



**Forest Hills Mennonite Church**

**Advent 4 – December 23, 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.**

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**9:30 a.m. Sunday School**

**10:30 a.m. Worship Hour**

**Gathering**

**Prelude**

Becky Degan-Piano

**Gathering Song:** *Angels we have heard on high*

Worship Book No. 197

Taicha Hertzog, Norma Stauffer, Matt Eshleman, Cal Roggie-Leaders

**Call to Worship and Invocation**

Jim Fenton

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Tim Smoker, Matthew Degan-Junior Youth Mentoring Pair

**Special Music:** *Silent night*

Adam Harnish-Cello, Becky Degan-Piano, Matt Eshleman-Vocals

**Praising and Adoring**

**Congregational Singing**

*Away in a manger*

*O come, all ye faithful*

(Worship Book No. 212)

**Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves**

**Children's Time**

Jon Carlson

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

**Offertory:** *The Work of Christmas*

Adult Choir

Becky Degan-Director, Sandy Smoker-Piano

**Proclaiming**

**Song:** *What child is this*

(Worship Book No. 215)

*Helpless and hungry*

(Grace Notes No. 26)

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:13-18

**Sermon:** *Skipping Christmas: Skipping suffering*

Jon Carlson

**Response Song:** *O come, O come Emanuel/Blessings*

Taicha Hertzog, Matt Eshleman

**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.

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

A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, celebrating the songs of the season, will be held here tomorrow, 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. Attending households are asked to bring a small plate of cookies to share for the fellowship time that will follow the service.

DAN GLICK was discharged from Lancaster General Hospital this past Wednesday and is now recovering at home. The family is requesting that visitors be limited, but cards and very short phone calls would be appreciated at this time.

GARY KENDIG was discharged from Lancaster General Hospital last Friday and is now continuing his recovery at home.

VICTOR YERMOLOV was injured in a car accident this past Tuesday and was hospitalized at Ephrata Community Hospital. At bulletin publication time, he remained a patient at ECH.

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:

- Families mourning the loss of loved ones and deeply missing their presence during the holidays.
- Dan Glick dealing with medical issues related to leukemia.
- Gary Kendig recovering from heart-related issues.
- Victor Yermolov recovering from injuries sustained in a car accident.
- Brenda Verghese having a small surgical procedure this week in preparation for chemotherapy treatments.

ALL WOMEN, POST-HIGH AND OLDER, are invited to participate in a church-wide, intergenerational Secret Sister opportunity in 2019. Forms with more information were placed in church mailboxes last Sunday. Additional copies are available on the ledge beneath the mailboxes. Interested women are asked to complete the bottom portion of the form and return it to Dana Shannon by January 6.

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.

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 20.5% behind budget. We need \$65,294, or \$32,647 for each of the next two weeks, 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

THANK YOU CARDS have been received from the Conestoga Valley School District families whose Christmas we brightened with our Christmas giving project. Their cards are posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE will once again have a Quilter's Attic at the Pennsylvania Relief Sale on April 5-6, 2019. If you have quilt supplies or used, unused, or unfinished quilts in your linen closet that are no longer needed, please consider donating them to the Quilter's Attic. Donations, clearly marked for Quilter's Attic, may be taken to the Re-Uzit Shop in New Holland any time between now and the Sale. Further information, including a detailed list of accepted items, is posted on the foyer bulletin board.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

- ★ Wednesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30 – 6 p.m. Shared Supper; 7 p.m. – Winter Bible School.
- ★ Sunday, January 27, Noon – Youth Group Fundraiser Lunch.
- ★ Wednesday, February 13 – Choir Rehearsal begins for Easter.
- ★ Sunday, March 17, Noon – Junior Youth Fundraiser Lunch and Pinewood Derby.
- ★ Friday, April 12, 5 p.m. – MOMS Supper and Auction.
- ★ Sunday, April 21, 9 a.m. – Easter Breakfast; 10 a.m. – Easter Worship Service.

#### MYF CORNER – Youth Group, Grades 9-12

- ★ Today, 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School.
- ★ Sunday, January 6, 5-9 p.m. – Holiday Party.
- ★ Sunday, January 13 – Game Night at Lefevers'.
- ★ Sunday, January 20 – Football Night.
- ★ Sunday, January 27, Noon – Fundraiser Lunch.
- ★ February 22-24, 2019 – Winter Retreat.

## **TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS**

Head Usher: Ron Weaver

Audio Visual Technicians: Bruce Stauffer, Michael Degan

Befrienders: Ruth and Jake Bare

Greeters: Sally and Charlie Hooper

Coffee Fellowship Hosts: Donna and Cal Roggie

Nursery: (SS) Clapper Family

(W) Clapper Family

## **TODAY**

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

## **THIS WEEK**

★ Monday, 7 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service. (See bulletin announcement for details.)

★ Wednesday – NO Wednesday Evening Activities this week.

## **NEXT SUNDAY**

★ Looking Back Sunday – Sharing by Lag Weaver.

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 when calling the church office, please try personal phone numbers in order to have your need addressed promptly.

REPORT: (12/16) General Fund \$13,642; Playground Fund \$650  
No Sunday School; Worship 307

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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