

**Lent 2025  
Repentance and Renewal  
Opportunities to Gather in Community**

**March 19: Dinner and Discussion in Fellowship Hall**

5:45pm – Soup and bread dinner, brief devotional service, and facilitated small-group discussions on our spiritual journeys and practices. Childcare will be provided.

**April 17: Maundy Thursday Service in Fellowship Hall**

5:45pm – Soup and bread potluck in Fellowship Hall  
7:00pm – Intergenerational service of Communion and Tenebrae (scripture reading and gradual extinguishing of light), also in Fellowship Hall. Children are welcome at this meal and worship experience. Childcare for birth to five-year-olds will be provided.

**April 18: Good Friday Service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

12:00pm – Join a number of our neighboring congregations at 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.

Please register for meals and sign up to bring soup/bread.



**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:** Elsie Boyd, Janet Dauer, Bob Dawson, Deborah Howard, Sonji Kenyatta, Ellen McChesney Wanda Nelson (sister of Sharon Wiggins) and Carolyn Smith.

**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](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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Website: [www.fhcpresb.org](http://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**

**March 5, 2025 – 7:00PM**



You may also join worship online using this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBctgg3hUmw>

**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS IN SILENCE.**

**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

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 Malotte arr. Rickey  
“The Lord’s Prayer”

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

**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**

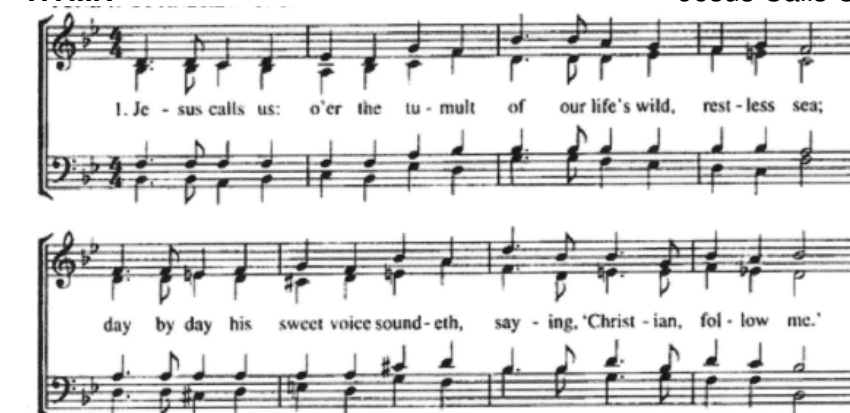
**MUSIC DURING THE IMPOSITION**

**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**

“Jesus Calls Us”



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| 2. As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for his dear sake.             | 4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, that we love him more than these. |
| 3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying, 'Christian, love me more.' | 5. Jesus calls us: by thy mercies, Saviour, make us hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of 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.

**PLEASE LEAVE IN SILENCE.**

*Special thanks to Ann Donkin for her help in leading worship today.*