



**On New Year's Eve**, do you ever find yourself kind of tired from all the busy-ness of the holidays, but still wanting to do something to ring in the New Year? Then bring your favorite party game, and your favorite dish to share for a Multi-Generational Potluck Game Night here at Forest Hill! We will gather around 7:00 pm and starting at 9:00 pm we will ring in the New Year each hour as it comes to different time zones. This way, if you don't want to stay until midnight, you can still take part in a little bit of Happy New Year Hoopla before you go home to get to bed at a decent hour. RSVPs are not necessary, but it would be helpful to get at least a rough headcount. Please email Marcie Denton if you plan to attend. Whether there are 5 of us or 50 of us, we will definitely have a fun time. Hope you can join us!

**Please welcome our guest music director, David Neiweem!** David Neiweem recently moved to Cleveland Heights after retiring from his positions as professor of music and university organist at the University of Vermont, where he taught for 40 years. In addition, David has spent his life in church music, most recently retiring from 23 years as Director of Music Ministries at the First Congregational Church of Burlington, Vermont. He is a native of Chicago and a graduate of The Oberlin College Conservatory of Music.

**From Transitional Pastor Gene McAfee:** Thank you, Forest Hill Church, for your kind and thoughtful cards and gifts at this holiday season. I hope your days are as merry and bright as you have made mine! This past year has been a wonderful experience for me, and I look forward to continuing our shared ministry in 2026. Blessings to you all.

**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:** Doris Bartlett, Janet Dauer, Bob Dawson, Deborah Howard, Chuck and Jane Ishler, Mark Le Master, Ellie Linden, Karen Loughridge, Jessica Owusu, Roz Peters, Ron Register, Serena Shung, Joyce Senger, Carolyn Smith, Joel Tan, John Tan, Kate Tzepronis, Doreen Underwood, Eileen Vizcaino, Ann Williams, and the family of Elsie Boyd.

**Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:** Kemp Jaycox, Ron Klein, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, 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!

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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

The First Sunday  
After Christmas Day

December 28, 2025 – 11:00 AM



You may also join worship online using this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GXPtyJHLN4>

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

*Childcare is provided for children ages birth to 4 years from 10:45 am – 12:15 pm in Rooms 201/203. Children ages 5+ join their families for the opening moments of worship. Following the passing of the peace, children leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders to go to Sunday School.*

**CENTERING WORDS**  
"Gospel doctrine creates a gospel culture. The doctrines of grace create a culture of grace, a social environment of acceptance and hope and freedom and joy. Jesus himself touches us through his truths to create a new kind of community. Without the doctrines, the culture alone is fragile. Without the culture, the doctrines alone appear pointless." – Ray Ortlund

**CENTERING MUSIC** Rosalie Bonighton  
"Ye banks and braes" (Scottish Folk Tune)

**WELCOME**

**CHORAL INTROIT** Plainsong arr. Neale/Baker  
"Of the Father's Love Begotten"  
Madelaine Matej MacQueen, soprano

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Peter Williams  
Daughters and sons of God, let us lift up our hearts to be refreshed in God's presence.  
**Let us lift up our eyes to see as we are seen by our Creator.**  
Let us lift up our voices to praise the God of our Lord Jesus Christ in whose name we are gathered. Let us worship God.

**\*HYMN NO. 159** "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**  
Holy One, Creator of all things, in this season of Christmas, we remember that you became poor so we could receive the riches of your mercy. You are the living God, the breath of creation, the wind that changes the direction of our lives. You open us up to new dreams and new hopes, to new things that you are always ready to do in us. Forgive our closed minds that keep us from new ideas and possibilities. Put aside our preference for the past so that we can see what you will do through us tomorrow. Forgive our closed hands that hold tightly onto our gifts.

Forgive our closed hearts that limit our love to ourselves and our own. Spirit of God, open us to love and serve the community and world in which you have placed us and let us live with hope that your promises for our future will be fulfilled, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SILENCE**

**KYRIE (HYMN NO. 434, v. 1)**  
*Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;  
Renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**  
God leans over so that a great heart of forgiveness and hope might touch our own, healing us and restoring us to new life.  
**Not condemnation, but God's compassion; not judgment, but God's justice; not punishment, but God's grace. We are forgiven and loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS (HYMN NO. 586)**  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**\*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.*

**MUSIC** G. F. Handel  
"Come Unto Him"  
  
*Ushers will collect prayer requests.*

**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](http://www.fhcpresb.org)  
Or you may also mail a check to the church office*

**OFFERTORY** G. F. Handel  
"Pastoral Symphony" (from *Messiah*)

**\*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**  
**Look upon these gifts, O God, and see in them the days of labor, the hours of concern, the harvest of work faithfully done, and the demonstration of our loyalty to good instead of evil, to the end that your will may indeed be done here, as in heaven. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**  
Acts 2:38-42 (page 886)  
Matthew 5:13-16 (page 786)

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

**\*HYMN NO. 157** "I Danced in the Morning" (vv. 1-3)

**SERMON** The Rev. Arvid Whitmore  
"Church, . . . Inside Out"

**\*HYMN NO. 301** "Let Us Build a House" (vv. 1, 3, 5)

**\*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** Giovanni Valentini  
"Canzona"