

And now, O God, as we celebrate this seventy-fifth year in this place, we do not only look back, but also forward.

Lead us on, O Lord.

Make us faithful stewards of this building and these grounds, that they may continue to be a place of worship, welcome, and witness.

Strengthen us for the work of your realm.

Renew our hope, deepen our love, and send us forth in joy—

So that future generations may say in truth:

“Surely the Lord is in this place!”

***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 “Praise the Lord” Sigfried Karg-Elert

In 1950, the congregation processed from their location a few hundred yards west of here to this spot to lay the first brick of this church building. Weather permitting, the congregation today is invited to follow the children, choir, and minister to the west lawn, where two white oak trees and a crabapple tree, all native to this place, will be dedicated to God's glory and the future of Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian.

Special thanks to Cindy Newton and Ahren Stock for their help in worship today.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, September 14:

- Fall Festival following worship.

Sunday, September 28:

- Labre Ministry Serving at North Church at 10:15 am.

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 scan 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: Chris Bell, Elsie Boyd, Nancy Burcham, Janet Dauer, Bob Dawson, Deborah Howard, Chuck and Jane Ishler, Kemp Jaycox, Jessica Owusu, Roz Peters, Ron Register, Joyce Senger, Kate Tzeffronis, and Eileen Vizcaino.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: 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.

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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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

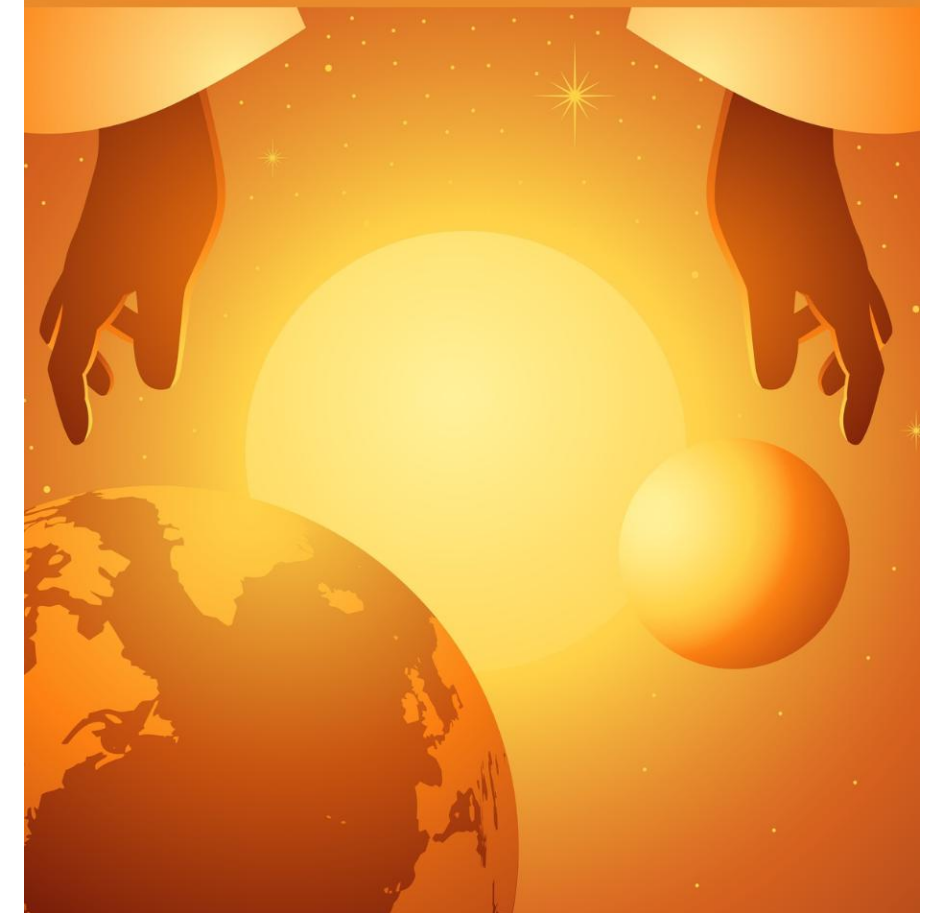
Forest Hill Church: diverse, inclusive, welcoming

FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN

September 14, 2025 – 11:00 AM

The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Celebrating the Seventy-fifth
Anniversary of Forest Hill Church
in Its Present Location**



You may also join worship online using this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjSWe2xGARY>

****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 and Children's Welcome, children leave the sanctuary with their adult leaders to go to Sunday School.

This Order of Worship incorporates elements from the Order of Service at Forest Hill Church for September 17, 1950, which included the Laying of the Bronze Brick at the church’s current location.

CENTERING WORDS
“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them.” – Matthew 18:20

CENTERING MUSIC
FHC Percussion Ensemble
Don Davis, director

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT “Halle, Halle, Halle” arr. John Bell
Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP Cindy Newton
Come, let us worship and bow down.
And kneel before the Lord, our Maker.
I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.
Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.
Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory.
Therefore, our God, we thank Thee and praise Thee, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN NO. 1** “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Eternal God, through the years you have been our dwelling place. Yet we confess that we have sometimes treated your gifts as our possessions, forgetting that all belongs to you. We have not always welcomed the stranger as we should have, nor listened to the voices of the young, the vulnerable, and the marginalized. We have sometimes cherished memories, but resisted new callings. Forgive us, God. Renew your Spirit within us, that we may be faithful stewards of your mission, serving with joy in this place and beyond, until your realm comes in fullness.

SILENCE

KYRIE HYMN NO. 578 “O Lord, Have Mercy”
(soloist, v. 1, all, vv. 1-2)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***RESPONSE HYMN NO. 588** “Alleluia”

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FRIENDSHIP REGISTER
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 “Praise His Name” Keith Hampton
Chancel Choir

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
Or you may also mail a check to the church office

OFFERTORY “Blessed Assurance” Phoebe Knapp

***HYMN NO. 606** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Gracious God, all we have is a gift from you. Receive these offerings, given in gratitude for seventy-five years of blessing in this place, and use them to build up your church, strengthen your mission, and proclaim your good news to generations yet to come. Bless this property, O Lord, not as an end in itself, but as a signpost pointing always to you. Through Christ, our foundation and cornerstone, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-29, 31-43, 46-50, 54-60
(page 272)

***HYMN NO. 775** “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

SERMON “A Serious House on Serious Earth”

***HYMN NO. 321** “The Church’s One Foundation”
(vv. 1, 2, 4)

***A LITANY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR A CHURCH HOME**
For seventy-five years these walls have sheltered worship, prayer, fellowship, and service.
Thanks be to God!
For those whose vision, labor, and sacrifice built this structure and tended these grounds —
We give you thanks, O Lord.
For every baptism at the font, every communion celebrated at the table, every word of Scripture proclaimed, every hymn of praise lifted up —
Glory to you, O God!
For every child nurtured in faith, every seeker who found welcome, every mourner who found comfort here —
We bless God’s holy name.
For ministries begun within these walls and carried out into the world—feeding the hungry, teaching the young, comforting the lonely, seeking justice —
We rejoice in your Spirit’s work among us.