

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, February 23:

- Black History Education Committee: Soul Food Potluck at 4:00 pm.
- Black History Education Committee concert at 6:30 pm under the direction of Caleb Alexander Wright. The concert will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel.

Friday, February 28:

- Pacesetters: Cleveland Museum of Natural History at 2:00 pm.
- Pizza with the Pacesetters following the museum at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, March 8:

- Racial Equity Book Club: Dream Town at 10:30 am. For more information, email racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org.

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: Elsie Boyd, Janet Dauer, Bob Dawson, Sonji Kenyatta, Ellen McChesney and Cate Monaghan.

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.

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, and Nancy Grube.

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

February 23, 2025 – 11:00AM



You may also join worship online using this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nF0SxvUmCiq>

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

CENTERING WORDS

*"I feel safe in the midst of my enemies,
for the truth is all powerful and will prevail." – Sojourner Truth*

PRELUDE

Robert Lowry

"Shall We Gather at the River"

During the American Civil War (1861–1865), Lowry was deeply moved by the suffering and death surrounding him. One hot summer day in 1864, while reflecting on Revelation 22:1—where John describes a "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb"—Lowry imagined a great gathering of believers by this heavenly river. This vision inspired him to write both the lyrics and melody of "Shall We Gather at the River".

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

"We've Come This Far by Faith"

Chancel Choir

"We've Come This Far by Faith" is a widely known gospel song, often considered an anthem of perseverance, hope, and trust in God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Shaw

Do not fret because of the wicked.

Do not be envious of evildoers.

Trust in God and do good.

We will trust and commit our way to God.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.

Our salvation is from our God, and the day of gladness is at hand!

*HYMN NO. 661

"Why Should I Feel Discouraged?"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, your Child called us to be merciful as you are merciful. You call us, again and again, to rise above the ordinary, to stretch beyond our comfortable boundaries, and to seek your way and your will. You call us to be different. Help us when we are weak, heal us when we are wounded, and restore us to the light of your salvation.

SILENCE

KYRIE (Hymn No. 600)

"Amen"

Amen, amen, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH! (Hymn No. 591)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Rollo Dilworth

"Freedom's Plow"

"Freedom's Plow" is a song of freedom, hope, and inspiration that celebrates the contributions of African Americans to the American musical landscape--specifically the spiritual, ragtime, blues, jazz and gospel. The text for "Freedom's Plow" comes from a Langston Hughes poem bearing the same title.

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

Ushers will collect prayer requests.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 (page 37)

Luke 6:27-38 (page 838)

*HYMN NO. 740

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Gene McAfee

"Yes, We Can"

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.

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.

OFFERTORY

African American Spiritual

"Lord, I Want to be a Christian"

Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expressed the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious and loving God, may our giving and our living reflect lives of generosity, compassion, and understanding. May our gifts advance your realm of justice and peace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. In our Savior's name we ask this. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 852

"When the Lord Redeems the Very Least"

*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

Albert E. Brumley

"Turn Your Radio On"

"Turn Your Radio On" by Albert E. Brumley is a gospel song that uses the metaphor of a radio to illustrate the idea of tuning into God's message. The song encourages listeners to "Turn Your Radio On"—not just literally, but spiritually—to receive the good news of salvation. It implies that God's message is always broadcasting, but people need to be willing to listen.

Special thanks to Elizabeth Shaw for her help in leading worship today.