

## ANGELS TOGETHER

NOW MORE THAN EVER

**"God will send their angel with you  
and make your journey a success"**

Based on Genesis 24:40

Whenever an angel appears in the Bible, you know something special is about to happen. People are called, life changes, a powerful purpose is laid out in front of a person. Or a church, perhaps, our church.

Angels know they serve God. They are wise, patient, joyous, modest, mighty, obedient, motivating. Angels have wings, wings to create change. They are, or can be, us.

The exciting process toward new pastoral leadership is underway, so it's upon us to continue to do everything that is vital for the church and to further our active role in the community. The work and need for pledges continues.

Often when going through pastoral change, congregations experience financial hardships as their number of pledges decline. With that in mind, our challenge is to increase the number of members, families and friends pledging to the mission of Forest Hill Church.

**Join us in reaching our Stewardship goal of 200 pledges,**  
an increase of 25 pledges from last year.

Data and trends indicate that achieving this pledge goal will satisfy the congregation's financial needs for the coming year and it will draw us together in a new way for a new time.

We, the Stewardship Ministry, as always are honored to work alongside each of you.

Keith Logan, Elder

Kim Hill, Jenny Himmelman, Jean Reinhold, Peter Williams

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As an alternative to mailing the enclosed envelope, you may scan this QR code to the left and complete the one minute form online

## ENACTING WHAT WE BELIEVE

Our Session and Ministries celebrate the hundreds of people engaged in thousands of hours of growth, community building, and service in the last year.

**Music that moves and lifts the spiritual experience** • Greater Cleveland Congregations, supporting anti-gerrymandering legislation, medical debt relief, and sharing information about pretrial incarceration and pressing issues in the juvenile justice system • **An influx of 21 new families and 70 children to Family, Youth and Children's Ministry** • Sabbath Rest Adult Education • **Abundance Food Pantry, Ohio's fourth largest food pantry providing 8-9 tons of food to over 250 families a week** • Weekly Bible and Bagels • **Gingerbread House Family Event** •



Streaming services and events for wider reach • **LABRE Food Ministry, providing fellowship and food to those in need in conjunction with North Presbyterian Church of Cleveland** • Christianity 101 for young adults • **Funding for local mission efforts** • Racial Equity Audit of the church • **Racial Repair Committee** • Community and election forums • **Equity Book Club** • Community events through Racial Equity Buddies • **Homeless Stand Down** • Pride Parade • **Transplant House Run** • Balanced 2024 budget with specified priorities to enhance effectiveness of church's work • **Holy Cow Consultants' report outlining the beliefs and values of the church** • First ever dedicated endowment fund: The Kemp Jaycox Environmental Sustainability Fund • **Guest musical artists and a new piano** • Youth action that generated gifts to Family Promise, University Settlement, Abundance Food Pantry, the Cleveland Book Bank and church gardens • **Support to all people who need it through the services of the Deacons** • The return of "Guess Who is Coming to Dinner" • **Developing the process of education debt relief for students as part of racial reconciliation** • Black History Month Gospel Concert • **Lectio Divina and contemplative services** • Immigration Task Force, focusing on reforming legislation around the issuance of work permits • **Focused learning about Women of Color who exemplify the fruits of the spirit** • Hosting one of the nation's longest continuously meeting AA group • **Increased diversity among ushers, lay leaders, communion servers, choir and musicians** • Sharing personal faith journeys and prayer at Ministry meetings • **Family Talent Show** •

Revised inclusionary personnel policies such as 12-week family leave and employee accommodations • **Decisions about church facility that support Earth Care mission** • More Light Congregation, welcoming and supporting the LGBTQ+ community • **New member classes** • Advent programming • **New name tags to build community** • Women's Retreat • **Improved lighting and tech for streaming worship services** • Sanctuary Church supporting refugees and asylum seekers with housing needs • **Matthew 25 Congregation with a fearless commitment to building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty** • Music and Yoga program



If you would like to know why others give to Forest Hill Church, use this QR code



## LOOKING AHEAD

Our Leadership, Ministries and Committees have faithfully discerned how they would like to continue to mold and shape our growth as a church. Below are some of their aspirations for the coming budgeted year.

**ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH:** Offer small group lectionary discussions and develop leaders for them

**ABUNDANCE FOOD PANTRY:** Continue to work with the Cleveland Food Bank to make sure we have enough food for our local community

**CHURCH GROWTH:** Develop an affordable marketing/advertising plan to attract new people to FHC capitalizing on our strengths such as children's education, family programming and missional outreach activities

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Create and implement a social media strategy; continue to strengthen digital communications such as the website and member database

**DEACONS:** Examine how to improve the current structure of pastoral care, continue to add more care group social activities such as pot lucks, concerts and opportunities for interactions that celebrate the Spirit's presence

**EARTH CARE:** Offer thoughtful leadership for the church and surrounding community on Earth Care Practices

**ENDOWMENT:** Elevate awareness within the congregation of the endowment and how it contributes in the current and future vitality of Forest Hill Church

**FAMILY, YOUTH, CHILDREN:** Expand outreach to families with resources, programs and experiences that will encourage and equip them to support the faith formation of their children/youth at home and in the life of Forest Hill Church

**FINANCE:** Use and improve the multi-year financial model to support Session in making decisions that continue to enhance the scope and effectiveness of the church's work while maintaining the church's long-term financial health

**GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS, GCC:** Expand involvement of members and friends, particularly younger members, in the hope that more are willing to take on leadership roles in GCC, either on the FHC Core Team itself, or with issue teams for the larger GCC organization

**IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE:** Provide housing in the Sanctuary apartment along with compassionate logistical support for asylum seekers, both on a short and long term basis

**JUSTICE:** Address process to make grants more sustainable and public; have after-worship meetings with grantees so they can share experiences; increase volunteer opportunities to include short term, time-limited opportunities to accommodate busy schedules

**MUSIC PROGRAM:** Continue to increase interest, quality and participation in the ensembles; present at least one concert next year

**NOMINATING:** Continue the commitment to nominate diverse leaders who represent our congregation as a whole

**PERSONNEL:** Provide support to the Pastor Nominating Committee

**RACIAL EQUITY BUDDIES:** Continue building bridges with community individuals and groups actively engaged in anti-racist and equity struggles; read and discuss five justice-centered books each year

**RACIAL REPAIR:** Grow funds in order to help more students get out of education debt

**SESSION:** Embrace the pastoral transition by being spiritually led, more diverse, fully prepared to serve, living into individual gifts, connecting with and across ministries, and communicating openly and actively with congregants

**TRUSTEES:** Finalize and begin implementing a 3-year strategic plan to renovate major areas to include Fellowship Hall, main kitchen, public hallways, Sanctuary, and Courtyard

**WORSHIP:** Grow participation of diverse members including prospective/new members and full families in all aspects of worship





## WE ARE EQUIPPED FOR THE JOURNEY TO COME

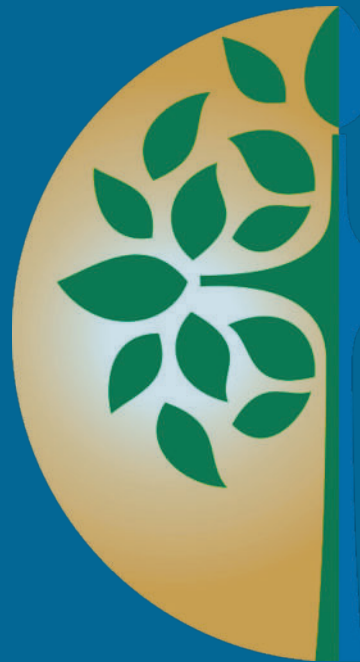
We are moving toward new pastoral leadership and, let's admit it, change can be hard, *and* we have full faith in:

- the legacy of our church;
- our capacity to live into the dreams and visions we have held true for years;
- the power and inspiration people feel when pulled into a new purpose for a new time.

Now more than ever, we are called to further the mission of Forest Hill Church as one beloved community, together.

Faithfully we know, with God, nothing is impossible.

**Thank you for committing to our church with your annual pledge.**



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Forest Hill Church  
presbyterian **2025**