

SKIPPING Christmas

Forest Hills Mennonite Church
Advent 2 – December 9, 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

Phyllis Stuckey-Organ

Congregational Song: *Hark! The herald angels sing*

Worship Book No. 201

Leanne Beidler, Becky Degan, Tim Smoker, Isaac Harnish-Leaders

Call to Worship and Invocation

Nina Harnish

Praising and Adoring

Congregational Singing

Sandy Smoker-Piano

Infant holy, infant lowly

(Worship Book No. 206)

Go tell it on the mountain

The virgin Mary had a baby boy

(Worship Book No. 202)

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Children's Time

Janette Lile

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Chad Hurst, Tyler Nolt – Junior Youth Mentoring Pair

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

Special Music: *O holy night*

Kyra Hersh-Vocalist, Becky Degan-Piano

Offering

Proclaiming

Song: *To us a child of hope is born*

Worship Book No. 189

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: *Skipping Christmas: Skipping scandal*

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.

JOHN GLICK had a stroke this past Monday morning and was hospitalized at Lancaster General Hospital. He was transferred to Hospice and Community Care on Wednesday.

GARY KENDIG was admitted to Lancaster General Hospital this past week for pneumonia and heart-related issues. He remained hospitalized at bulletin publication time.

NORMA STAUFFER will be out of the office Monday through Wednesday of this coming week providing childcare for her grandson in Pittsburgh. Thanks to Ruth Ann Martin and other staff members for providing office coverage in her absence.

CALLING ALL GREETERS to sign up for 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.

"THANKS for your many expressions of caring and affirmation during my recovery of bi-lateral knee surgery. God has been good in allowing my recovery to go well, and it's great to be a part of a caring church family." – Ruth Ann Martin

MANY THANKS to all who participated in the Christmas Giving Project for selected families in the Conestoga Valley School District. All gifts arrived and were taken to Zion Lutheran Church for distribution on Saturday, December 15. Four families will have a merrier Christmas thanks to your generosity. Eight gift cards for food and gas were also donated to the social workers for emergency needs.

A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED to assist with light clerical tasks in the church office for 2-3 hours one Thursday afternoon each month. If you are willing to consider this volunteer opportunity, please contact Norma Stauffer at your earliest convenience.

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:

- John and Mary Glick and their family as John is receiving hospice care following a stroke.
- Gary Kendig recovering from pneumonia and heart-related issues.
- Dan Glick and Mike Stauffer undergoing chemotherapy.
- People who are homeless in our communities and the ministries that offer them love and care.
- Families experiencing broken relationships.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MID-YEAR GRADUATES:

- **Rob Bathurst** will graduate from West Chester University on Saturday, December 15, with a Master of Business in Administration (MBA). In the short-term Rob plans to continue leading Accenture Life Sciences' Statistical Programming Group. Longer-term, he's looking to move into a higher-level leadership role, with ultimate sights set on top management.
- **David Mosemann** will graduate from Messiah College on Thursday, December 20, with a BS in Applied Health Sciences. In September, David plans to attend Drexel University to study for a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. In the meantime, he will work as a rehab aid at Helen M Simpson Rehab Hospital and ATI Physical Therapy. He would welcome recommendations for a room or apartment to rent in the Philadelphia area.

A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, celebrating the songs of the season, will be held here on Monday, December 24, at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and bring guests. An offering will be received for Mennonite Central Committee. Please make checks payable to Forest Hills Mennonite Church. Attending households are asked to bring a small plate of cookies to share for the fellowship time that will follow the service. If possible, please bring your cookies to the church by Sunday, December 23, and mark them for the Christmas Eve Service.

FOREST HILLS has received a letter of thanks from Mennonite Church USA for our recent gift of \$7,145 to be divided among its various agencies.

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 24.4% behind budget. We need \$91,711, or \$22,928 per week, 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

OUR AUDITORS, Daryl Eshleman and Cal Roggie, have completed a selective review of the Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet for our fiscal year ending August 31, 2018. They are pleased to report that these numbers accurately reflect the cash receipts, disbursements and financial condition of the church as of this date.

