

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Tuesday, December 24:

- Church offices will be closed at noon.
- Family Service at 5 pm
- Candlelight Service at 10 pm followed by Cookies and Milk in Fellowship Hall.

### Wednesday, December 25:

- Church offices will be closed for Christmas.

### Tuesday, December 31:

- New Year's Eve Party in Fellowship Hall at 7 pm.

## POINSETTIAS

**Barbara Hansen:** In loving memory of my husband, Lamont Hansen; my mother, Ethel VanFleet; my son-in-law, Mark Davidson.

**Cate Monaghan:** In Thanksgiving for Grace Uhle and Doris Allen.

**Chris and Dave Bell:** With love to family and friends.

**Cliff and Jane Kowall:** In memory of parents Walter and Elaine Grasson and Paul and Dorothy Kowall.

**David and Linda Rainey:** In memory of loved ones.

**Derry & Kathy Hanna Stauffer:** Remembering Stauffer and Hanna parents.

**Ed Gemerchak and Sally Wile:** In memory of our parents Frank, Virginia, Ed, and Robin who loved Christmas.

**Peter and Ann Williams:** To be dedicated to our mothers, Betty Williams and Dorothy Sawyer.

**Stephen Sedam & Virginia Weiss:** In honor of the loving support given by the community at Forest Hill Church, and in thanksgiving for the remarkable life and spirit of Kemp Jaycox.

**The Breisch Family:** In memory of Ben Breisch.

**The Deaville and Young Families:** In loving memory of Robert and Ginny Young.

**The Finn Family:** In memory of our loved ones.

*Thank you to those who purchased poinsettias that add beauty to our sanctuary.*

**Christmas Door Wreaths:** Thank you, Hilltop Garden Club, for your donation!

**Prayer Request:** 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:** Janet Dauer, Dorothy Herd, Sonji Kenyatta, Ellen McChesney, Cate Monaghan, Chiquitia Montgomery 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, Susan Kay Dunlap** ([susandnlp@gmail.com](mailto:susandnlp@gmail.com) or [deacons@fhcpresb.org](mailto:deacons@fhcpresb.org)).

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

**Thank you, Stream Team Volunteers!** Anyone interested in helping stream Sunday services should contact Kurt Haas at [kurt@dangereddy.com](mailto:kurt@dangereddy.com).

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The Rev. Carol Wedell, Gap Pastor  
Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministry  
Dr. QinYing Tan, Director of Music



*The cover image: "The Good That Is Yours" by Lisle Gwynn Garity | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)*

The liturgy: A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

## FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN

December 22, 2024 – 11:00AM



You may also join worship online using this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x73kUxMcmHM>

*\*Please stand if able*

**CENTERING WORDS**

*Hope is being able to see that there  
is light despite all the darkness.*

~Desmond Tutu

**PRELUDE**

“Gloria”  
Voices in Bronze

arr. F. Callahan

**WELCOME**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

“The Angel Band”  
Little Crescendos  
Julie Minder, director

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Elizabeth Shaw  
Lucy, Elijah, and  
Solomon Washington

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

**Refrain:**

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dean Sieck

In this weary world,

**we sing of joy.**

In this fragile world,

**we lift each other up.**

In this beautiful world,

**we look for God.**

In this tender world,

**we hold onto hope.**

This is the invitation of faith.

So, in this time of worship,

may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us  
God.

**With hope in our hearts, amen!**

**\*HYMN NO. 143**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, you paint pictures of what could be,  
**but we declare those visions impossible.**

You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,  
**but we spout skepticism and uncertainty.**

You dream of a more just day,  
**but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that  
horizon.**

Forgive us for losing sight of hope.

**Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there  
is.**

Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.

**Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams,  
and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray,  
amen.**

**SILENCE**

**\*RESPONSE** (Hymn No. 91)

“Come, Come Emmanuel”

*Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. (2X)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*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)*

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

**ANTHEM**

arr. Andrew Carter

“A Maiden Most Gentle”

Chancel Choir

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 1:18-25 (page 783)

Luke 1:46-55 (page 831)

*After the reading*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*HYMN NO. 100**

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

V.1 All

V. 2 Low voices

V. 3 High voices

V. 4 All

**SERMON**

The Rev. Carol Wedell

“Hope Is Worth the Risk”

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father Mother, 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, forever. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

By texting: 216-400-5300

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

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

Or you may also mail a check to the church office.

Make Your Pledge for 2025 using the QR code below.



**OFFERTORY**

J.S. Bach

“Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring”

Chancel Choir

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN NO. 127**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**\*BENEDICTION AND CHARGE**

**SANCTUARY** (Hymn No. 701)

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

**POSTLUDE**

Paul Fey

“Lift Up Your Heads”

*Special thanks to everyone who  
participated in worship!*