

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 12:

- Writing and Drawing class at 12:15 pm in South Hall
- Contemplative Scripture at 4 pm in the Chapel.

Saturday, January 18:

- Pacesetters planning party at 7 pm at the Lafferty's.

Sunday, January 19:

- The congregation is invited to the special Immigration Task Force meeting in the sanctuary following worship.

Monday, January 20:

- Church office will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Sunday, January 26:

- Annual Meeting following worship.

Friday, January 31:

- "A Spanish Affair" presented by The Resonance Project in the FHC sanctuary at 7:30 PM. Contact Ying for more information.

Information on all events are listed on the church website (www.fhcpresb.org), monthly TOWER located on the church information tables in the church hallways, and our digital and paper bulletin boards located outside of the sanctuary. You may also use the QR code below!



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

Prayers are requested this week for: Janet Dauer, Dorothy Herd, Sonji Kenyatta, Ellen McChesney, Cate Monaghan, and Twanda Patterson.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Kemp Jaycox, Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Pat Musick, Roz Peters, 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.

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

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

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, PRESBYTERIAN

January 12, 2025 – 11:00AM



You may also join worship online using this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pmo2DXAt3Q>

**Please stand if able*

CENTERING WORDS

“Dear Child of God, I am sorry to say that suffering is not optional.” - Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1931-2021; attr.)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Robert Lowry

“Shall We Gather at the River”
Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kylie Evans

Fear not, says the Holy One of Israel, for you are mine.
We are God’s people, and we belong to no other.
From the north and from the south,
from the east and from the west,
God has summoned us, and we have drawn near.
We are here to worship and to remind ourselves who we are and whose we are. And in remembering, we are not afraid.

*HYMN NO. 463

“How Firm a Foundation”
(vv. 1, 2, 3, 5)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and everlasting God, forgive us for allowing the depths of the world’s concerns or our own passions and fears to overwhelm us. Forgive us our distractions, our petty grievances, and our unwholesome appetites. Forgive us these things which we confess with our lips and forgive us those sins that shame us into silence. For these and all our sins, Holy One, we ask your forgiveness and the grace of your Spirit to amend our lives.

SILENCE

KYRIE (Hymn No. 576)

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: neither our lives nor our sins are our own. They belong to God who takes away our guilt through sacrificial love. By God’s great mercy and grace we are empowered to live anew!

*GLORIA (Hymn No. 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.
(sing twice)*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Children are invited to leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders to go to Sunday School.

ANTHEM

Mark Miller

“A Child of God”

Ushers will collect prayer requests.

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 43:1-7 (Page 586)
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (Page 834)

After the reading

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN NO. 314

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Gene McAfee

“And Why”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

CALL TO GIVING

OFFERING

By texting: 216-400-5300

You may give online with PayPal, Credit or Debit Card:

www.fhcbresb.org

Or you may also mail a check to the church office.
Make Your Pledge for 2025 using the QR code below.



OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, with you there are more blessings than our minds can fathom or our hearts desire. We dedicate our offerings as tokens of our lives, asking always for your blessing. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 834

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

*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.

POSTLUDE

Special thanks to Amanda Powell, Kylie Evans, and Seth Ungemach for their help in leading worship today!