

# COMFORT & JOY

Our Traditions of Christmas

## Forest Hills Mennonite Church

December 13, 2020 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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.

### Gathering

Prelude

Gathering Song

Call to Worship and Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Singing

Sam Clement

### Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Offering Prayer

Offertory

Pass the Peace

Children's Time

Song

### Proclaiming

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Sermon: *Tradition!*

Response Song

Jon Carlson

### Sending

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

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 and for the salaries of our six staff members. At the present time, our giving for the 2020-21 fiscal year is 24% behind budget. We need \$83,887 in the next three weeks to bring our giving up to budget by year-end. Please prayerfully consider what you might give between now and year-end. If you wish to have your contributions recorded in 2020 for tax purposes, they will need to be in the church office or post-marked by December 31, 2020.

– Sam Clement, Treasurer



FOR OUR CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT this year, we will again be supporting families in need in the Conestoga Valley School District. We are collecting gift cards in the amounts of \$25 and \$50 from Sharp Shopper, Giant, Target, Walmart, and Sheetz. Cards can be dropped off at the church and put in the snowman basket by the ushers' room or mailed to the church. The deadline is December 20. Many thanks for your generosity.

AS WE ANTICIPATE CHRISTMAS, we are reshaping our traditional Christmas Eve candle lighting service this year into an online format. Although we won't be together in the sanctuary, we still want to hear from one another. You are invited to record a brief video of you or a family member lighting a candle, saying "This Christmas, I light a candle for..." and completing that thought. You can upload your video (by Sunday, December 20) at <https://fhmc.church/candle>.

A CONDENSED VERSION of the prayer stations is available in the Prayer Room as well as an Advent themed labyrinth in the back classroom. If you would like to take part in these stations and do not have a building key, please contact Nina Harnish or Lauren Krady to set up a time.

AS THE CARES AND CONCERNS of our congregation come to mind, please lift them to the Lord in prayer:

- Don Nelson anticipating heart surgery next Wednesday.
- Winston and Corinne Swartzentruber returning to their winter home in Arizona.
- Jean Hunsicker beginning radiation treatments for a recent breast cancer diagnosis.
- Jay and Doris Groff as Jay is recovering from COVID induced pneumonia.
- Eleanor Glick recovering from gall bladder duct surgery.
- Mary Schlabach recovering from a leg infection.
- Those who are struggling with effects of COVID physically, economically, or emotionally.

DON NELSON is scheduled for a heart valve repair surgery on Wednesday at Lebanon Good Samaritan Hospital.

JAY GROFF was hospitalized at Ephrata Community Hospital last Tuesday for COVID induced pneumonia. He remained a patient there at bulletin publication time.

ELEANOR GLICK was hospitalized at Ephrata Community Hospital last Friday for a blocked gall bladder duct. She underwent a successful procedure to remove the stone on Tuesday and is now recovering back at Fairmount.

MARY SCHLABACH was hospitalized on Tuesday at Ephrata Community Hospital for a leg infection. She anticipates being transferred to a skilled care facility to help with care for the healing of her leg.

## TODAY

- \* 10:30 a.m. - The worship service will be online only, you can watch it on YouTube: <https://fhmc.church/youtube> or Facebook: [www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite](http://www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite).
- \* Financial contributions can be mailed to the church office. You can also donate via credit card through our Forest Hills Facebook page.

## THIS WEEK

- \* Wednesday, 7 p.m. - KfC (Kids for Christ) Zoom Christmas Party.
- \* Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Jr. Youth Christmas Zoom call.

## NEXT SUNDAY

- \* 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Online Service - Pastor Jon will preach.

### REPORT: (12/06)

General Fund \$23,445; Student Financial Aid \$100  
YTD Giving \$138,257; YTD Budget \$182,942 (- 24%)

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100 Quarry Road, Leola, PA 17540 ~ 717-656-6227  
fhmc@foresthillschurch.org ~ 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  
Zac Hummel - Youth and Young Adult Pastor ~ Lauren Krady - Administrator  
Randy Esch, Ruth Ann Martin, Keith Stuckey - Elders  
Louetta Hurst, Toby Leaman, Joyce Martin,  
Warren and Linda Tyson, Kathy Unangst, Dana Shannon - Care Team