

SKIPPING Christmas

Forest Hills Mennonite Church
Advent 1 – December 2, 2018

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

Becky Degan-Piano

Gathering Song: *O come, all ye faithful* Worship Book No. 212

Lauren and Daryl Eshleman, Becky Degan, Noah Schnabel-Leaders

Call to Worship and Invocation Leanne Beidler

Praising and Adoring

Congregational Singing

Angels we have heard on high (Worship Book No. 197)

Joy has dawned

Good Christian friends, rejoice (Worship Book No. 210)

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Children's Time

Janette Lile

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Erin Hershey, Mary Schnabel-Junior Youth Mentoring Pair

Offering

Proclaiming

Song: *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* Worship Book No. 178

Scripture: Luke 1:5-25

Sermon: *Skipping Christmas* Jon Carlson

Response Song

Sending

Congregational Sharing

Congregational Prayer

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.

THE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE is excited to announce that Lauren Krady has agreed to serve as our Church Administrator following Norma Stauffer's retirement. Lauren has spent the past seven years working as Administrative Assistant at Locust Grove Mennonite School. Her current and former employers provided very favorable references. Lauren and her husband, Jason, reside outside of Lancaster with their two daughters. They spent time serving overseas with Eastern Mennonite Missions, and they currently attend Crossroads Mennonite Church in Lancaster. Lauren will begin her new role in early February and looks forward to learning to know the congregation.

KAREN ECKERT was admitted to Ephrata Community Hospital this past Monday for heart-related issues. She was discharged this past Wednesday and is now recuperating at home.

CALLING ALL GREETERS to sign up to greet in January, February, and March. We have heard from newcomers that we are a welcoming community, so we need your help to continue to welcome all who enter our doors. The sign-up sheet is in the foyer near the mailboxes.

NEW UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORIES were distributed last Sunday. Please proofread your household's listing, and let Norma Stauffer know if there are any errors that need to be corrected. Extra copies are available on the counter in the church office.

DIRECTORY CORRECTION: Please note that in the recently distributed church directories, Warren Tyson's employment should read Retired Conference Minister.

THANKS to Phyllis Gamber for assembling the lovely Christmas display in the library showcase, and thanks to Ruth Bare for donating the Bible used in the display.

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:

- College students completing fall classes and preparing for finals.
- Mike Stauffer and Dan Glick undergoing chemotherapy.
- Karen Eckert recovering from a heart issue.
- Our seniors and others receiving extra care in long-term care facilities or at home – John Rudy (Fairmount); John Smoker and Carl Wingard (Garden Spot Village); Paul Leaman, Arlene Leatherman, Geneva Martin, Mary Schroeder, Esther Smoker, and Gene Siegrist (Landis Homes); and Theda Gonzales, Reuben Stoltzfus, Esther Zook (individual homes).
- That we would all prepare our hearts during this Advent season.

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 2018-19 fiscal year is 29.4% behind budget. We need \$61,788 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. If you wish to have your contributions recorded in 2018 for tax purposes, they will need to be in the church office or post-marked by December 31, 2018. – Sam Clement, Treasurer

ALL SENIORS – those living in retirement communities and those living in their own private homes – are invited to a Christmas luncheon here at the church on Monday, December 10, at 11:30 a.m. There will be no cost to participate. To attend, please RSVP to the church office **today**. When making your reservation, please indicate any dietary restrictions.

FOR CONVENIENCE AND CONFIDENTIALITY purposes, Forest Hills provides offering envelopes for those who wish to use them. Please contact Donna Roggie, Assistant Treasurer, if you would like to receive a supply of envelopes or if you have questions about how this system works. For those who are already using the envelope system, please let Donna know when you are running low so that a new supply can be ordered.

THE MISSION AND SERVICE COMMISSION has selected families in the Conestoga Valley School District for this year's Christmas giving project. Gift cards and wrapped gifts with the gift tags attached are due back to the church **today**. If you signed up to provide a gift item and need to make other arrangements, please contact the church office ASAP. Gift cards do not need to be wrapped and should be given to Kathy Unangst or placed in her church mailbox.

