

Black History month is celebrated annually to celebrate Black culture, eradicate discrimination and encourage racial equality. For the past 13 years, Forest Hill Church has proudly presented a full month of Black History Celebration Events. All events are FREE and open to the public, although some events offer sweets and treats for sale.

Join us in celebrating our 2024 Theme:
Black Women: Crowned with Glory

Please sign up for the Soul Food Potluck here: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/68261e>
(Please be patient - it does take a moment or two for the form to appear).

If you wish to volunteer for Black History Month, please click here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Sy7ISmiSOTjqBXQm-3on5HXK3WxqUZi2kEL0tqKMWPw/viewform?edit_requested=true

Please fill out this Google form if you need a ride to Black History Month events:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScP8MZu7Z_B2vPJhTWWCyFeDRIHiciy0H7UtFugmg13_rx0Ow/viewform.

For more information, please contact Danielle Cosgrove at daniellecosgrove@gmail.com or call or text her at 216-513-3162.

If you wish to make a donation, you may send checks to the church. Please notate Black History on the memo line.



Are you a new visitor? Scan this QR code. We would love to hear from you.



If you wish to give online, please use this QR Code and select your giving option.



Cover Art
Vertis Hayes 1911-2000

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Vertis Hayes was a muralist and sculptor of African American culture. Primarily self-taught, Hayes became a college art teacher and established the Hayes Academy of Art. In 1937, Harlem Hospital commissioned Hayes to do his now-famous mural, "The Pursuit of Happiness." The untitled piece on the cover shows both womxnhood and musicality as an integral part of the Black church experience.

Prayer Request: To request prayers for a personal concern, please email Pastor Lentz (pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org) no later than Thursday afternoon of each week for inclusion in next week's congregational prayer.

Prayers are requested this week for: Joe Dauer, Mark Davidson, Bob and Diane Doyle, Ajah and Jordan and the family of Robyn Hales, Deborah Howard, Kemp Jaycox, Roz and Graham Peters, Beverly Thomas, Grace Uhle, Warren Young and Karen & Dan Yourd.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Ron Klein and Carol Hopkins-Lutz.

Care Groups will assist our pastors 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, Dean Sieck** (deacons@fhcpresb.org).

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

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

The deadline for the bulletin and weekly email is Tuesday of each week at 5 pm. The next TOWER deadline is **February 15, 2024 (for the March TOWER) at 8:00 am**. Please submit your written requests to office@fhcpresb.org.

We thank Chiq Montgomery for serving as Lay Leader this morning.

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Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr., Pastor
Dr. Amy Wheatley, Dir. of Family, Youth & Children's Ministry
Dr. Qin Ying Tan, Director of Music



FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN
FEBRUARY 4, 2024 – 11:00AM



Vertis Hayes, "Untitled," ca. 1940s; Mixed media on canvas; 36 ¼ x 44 inches; LeMoyne-Owen College

You may also join worship online using this link:
<https://youtube.com/live/-EePrfAxvb8>

CENTERING WORDS

“When you pray, move your feet”

Unknown from Africa
(From *My Soul Looks Back, 'Less I Forget*, ed. D.W. Riley)

PRELUDE

African-American Spiritual

“There’s a Balm in Gilead”

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

African-American Spiritual

“Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit”

Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 147)

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; **for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.** God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; God’s understanding is beyond all measure.** The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; God casts the wicked to the ground. **Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving! Praise the Lord!** Let us worship God.

*HYMN NO. 339

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln’s birthday in 1900, the words written by James Weldon Johnson gained national recognition and devotion not only with the African-American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God you seek to gather all your children of every race, creed and color around the table of plenty. But, in our sinfulness we have divided and conquered. We have created a world where there are haves and have nots. We have created a grind culture. We have created a world where we have to have a month set aside instead of celebrating all the gifts and all the voices and all the hopes and all the dreams every day of the year. Yet we will celebrate this month in defiance of the world’s sinfulness. We will laugh, and dream and dance and celebrate the lives of those who have lived and loved to the full, and suffered much and persevered. We will “lift every voice and sing!” We will continue to march in your light towards that day when we are all together in the kingdom. Forgive us, Lord. Repair us, Lord. Restore us, Lord. In Jesus’ name. AMEN

A TIME OF REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

HYMN NO. 588



I Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

CHILDREN’S WELCOME

Amy Wheatley

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

ANTHEM

“Freedom Train”

Chancel Choir

“Freedom” was commissioned in 2008, based on “De Gospel Train.” Quotes from “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around,” “We Shall Overcome,” “Oh, Freedom” bring the song to a special chorus. The sound of a train whistle, “Woo! Woo!” brings to mind the train image, a symbol that represents emancipation from slavery in the African-American vocal tradition.

THE LIVING WORD (NRSV)

Mark 1:29-39

After the readings

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 623

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

This African American spiritual, written in the 1800’s, reminds us of our baptismal covenant and reminds us both of the ocean of “middle passage” and the crossing of enslaved people across the river into freedom.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.

“Crowned in Glory, Called to Serve”
The Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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, forever. 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.

OFFERING

By texting: 216-400-5300

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

www.fhcpresb.org

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

Make Your Commitment (Pledge) For 2024 at www.fhcpresb.org

OFFERTORY

Arr. J. Johnson

“Give Me Jesus”

Cheryl Murray, soloist

“Give Me Jesus” is a traditional American Christian spiritual song published in 1845 by Rev. Jacob Knapp, a Baptist minister.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION/ GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bless the Lord, O my soul; **and all that is within me bless God’s holy name. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*HYMN NO. 853

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

(Siyahamba)

This Zulu/Xhosa freedom song came from a Methodist’s young men’s group in South Africa. Written in 1984 during the time of Apartheid, this hymn is sung throughout the world celebrating our commitment to march in the light of God!

*BENEDICTION

*SINGING AS WE ARE SENT FORTH

“Amen”

Written by Jester Joseph Hairston for the movie *Lily of the Fields* starring Sidney Poitier, “Amen” has become popular in churches and other places that people gather to celebrate the conclusion of an event.

POSTLUDE

“He Is King of Kings”

Arr. Anon.