

Armistice

CHRISTMAS AT FOREST HILLS MENNONITE CHURCH

Advent 1 - December 1, 2019

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Hour

Gathering

Prelude

Gathering Song: *The First Noel* (Worship Book No. 199)

Call to Worship and Invocation Ervin Miller

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Song: *Your Peace Will Make Us One* Becky Degan

Praising and Adoring

Congregational Singing

Joy Has Dawned

Angels We Have Heard on High (Worship Book No. 197)

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Children's Time

Jon Carlson

Offertory: *O Holy Night* Cheryl and Daryl Eshleman

Proclaiming

Song: *O Come, O Come Immanuel* (Worship Book No. 172)

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7

Sermon: *Armistice: Mesapolonica* Jon Carlson

Response Song: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

(Worship Book No. 191)

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.

SUPPORT OUR MYF (Youth Group, Grades 9-12) by helping to fund their yearly activities and upcoming service trip to Puerto Rico. The envelope fundraiser is on a display board in the foyer. Give donations matching the dollar number on the front of each envelope and place it in the box provided below the board.

THE MENNONITE CHILDREN'S CHOIR OF LANCASTER (MCCL) invites you to ring in Christmas with them and guest artist Sherrie Strange-Pratt, NYC soprano, here at Forest Hills on Saturday, December 7, at 4 p.m. Several of our elementary children sing in this choir. Tickets are not required; a free-will offering will be taken.

TO HELP LAUNCH OUR VISION PROCESS, let's find how we all fit together as Forest Hills. On the wall in the foyer, you'll find a large map of Lancaster County. After the service, place one color-coded thumbtack per family at your approximate home address. The colors of the thumbtacks represent how many years each family has been attending Forest Hills Mennonite Church.

OUR CONDOLENCES to Larry and Eileen Wenger as they grieve the loss of Larry's mother, Mary Wenger. Mary passed away on November 17, at Landis Homes. She was also the grandmother to Ben and Lesley Wenger and great-grandmother to Madison Wenger.

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 16, at 11:30 a.m. There will be no cost to participate. There are RSVP slips by the mailboxes, or you can contact the church office by December 9. When making your reservation, please indicate any dietary restrictions.

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:

- Irene Ebersole recovering from an infection.
- Erma Leaman grieving the loss of her husband Paul.
- Larry and Eileen Wenger and family grieving the loss of Larry's mother.
- Advent season and preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

A STROOPIE SALE will be held in the foyer after the worship service on December 8, 15, and 22. Stroopies are a sweet treat made of thin waffles with a caramel spread in the middle - they make great Christmas gifts! A variety of types and amounts will be available for purchase. All proceeds will go towards our Refugee Education Fund for the Khilos, the Syrian family that Forest Hills helped welcome to Lancaster. They currently have three children who attend Lancaster Mennonite School: Mohammad (grade 12), Amina (grade 9), and Hevin (grade 8). The oldest two children have graduated and are now employed by Lancaster General Hospital. The whole family describes their experience at Lancaster Mennonite as extremely positive. We hope to continue to assist them with the cost of education. In addition to supporting their schooling, you will be supporting The Stroopie Company, located in downtown Lancaster. This company has a mission to empower refugees through meaningful employment. Khalideh Khilo has worked there for several years. Thank you for your support!

CALLING ALL GREETERS for 2020! The sign-up sheet for greeters for January, February, and March is in the lobby. Please sign up for this rewarding opportunity to serve our church family and visitors.

FOREST HILLS has received a letter of thanks from Mennonite Central Committee for our donations of 2 comforters, 22 kit supplies, 143 school kits, 30 hygiene kits, 35 infant care kits, and 23 relief kits.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed Monday, December 2, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Feel free to reach out to staff via email or phone as needed.

THIS CHRISTMAS cherish the loved ones in your life with gifts for your global neighbors. From sustainable chocolate and art supplies to soccer clubs for peace and the silly, squirmy gift of worm composting, you can give gifts for all interests in all price ranges! Learn more and give online to more than 20 Mennonite Central Committee projects at www.mcc.org/christmas.

