



Forest Hills Mennonite Church
Advent 3 ~ December 17, 2017

Called to be followers of Jesus Christ,
Forest Hills Mennonite Church desires to be a
welcoming community of grace, love, joy and
peace, so that through the power of the
Holy Spirit, God's reconciling love will flow
through us in healing and hope to all people.

No Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship Hour

Gathering

Prelude Sandy Smoker-Organ
Song: *Joy to the world* Sandy Smoker-Organ, Cheryl Eshleman-Piano
Adult Choir, Becky Degan-Director
Gathering Song: *O come, all ye faithful* Worship Book No. 212
(verses 1, 3, 4)

Presentation: *Oh, what a glorious night*
Sign Language by Primary Classes (Grades 1-5)

Call to Worship and Invocation Jon Carlson
Song: *Joy has dawned/Angels we have heard on high*
Choir Song: *For to us a child is born* Cal Roggie-Soloist
Advent Candle Lighting Willie Hurst
Choir Song: *Welcome to our World*
Olive Kendig-Violin, Adam Harnish-Cello

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Congregational Prayer
Offertory Devin Esch, Caleb Harnish-Piano

Praising and Adoring

Song: *It came upon a midnight clear* Worship Book No. 195 (verses 1, 5)
Choir song: *Christmas Noels*
Children's Time Janette Lile
Song: *Away in a manger* Worship Book No.194

Proclaiming

Choir Song: *Song of Mary* Sandy Smoker-Piano, Olive Kendig-Violin
Cheryl Eshleman-Soloist
Scripture: Luke 1:46-55
Meditation: *Don't let it be unjust* Jon Carlson
Response Song: *Joy to the world* Worship Book No. 318 (verses 1, 2, 4)

Sending

Benediction
Postlude

Coffee Fellowship: Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments and conversation following today's worship service.

Welcome Guests! We trust that you will encounter God's presence as you worship with us today and will find yourself renewed and challenged in your journey with God. So that we might record your attendance, please complete a guest card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. Feel free to join us for Coffee Fellowship after the service, and please do come back and worship with us again.

THANKS TO EVERYONE who gave their time and energy to prepare in advance and present this morning's meaningful Christmas worship service. A special thank you to Becky Degan for organizing the various musical presentations.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION also to Willie Hurst for keeping alive a tradition started long ago by Harold Rohrer, deceased husband of Erma Rohrer Mast and father of Donna Mast. Oranges will be given out to everyone at the close of today's service.

THERE IS NO KIDS CHURCH today. Activity sheets for both older children and younger children are available in the hallway at the back of the sanctuary.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ENJOY cold drinks or a cup of hot cider or coffee with some special treats while sharing in conversation at coffee fellowship today.

STROOPIES will be available for purchase in the foyer after the worship service today. Stroopies are Dutch (Holland) stroopwafels featuring caramel spread between two thin waffle cookies partially dipped in chocolate. A variety of 6-packs and a gift box of 10 are available. Khalideh Khilo, our Syrian refugee friend, works at Lancaster Sweet Shoppe where Stroopies are made. Proceeds will benefit our Refugee Education Fund.

THANKS TO ALL who participated in our Christmas giving project for Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services (CVCCS), a local ministry that works with our homeless, at-risk and socially isolated neighbors. Kathy Unangst delivered a car FULL of Christmas gifts and clothing to CVCCS this past week. To all who participated, thanks for your generosity!

AS THE JOYS AND CARES AND CONCERNS of our congregation come to mind, please lift them to the Lord in prayer. Pray specifically for the activities that are happening at our church this week and for the work of the broader church agencies and ministries. Pray also for the following:

- Marty Peifer scheduled for surgery on Monday to replace a heart valve.
- Gene Kreider undergoing medical tests.
- Families mourning the loss of loved ones and missing their presence.
- Ruth Stoltzfus continuing to recover from surgery.
- Erma Mast experiencing significant face pain due to a nerve condition.
- Wil and Maddie Sollenberger as he continues to receive hospice care.
- Those experiencing sadness and grief during this holiday season.
- For meaningful connections with friends and family during this holiday season.

WE OFFER OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of Miriam Umble who passed away last Saturday, December 9. Viewing and visitation are scheduled today from 6-8 p.m., in the Landis Homes West Bethany Chapel where some of her art work will also be on display. A memorial service will be held in West Bethany Chapel tomorrow (Monday), December 18, at 11 a.m.

CONDOLENCES also to Keith and Ernestine Lehman and their family in the death of Keith's sister, Carol Streeter, who passed away last Saturday, December 9, as a result of injuries sustained in a fall. Carol resided in Croghan, New York prior to her death.

"THANK YOU for your thoughts, cards, phone calls and prayers for me during my knee surgery. It was comforting to know my church family had me in their thoughts and prayers." – Cheryl Wagner

NEXT SUNDAY, December 24, Sunday School is scheduled at our normal time of 9:30 a.m.; this will be followed by our morning worship service at 10:30 a.m.

