



**Forest Hills Mennonite Church
Advent 4 ~ December 24, 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.**

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Hour

Gathering

Prelude

Caleb Harnish-Piano, Don Nelson-Guitar
Dan Nagy-Bass, Sheila Snyder-Drums

Gathering Songs

To us a child of hope is born

Worship Book No. 214

Becky Degan, Willie Hurst, Tim Smoker-Leaders

Joy has dawned/ Angels we have heard on high

Adult Choir-Leaders

Call to Worship and Invocation

Donna Mast

Praising and Adoring

Special Music: *Silent Night*

Worship Team

Congregational Singing

Beautiful star of Bethlehem

Go tell it on the mountain

Special Music: *God rest ye merry gentlemen/ Star of the East*

Worship Team

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Children's Time

Jon Carlson

Dismissal for Kids Church (Grades PreK-Gr. 2, Room #1-2)

Congregational Prayer

Sung Offertory: *O come, O come Emmanuel*

Worship Book No. 172

Special Music: *Ave Maria*

Forest Hills Men's Ensemble

Proclaiming

Scripture and Advent Candle Lighting: Luke 2:1-20

Meditation: *Don't let it be violent*

Jon Carlson

Response Song: *Joy to the world*

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.

THIS MORNING a men's ensemble will share a rendition of *Ave Maria*. While this famous song emerges from Roman Catholic tradition, the first verse contains key passages from Luke's Gospel, "The Lord is with thee;" (Luke 1:18) and "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus" (Luke 1:42).

A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, celebrating the songs of the season, will be held here at 7:00 **this evening**. 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 OFFER OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of Larry and Cheryl McJunkin in the death of Larry's mother, Eunice McJunkin, last Saturday, December 16. Eunice was also Lesley (McJunkin) Wenger's grandmother. Prior to her death Eunice resided in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

MARTY PEIFER had heart surgery at Lancaster General Hospital this past Monday. He remained a patient there at bulletin publication time.

PLEASE NOTE that due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, staff hours and availability will be varied. If you are in need of pastoral care or other assistance and do not initially reach the individual you wish to contact, please try reaching another staff member in order to have your need addressed promptly.

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.

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 recovering from heart surgery.
- Gene and Doris Kreider dealing with the implications of Gene's recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.
- Ruth Stoltzfus recovery from surgery.
- Those who are experiencing chronic pain and illness.
- For peace to come to the earth through our communities and families – that we find ways to support and love one another.
- The McJunkin family and others experiencing sadness and grief during this holiday season.

IT'S GREAT TO SEE MANY NEW FACES attending our worship services here at Forest Hills. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet these newcomers, one way to learn to know a bit about who they are is to check out our newcomers bulletin board outside the ushers room. Keep checking as new posts are being made regularly.

FOREST HILLS has received a letter of thanks from Mennonite Church USA for our recent gift of \$6,855 to be divided among its various agencies.

A LETTER OF THANKS was also received from Lancaster Mennonite School for our recent budgeted gift of \$1,000.

LOOKING AHEAD

- * Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31 – 6 p.m., Shared Supper; 7 p.m., Children's Programming and Winter Bible School for all adults.

MYF CORNER – Youth Group, Grades 9-12

- * Today, 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School.
- * Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.-6 a.m. – New Year's Lock-In at the church.
- * Sunday, January 21, Noon – Meal fundraiser.



THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR A PEACE TAX FUND (NCPTF) will hold a gathering for Pennsylvania residents interested in supporting The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act of 2017, H.R. 1947. Malachy Kilbride, Executive Director of NCPTF, will speak at Akron Mennonite Church at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 31.

TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Head Usher: Ron Weaver

Sound Technicians: Dean Jantzen, Yvonne Kauffman-Assistant

Befrienders: Ann and Byron Zimmerman

Greeters: Louetta, Camden and Chase Hurst

Coffee Fellowship Hosts: Cheryl and Larry McJunkin

Nursery (Ages 0-3): (SS) Liz Clapper

(W) Kris Long, Lag Weaver

TODAY

* 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages.

* 7 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service. (See bulletin announcement for details.)

THIS COMING WEEK

* Monday – Merry Christmas to all. Church office will be closed.

* Tuesday – No MOMS (Morning Out for Mothers) program this week.

* Wednesday – No Wednesday Evening Activities this week.

* Friday-Saturday – MYF (Youth Group: Gr. 9-12): New Year's Lock-in at the church.

NEXT SUNDAY

* 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

* 10:30 a.m. – Looking Back Sunday: Sharing by Lloyd and Donna Mast and Carl and Jennifer Schnabel.

REPORT: (12/17) General Fund \$23,013; Refugee Education Fund \$40

YTD Giving \$155,694; YTD Budget \$187,185 (-16.8%)

No Sunday School; Worship 293

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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