OUR CONDOLENCES to Erma Leaman and her family as they grieve the loss of her husband, Paul, who passed away on November 22. Prior to his death, he lived at Landis Homes.

“THANK YOU for all the love, care, and prayers sent my way before and after my heart surgery. Having a church family is irreplaceable. I am doing well and have definitely felt the prayers.” - Cheryl Wagner

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.

REPORT: (11/24) General Fund \$7,761; Refugee Education \$200;
Student Financial Aid \$100
Sunday School 117: Worship 200
YTD Giving \$130,368; YTD Budget \$166,950 (-22%)
Expenses are running close to budget.

LOOKING AHEAD

- * Sunday, December 15 - Kids Christmas Program and the Adult Choir will sing.
- * Sunday, December 22 - Sunday School elective - Christmas caroling for all ages in the Sanctuary. Adult Choir and Kids Choir will sing during worship.
- * Tuesday, December 24, 7 p.m. - Join us for a Christmas Eve service of scripture and carols celebrating the birth of Jesus, ending with candle lighting.
- * Wednesdays in January - Supper followed by Winter Bible School.

MYF CORNER - Youth Group, Grades 9-12

- * Sunday, December 15 - Deliver cookies to Fairmount.
- * Friday, December 27 - Lock-in.
- * January 31 - February 2 - Winter Retreat.

TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Head Usher: Larry McJunkin
Audio Visual Technicians: Dean Jantzen, Dylan Jantzen
Befrienders: Ann & Byron Zimmerman
Greeters: Doris & Clair Sauder
Coffee Fellowship Hosts: Jeanette & Vernon Rice
Nursery: (SS)
(W) Norma Stauffer

TODAY

- * 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages.
- * After Worship Service - Monthly Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings in Adelpian Room #17.
- * Noon - Grounded class lunch.
- * No MYF (Youth Group Gr. 9-12).

THIS WEEK

- * Monday - Church office closed.
- * Tuesday - No MOM's group.
- * Wednesday Evening Activities ~ 7-8:15 p.m.
 - Kids for Christ (Age 3 - Grade 5): *Spiritual Gifts: What's My Gift?*
 - Junior Youth (Gr. 6-8): Social Media.
 - Adult Study: *Creating Your Family's Intergenerational Story: Transferring Values, Giving Gifts, and Leaving Legacies*, presented by Tim Jantz and Mackenzie Snader from Everence.
 - Adult Choir Rehearsal.
- * Saturday, 4 p.m. - Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster Concert.

NEXT SUNDAY

- * 2nd Sunday of Advent - Pastor Jon will preach on *No Man's Land*, based on Colossians 1:15-23.
- * MYF (Youth Group Gr. 9-12) - Cookie making at Chad and Coleen Hurst's.

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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
Zac Hummel - Youth and Young Adult Pastor
Lauren Krady - Administrator
Randy Esch, Ruth Ann Martin, Keith Stuckey - Elders
Kay Hurst, Louetta Hurst, Joyce Martin,
Warren and Linda Tyson, Kathy Unangst, Dana Shannon - Care Team

Christmas Giving Project

This year we will be supporting families in need in the Conestoga Valley School District by:

- * Purchasing gift cards.
- * Gift cards for \$25 or \$50 can be purchased from:
 - * Target
 - * Walmart
 - * Aldi
 - * Grocery Outlet
 - * Sharp Shopper
 - * Sheetz
 - * Wawa
- * School social workers in the CV Schools will distribute to families in need.

Please either attach the receipt securely to the card or put the card in a small envelope with the value of the card written on the outside.

Place the cards in the box on the floor by the Christmas tree in the foyer.

Deadline for accepting gift cards is **Sunday, December 15**.
Contact Kathy Unangst (717-656-2185) if you have questions.

Your generosity will be greatly appreciated!