SNOW CANCELLATION PROCEDURES ~ More snow could be arriving in the near future. Church staff, in consultation with our own snow experts, will make a decision as to whether or not Sunday morning worship or Wednesday Evening Activities should be cancelled when it snows. In case of cancellation, club leaders and class Shepherds will be contacted and asked to notify their respective members. Additionally, the change will be posted on our website, on our church voice mail message, and on WDAC and WJTL radio stations – if we can get through – and on WGAL.com (website, not on the TV listing). If you have questions about whether or not services will be held, check one of these places.

LANDIS HOMES has multiple part-time and full-time employment opportunities in volunteer services, laundry, nursing, security, dining, housekeeping, groundskeeping and more. Further details are posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board.

MC USA wants to hear from you! If interested, visit mennoniteusa.org/jf to find the Pathways Study Guide and complete the Journey Forward Feedback Survey by December 31, 2018.

LOOKING AHEAD

- ★ Monday, December 24, 7 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service.
- ★ Wednesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30 – 6 p.m. Shared Supper; 7 p.m. – Winter Bible School.

MYF CORNER – Youth Group, Grades 9-12

- ★ Today, 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
- ★ Today, Noon – Council meeting.
- ★ Today, 6-8 p.m. – Cookie-making at Hursts'; bring a batch of unbaked cookie dough.
- ★ Next Sunday, December 16, 6-8 p.m. – Deliver cookies to Fairmount Homes.
- ★ February 22-24, 2019 – Winter Retreat.

WORSHIP AIDS ARE AVAILABLE for persons who have trouble experiencing various aspects of our worship services. Large print hymnals and bulletins are available in the ushers room. More will be provided if needed; please don't hesitate to ask. Hearing amplifiers are available in the sound room for anyone who has trouble hearing our worship services. If you wish to use one of these devices, you may pick it up on the ledge outside the sound room at the rear of the sanctuary prior to the start of the service. And finally, wheelchairs are available for those needing a bit of assistance to enter or move through the building. Please ask an usher or sound technician for assistance in obtaining any of these resources.

REPORT: (12/02) General Fund \$17,378; Playground Fund \$300
Sunday School 185; Worship 234

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
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: Vernon Kauffman
Audio Visual Technicians: Scott Hertzog, Jamie Eshleman
Befrienders: Ann and Byron Zimmerman
Greeters: Arleta and Ken Martin
Coffee Fellowship Hosts: Jeanette and Vernon Rice
Nursery: (SS) Lauri Lefever, _____
(W) Joan Krause, Lauri Lefever

TODAY

- ★ 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School for all ages.
- ★ Noon – MYF (Youth Group: Gr. 9-12): Council meeting.
- ★ 6 p.m. – MYF Cookie-making at Hursts'.

THIS WEEK

- ★ Monday, 11:30 a.m. – Forest Hills Senior Christmas Luncheon.
- ★ Tuesday, 9 a.m. – Women's Bible Study.
- ★ Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. – MOMS (Morning Out for Mothers): Christmas craft led by Cassie Bosley.
- ★ WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES ~ 7-8:15 p.m.
 - KfC (Kids for Christ, Age 3-PreK and Gr. K-5): Christmas lesson.
 - Junior Youth (Gr. 6-8): Christmas project.
 - Adult Choir Rehearsal.
 - Adult Bible Study: *Life review and reminiscing* led by Hospice of Lancaster County.
- ★ Friday, 6:30 p.m. – Agape Class Christmas Dinner at Revere Tavern.
- ★ Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – Adelpian Class Breakfast at New Holland Family Restaurant.
- ★ Saturday, 6:30 p.m. – Gemeinschaft Class Cookies and Carols at Rachel Beiler's.

NEXT SUNDAY

- ★ 10 a.m. – 3rd Sunday of Advent: Christmas Worship Celebration with no Sunday School. (**Note change of time!**)
- ★ Jon Carlson will be preaching on *Skipping service* based on Luke 1:46-56.
- ★ 6 p.m. – MYF Christmas cookie delivery to Fairmount Homes.