THE LEOLA MOMS GROUP Cookie Christmas Concert Fundraiser will be held here at the church this coming Friday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m. Local musicians Laura Hershey and Joseph Jaskolka will inspire you to get into the Christmas spirit. There will also be carol singing by the MOMS children, and refreshments will be served after the concert. Poinsettias, cookie plates, jar mixes and freezer logs will be available for purchase to benefit the MOMS program. An angel tree with suggested donation ornaments has also been placed on the kitchen counter for those who wish to make financial contributions.

CONESTOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES (CVCCS) is planning its Christmas meal box distribution and client Christmas party! Many volunteers are needed to make these events a success, some of them in the coming week. Check out the list of volunteer opportunities on the fellowship hall bulletin board, and then contact Deb Sprunger at 717-208-3711, ext. 103 or at volunteer@cvccs.org to offer your services.

YOU CAN NURTURE YOUR CHILDREN'S faith at home this Advent and Christmas. Find a free, downloadable guide at AnabaptistFaithFormation.org with daily scriptures, songs, activities and questions to ponder together.

YOUTH VENTURE has announced its locations to serve and learn in 2019. Teams of youth ages 15-22 and their adult leaders will join in the ministries of Mennonite Mission Network's global partners to see what God is doing in the world. These two or three-week-long trips are in June or July. For more information or to apply, visit the Youth Venture website at <https://www.mennonitemission.net/Serve/Youth%20Venture> or contact Jolene VonGunten at jolenev@mennonitemission.net.

LOOKING AHEAD

- ★ Sunday, December 16, 10 a.m. – Christmas Music Sunday.
- ★ Monday, December 24, 7 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service.
- ★ Wednesday Evenings in January 2019 – Winter Bible School, starting January 9.

MYF CORNER – Youth Group, Grades 9-12

- ★ Today, 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
- ★ Today, 6-8 p.m. – Movie Nite at the church; bring a snack to share.
- ★ Next Sunday, December 9, Noon – Council meeting.
- ★ Next Sunday, December 9, 6-8 p.m. – Cookie-making at Hursts'.
- ★ Sunday, December 16, 6-8 p.m. – Deliver cookies to Fairmount Homes.
- ★ February 22-24, 2019 – Winter Retreat.

PLEASE NOTE THAT AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS of the sermon can be accessed on our website – www.foresthillschurch.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.

REPORT: (11/25) General Fund \$5,515; Playground Fund \$550
Sunday School 139; Worship 178

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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

Randy Esch, Ruth Ann Martin, Keith Stuckey - Elders

Michael Degan, Kay Hurst, Louetta Hurst, Joyce Martin,

Rose Mosemann, Kathy Unangst - Care Team

TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Head Usher: Larry McJunkin

Audio Visual Technicians: Dean and Dylan Jantzen

Befrienders: Anita Beidler, Keith Lehman

Greeters: Phyllis Gamber, Gary Graham

Coffee Fellowship Hosts: Cheryl and Larry McJunkin

Nursery: (SS) Monica Kreider, Rose Miller

(W) Louetta Hurst, Norma Stauffer

TODAY

- ★ 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School for all ages.
- ★ After Worship Service – Monthly Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings in Adelphian Room #17.
- ★ Noon – Grounded Class Lunch at Stuckeys'.
- ★ 6 p.m. – MYF (Youth Group: Gr. 9-12): Movie Nite.

THIS WEEK

- ★ Monday, 7 p.m. – Church Council.
- ★ Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. – MOMS (Morning Out for Mothers): Cookie-making.
- ★ WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES ~ 7-8:15 p.m.
 - KfC (Kids for Christ, Age 3-PreK and Gr. K-5): *Jesus is God's son*.
 - Junior Youth (Gr. 6-8): Bowling.
 - Adult Choir Rehearsal.
 - Adult Bible Study: *Wills and legal planning* led by guest presenter Ann Martin from Gibbel, Kraybill, Hess.
- ★ Friday, 6:30 p.m. – MOMS Christmas Cookie Concert. (See bulletin announcement for details.)

NEXT SUNDAY

- ★ 2nd Sunday of Advent: Jon Carlson will be preaching on *Skipping scandal* based on Luke 1:26-38.
- ★ Noon – MYF Council meeting.
- ★ 6 p.m. – MYF Cookie-making at Hursts'.

TODAY'S REPORT can be found on the bulletin insert.