to make them elaborate,**  
this isn't a contest but the doorway into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.  
**Come, worship God**

**\*HYMN NO. 664**  
“Morning Has Broken”

**COMMUNION** Mary Ann Breisch and Sally Wile

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**  
**Most 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. Forgive us for these and all our sins,**

that we might live in peace and reflect your love in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**SILENCE**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**  
Forgiven of our sins, filled with hope, living in relationship with God and one another - we are a new people. Thanks be to God.

**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.

**THE MYSTERY OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**  
Come, everybody, for we are invited to the mystery of the Lord’s Supper.  
**We are ready!**  
Jesus said: All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.  
**We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!**  
We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . .  
**“Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**  
In the same way, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,  
**“Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.”**  
Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless us in our eating and drinking that our eyes may be opened and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died. Through the broken bread . . .  
**...we join with Christ in our commitment to heal the brokenness of the world.**  
Through the cup of blessing . . .  
**... we join with Christ in our commitment to pour ourselves out for others in an ongoing search for reconciliation.**

**COMMUNION MUSIC NO. 769** Murray  
“For Everyone Born”

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**  
Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now fortified may we do the work you have called us to: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and make the powerful care. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim your good news in all we say and do. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

**POEM** Langston Hughes

**SCRIPTURE** The Rev. Sally Wile  
“What Jesus Said”

**AFTER THE READING**  
Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM/OFFERING** Elder Mary Ann Breisch  
“Like a Moon”

**\*SONG OF DEDICATION DOXOLOGY NO. 606**  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav’nly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**SERMON** Elder Jean Reinhold  
“A Love Letter From God”  
*How would God speak God’s comfort, acceptance and challenge to someone? acceptance and challenge? If a loved one needed comfort, acceptance and hope, what would you want God to tell them?*  
  
*(For those watching online, please take this time to write too)*

**PASSING OF LOVE AND PEACE**  
*(For those watching online, please share your writing in the chat box)*

**\*RESPONSE HYMN 582:**  
*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*