

# SKIPPING Christmas

Forest Hills Mennonite Church  
Advent 3 – December 16, 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.

No Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Hour

## Gathering

**Prelude** Sandy and Tim Smoker, Kelly Lapp  
**Gathering Song:** *The first Noel* (Worship Book No. 199)  
Cheryl Eshleman, Willie Hurst, Warren and Linda Tyson-Leaders  
**Sunday School Singers:** *Away in a Manger* (Preschool-3<sup>rd</sup> Grades)  
**Call to Worship and Invocation** Jon Carlson  
**Special Music:** *Make time for Christ in Christmas*  
Ben Schnabel, Collette Carlson, Gemma Rodak-Soloists  
Primary 1 Sunday School (Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> Grades)  
**The Christmas Story** Primary 2 Sunday School (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades)

## Praising and Adoring

**Song:** *Hark! The herald angels sing* (Worship Book No. 201)  
**Boomwhackers:** *Carol of the bells* Junior Youth  
**Song:** *It came upon the midnight clear* (Worship Book No. 195)  
**Choir song:** *Christmas gloria medley*  
Becky Degan-Director, Sandy Smoker-Piano  
**Song:** *O come, all ye faithful* (Worship Book No. 212)

## Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**  
Karen Eckert, Kori and Dylan Jantzen (3 family generations)  
**Choir song:** *Be born in us today* Adam Harnish-Cello  
Willie Hurst, Tim Smoker, Daryl Eshleman-Soloists  
**Song:** *O come, O come Immanuel* (Worship Book No. 172)  
**Children's Time** Janette Lile  
**Dismissal for Kids Church** (Grades PreK-Gr. 2, Room #1-2)  
**Choir song:** *He shall reign forevermore*  
**Congregational Prayer**  
**Offertory:** *Emmanuel* Willie Hurst, Becky Degan, Don Nelson

## Proclaiming

**Choir song:** *God with us*  
**Song:** *My soul is filled with joy* (Grace Notes No. 31)  
**Meditation:** *Skipping Christmas: Skipping service* Jon Carlson  
**Response Song:** *Joy to the world* Worship Book No. 318

## 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.

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.

WE OFFER OUR CONDOLENCES to Mary Glick and her family in the death of her husband John on Saturday, December 8, after suffering a stroke the previous week. A memorial service was held here this past Thursday.

CONDOLENCES also to Joyce and Cliff Martin in the passing of her brother, Larry Denlinger, on Saturday, December 8, following a tragic auto accident. Prior to his death, Larry resided in New Holland.

DAN GLICK was hospitalized at Lancaster General Hospital this past Sunday due to a fever. He remained a patient there at bulletin publication time. The family has requested that he not receive visitors or phone calls at this time. The most helpful way to share encouragement with Dan is through notes and cards.

PAUL ECKERT was admitted to Ephrata Community Hospital this past Tuesday for heart issues. At bulletin publication time, he was expecting to be released.

GARY KENDIG remains a patient at Lancaster General Hospital for heart and kidney-related issues. He is expecting to be discharged in the very near future.

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:

- Mary Glick and her family mourning John's passing.
- Joyce Martin and her family mourning the loss of her brother.
- Paul Eckert recovering from a heart issue.
- Ryan Jantzen recovering from a minor surgery.
- Dan Glick dealing with complications from leukemia treatments.
- Gary Kendig continuing to recover from heart-related issues.
- Michael Degan undergoing tests for a recent cancer diagnosis.
- That we would prepare our hearts during this Advent season.

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.

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's Syria and Iraq crisis response. Checks should be made payable to Forest Hills Mennonite Church.

HOUSEHOLDS ATTENDING THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE are asked to bring a small plate of cookies to share for the fellowship time following the service. If possible, please bring your cookies to the church by next Sunday, December 23, and mark them for the Christmas Eve Service.

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 19, so that they can be included on the January church calendar.

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.

FOREST HILLS has received a letter of thanks from Atlantic Coast Conference for our recent donation of \$12,000 to their ministry.

START THE NEW YEAR with a thoughtful and convenient plan for your charitable giving. Contributions can be automatically debited from your checking or savings account and transferred into the church's account. This electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. You will no longer need to write checks, and when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will provide the church with consistent income on an uninterrupted basis. Request an enrollment form and a *Frequently Asked Questions* flyer from the church office.

#### 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, 6-8 p.m. – Deliver cookies to Fairmount Homes.
- ★ Sunday, January 6, 5-9 p.m. – Holiday Party.
- ★ February 22-24, 2019 – Winter Retreat.

## TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Head Usher: Lee Charles

Audio Visual Technicians: Jim Shannon, Dean Jantzen

Befrienders: Marty Peifer, Kathy Unangst

Greeters: Ernestine and Keith Lehman

Coffee Fellowship Hosts: Bonnie and Dennis Sharp

Nursery: (W) Liz Clapper, Lauri Lefever

## TODAY

- ★ 6 p.m. – MYF (Youth Group: Gr. 9-12): Deliver Christmas cookies to Fairmount Homes.

## THIS WEEK

- ★ Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. – MOMS (Morning Out for Mothers): *Financial education of children and next generation* led by Mackenzie Snader from Everence Financial.
- ★ Wednesday, 8 a.m. – Diakonian Women's Breakfast at Oregon Dairy.
- ★ Wednesday – NO Wednesday Evening Activities this week.

## NEXT SUNDAY

- ★ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – Sunday School and Worship Hour at normal times.
- ★ Jon Carlson will be preaching on *Skipping suffering* based on Matthew 2:13-18.

REPORT: (12/09) General Fund \$12,775; Playground Fund \$1,000;  
Refugee Education Fund \$960  
Sunday School 182; Worship 243

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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

Randy Esch, Ruth Ann Martin, Keith Stuckey - Elders

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

Rose Mosemann, Kathy Unangst - Care Team