A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, celebrating the songs of the season, will be held here next Sunday, December 24, at 7 p.m. Come and bring guests. An offering will be received for Mennonite Central Committee's response to those in Cuba and Haiti who were affected by Hurricane Irma this past September. As is our tradition, attending households are asked to bring a small plate of cookies to share for the fellowship time that will follow the service.

WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER NURSERY CARE for our Christmas Eve service. Anyone willing to serve in the nursery that evening, on an as-needed basis, is asked to contact Liz Clapper or Norma Stauffer.

WE THANK GOD for the on-going faithful generosity of this congregation! Your giving supports important ministries such as missions and outreach, church and conference-wide initiatives, and our own worship and education programs. It also helps pay for the costs of maintaining our facility. At the present time, our giving for the 2017-18 fiscal year is 24.2% behind budget. We need \$77,902 to bring our giving up to budget by year-end. Expenses have been running close to budget, which means we have had to dip into our reserves to pay invoices. Please prayerfully consider what you might give between now and year-end. Remember, if you wish to have your contributions recorded in 2017 for tax purposes, they will need to be in the church office or post-marked by December 31, 2017. – Sam Clement, Treasurer

CHURCH COUNCIL recently discussed church safety and emergency preparedness. This issue will require further discussion. Anyone who has interest in helping define the need and develop a preparedness plan is asked to contact Pastor Jon. Until that plan is developed, one small step that will be implemented is that once the worship service begins at 10:30 a.m., the rear entrance will be locked to permit exiting only from the building. A sign will be posted on that door inviting people to enter through the main entrance. Questions about this initiative may be addressed to Pastor Jon or Rod Lefever, Council Chair.

THIS PAST WEEK several dead pine trees on our eastern boundary were removed or pruned back. In the near future, some new trees will be planted to replace some of the pines that were removed.

PLEASE NOTE THAT AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS of the sermon can be accessed on our website – www.foresthillchurch.org – under the *Sermons* tab for both the current week and past weeks. As a general rule, these are posted early in the week after the Sunday service. You are encouraged to check out the video or audio when you are not able to be here for worship. Also, feel free to share these links with others as you feel led. CD recordings of the entire service can also be obtained from the sound technician at the sound booth.

IF YOUR CLASS, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE has meetings or activities planned for the month of January, please submit these dates to the church office by Wednesday of this coming week, December 20, so that they can be included on the January church calendar.

PERSONS WHO MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER reading through the Bible in 2018 and sharing the experience with others are asked to contact Nina Harnish for more information.

MENNONITE CHILDREN'S CHOIR OF LANCASTER is accepting registrations for the spring semester. MCCL has programs for kindergarten through grade 12. Singers meet Tuesday evenings, January through April. For more information about MCCL visit www.mennonitechildrenschoir.org, call 717-455-7025, or email mccl@lancastermennonite.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

- * Next Sunday, December 24, 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. – Worship; 7 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service.
- * Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31 – 6 p.m., Shared Supper; 7 p.m., Children's Programming and Winter Bible School for all adults. (See bulletin insert for details.)

MYF CORNER – Youth Group, Grades 9-12

- * Today – No Sunday School.
- * Today, 5-8 p.m. – Christmas Road Rally Scavenger Hunt.
- * Friday-Saturday, December 29-30, 8 p.m.-6 a.m. – New Year's Lock In.

TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Head Usher: Lee Charles
Sound Technicians: Dean Jantzen, Bruce Stauffer-Assistant
Befriender: Donna Roggie
Greeters: Lauri, Rod, Ben, Kate and Ellie Lefever
Coffee Fellowship Hosts: Kris Long, Donna Roggie
Nursery (Ages 0-3): (SS) No Sunday School today
(W) Kristin Lapp, Liz Clapper

TODAY

- * No Sunday School today; 10 a.m. Worship Service.
- * 5-8 p.m. – MYF (Youth Group: Gr. 9-12): Christmas Road Rally Scavenger Hunt.

THIS COMING WEEK

- * Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. – MOMS (Morning Out for Mothers): *Enriching your prayer life* led by Bonnie Greiner.
- * Wednesday, 8 a.m. – Diakonian Women's Breakfast at Oregon Dairy.
- * No Wednesday Evening Activities this week.

NEXT SUNDAY

- * 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
- * 10:30 a.m. – 4th Sunday of Advent: Jon Carlson will preach on *Don't Let it Be Violent* based on Luke 2:1-20.
- * 7 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service. (See bulletin announcement for details.)

REPORT: (12/03) General Fund \$9,919
(12/10) General Fund \$12,552
Sunday School 169; Worship 220

100 Quarry Road, Leola, PA 17540 ~ Phone 717-656-6227 ~ Fax 717-656-8607
E-mail: fhmc@foresthillschurch.org ~ URL: <http://www.foresthillschurch.org>

Staff and Leadership Teams

Jon Carlson - Lead Pastor
Becky Degan - Assoc Pastor of Worship and Christian Education
Nina Harnish - Minister of Care and Visitation
Janette Lile - Director of Children and Youth Programming
Norma Stauffer - Administrator
Keith Lehman, Ruth Ann Martin, Keith Stuckey - Elders
Louetta Hurst, Joyce Martin, Rose Mosemann,
Warren and Linda Tyson, Kathy Unangst - Care Team