

Lent, Holy Week, Easter 2026
Opportunities to Gather in Community

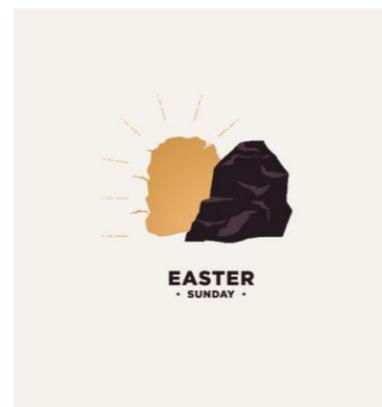
March 29: Palm Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary
11:00 am: Worship with a palm procession led by the children.

April 2: Maundy Thursday Service in Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm: Scripture readings with communion, candlelight, and music. Childcare will be provided.

April 3: Good Friday Service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
12:00 pm – Join our neighboring congregation, St. Paul's Episcopal Church (2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights) for a three-hour ecumenical service of music, scripture, and preaching. Worshipers are welcome to arrive and depart throughout the service.

April 5: Easter Sunday
9:00 am: Service of praise starting in the courtyard garden and moving to our Chapel.

11:00 am: Celebration of Easter joy in the Sanctuary with special music.



Prayer Requests: To request prayers for a personal concern, please email the church office (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, Linda Martin, Wanda Nelson, Jessica Owusu, Roz Peters, Joyce Senger, Javier Shung, Carolyn Smith, Joel Tan, John Tan, Tony Tan, Kate Tzeffronis, Doreen Underwood, Eileen Vizcaino and Ann Williams.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Kemp Jaycox, 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.

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

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

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026 – 7:00PM



You may also join worship online using this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MC7BnOWvwhs>

The Community Gathers In Silence.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 51)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clear; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. **The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.** Let us worship God. **God's love endures forever.** God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
God's love endures forever.

INVOCATION

*HYMN NO. 466 "Come and Fill Our Hearts"

LITURGY OF THE WORD Isaiah 58:1-12 (page 600)

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and the Lord will say, 'Here I am.'

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; **You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.**

SILENCE

ANTHEM by Darius Lim

"Ashes to Dust"
Chancel Choir

READING Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (page 787)

*HYMN NO. 377 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

MEDITATION

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Remember that you are dust, And to dust you shall return. The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** Jesus, lamb of God: **Have mercy on us.** Jesus, bearer of our sins. **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world: **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 IMPOSITION OF ASHES

CLOSING PRAYER

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you have reconciled us to yourself. Following the example of our Lord Jesus, may we through prayer and fasting, obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 677 "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended"
(v. 1 Solo, v. 2 All, v. 3 Choir, vv.4-5 All)

DEPART IN PEACE

May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being – mind, body and spirit – free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

The Community Departs In Silence.

Offerings may be left in the collection plates at the doors.

Special thanks to Nathaniel Martin for his help in leading worship this evening.

Information about events is listed on the church website calendar (<http://www.fhcpresb.org/calendar>), in our monthly newsletter, The Tower, and on our digital and paper bulletin boards located outside the sanctuary. Scan the QR code to link to the calendar on our website.