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

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

December 3, 2018

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

Pastoral Leadership Team and Worship Commission – Jon Carlson

Twenty-three new members were recently welcomed, and Advent worship is underway. In January will start a sermon series on what it means to be part of a community of faith; this will tie into our Winter Bible School series on 1 and 2 Corinthians led by Anne Kaufman Weaver. Beginning to make more concrete plans for upcoming sabbatical in the summer of 2019.

Christian Education Commission – Becky Degan

Preparing for Christmas worship that will include preschool through Junior Youth kids and the largest choir we have had in years. Also, continuing to address the challenges and needs of a diverse group of children in our Sunday School program.

Children and Youth Programming – Janette Lile

KfC is going well with a growing number of kids attending and a great group of volunteers. Attendance at Halloween Alternative was down a bit but still considered a success. Recently celebrated our 13-year-olds, and will be giving Bibles to our 2nd graders in January. Planning activities for our Kids Church children during the Christmas worship service, and also planning MYF activities including several service projects.

Care Team – Nina Harnish

Meeting with a mentor provided through ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference). Recently supported the families of Ruth Stoltzfus and Paul Burkholder following their deaths. Continuing to address a variety of needs within the congregation, and finding that social and educational activities like the women's Bible study and fellowship events prepare for deeper connections when a crisis comes. Looking at ways that caring roles within the congregation might be enhanced or expanded. The Wednesday evening studies for adults have been very interesting.

Mission and Service Commission – Tom Verghese

Completed the Christmas giving project for Conestoga Valley School District families in need. A group of seven is planning a service trip to Puerto Rico in January. Hoping to have ACC here for a mission Sunday in the near future, and looking at ways we might support specific missionaries.

Discernment Committee – Jerry Lile

Committee's work will start again in January 2019.

Property Committee – Norma Stauffer, on behalf of the Committee

Sanctuary smoke-detector was realigned; first snow plowing of the season done on November 16; and kitchen light fixture repaired. Broken memorial bench replacement is now ready for engraving and will hopefully be reinstalled soon, and a search has begun to find a replacement van.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Income and expenses are where we typically are at this time of year. Council will keep the congregation informed in an effort to bring our contributions current with budget by year-end.

Two specific areas of financial concern are funds needed to complete the playground funding and a need for funds to fully pay for the Khilo children's (Syrian refugee family we help support) tuition at Lancaster Mennonite School for the 2018-19 school year. The congregation will be given further details on these two needs in the near future along with an opportunity to make designated gifts to help close the gaps.

ADMINISTRATOR REPLACEMENT – Lauren Krady has been hired to fill the role of Church Administrator due to Norma Stauffer's pending retirement. Lauren comes highly recommended, and staff is excited about adding her to the team. Plans are for Lauren to begin February 1, 2019 and work with Norma one month until her retirement at the end of February. Evanna Hess, Staff Relations Committee Chair, expressed great appreciation for the Committee's work during this process.

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ACC DELEGATES – Council approved Lyn Carlson and Herb Hoover to both serve 2-year terms as ACC Delegates.

THE WORK OF COUNCIL – Chair Dan Hess led a discussion on how we will work as a Council in the coming year. Some ideas that emerged were to spend less time in staff and committee reporting and instead share mainly highs, lows and concerns. A reminder was given that Council is a representative of the congregation and all work that is done is done on behalf of the congregation. Council's role is to listen but to also lead. Its work should be more strategic than operational, helping to cast vision and coordinate that vision, and to define our place in the broader church agencies like ACC and MC USA as well as in our community. Council members were challenged to come prepared, to speak and to listen, to clarify and confirm. When bringing an agenda item, it will be helpful to identify that purpose is for sharing information, getting input, further assignment, or decision making.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Council addressed issues related to staff benefits.

Complete copies of the meeting's minutes are placed in a notebook that is kept in the library. Interested persons are welcome to take a look at the full minutes at this location.