



## Forest Hills Mennonite Church

December 27, 2020

### LOOKING BACK SUNDAY

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** Jack Rutt, Phyllis Stuckey, Sandy Smoker  
**Call to Worship and Invocation** Jon Carlson  
**Reflection Song:** *Sing We the Song of Emmanuel*  
Becky Degan, Willie Hurst,  
Jonny Bishop, Michael Degan, Sheila Snyder

#### Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

**Passing the Peace**  
**Children's Time** Becky Degan  
**Offertory** Collette Carlson

#### Proclaiming

**Looking Back Sharing** Mary Harnish  
**Song:** *Light of the World* Kelly Lapp,  
Tim & Sandy Smoker  
**Looking Back Sharing** Ervin Miller  
**Song:** *O Beautiful Star*  
**Looking Back Sharing** Jerry Lile

#### Sending

**A Very 2020 Virtual Service** The Forest Hills Family  
**Benediction**  
**Postlude**

WITH ONLY A FEW DAYS left in 2020 we still need \$48,455 to bring our financial giving up to budget by the year-end. 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. 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

STAFF HOURS AND AVAILABILITY will be varied over the holidays. If you need 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.

THE BULLETIN WILL BE PUBLISHED on Wednesday of this coming week due to the New Year's holiday. All announcements will need to be in the church office by early Wednesday morning, December 30, in order to be included in the January 3 bulletin.

DON NELSON was discharged on Tuesday after surgery and is continuing his recovery at home.

ERVIN MILLER was hospitalized in Lancaster General Hospital on Friday due to a broken hip. He was able to return to home on Saturday to continue his recovery.

DALE GAMBER was hospitalized in Lancaster General Hospital on Sunday for lung related concerns and was discharged to home on Tuesday.

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

- Dale Gamber recovering from lung-issues.
- Ervin Miller recovering from a broken hip.
- Karen Hertzler adjusting to her new cochlear implant.
- Those grieving the loss of loved ones and deeply missing their presence during the Christmas season.
- Gratitude for staff and volunteers working extra hard for the meaningful Advent/Christmas services.



*We Remember ~ a memorial tribute to those  
in our Forest Hills church family that we  
lost in 2020.*



**Esther Kreider**  
(February 5, 1933 - February 11, 2020)

One of eight children, Esther grew up in a conservative Mennonite home, but soon after her marriage she moved to a beautiful farm in Gap. She was known for always looking very stylish and for her fondness of all things sparkly.

Esther was the wife of her beloved Jacob L Kreider, who passed away in 2016, for 61 years.

Esther was not only a farm wife for 50 years but had also worked as an Amish Country tour guide. However she was mostly known for her 24 years spent as a waitress at Good 'N Plenty Restaurant in Smoketown.

Family was very important to Esther, especially her five sisters. She was also a dedicated mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, making sure there was plenty of ice cream and fun to go around. Esther loved reading, playing her piano, doing puzzles, watching the hummingbirds at her feeder, and taking long walks, often with hands clasped behind her back. Esther also loved music, and almost always had it playing wherever she was.



**Reuben Stoltzfus**  
(October 11, 1929 - May 16, 2020)

Born in Gordonville, he was the son of Stephen and Annie Stoltzfus. He was the husband of Elsie P. Smoker Stoltzfus, who passed away May 12, 2001, after 47 years of marriage.

Reuben worked for Smoker Elevator and then became a life-long farmer. His true passion was hunting and fishing, which he passed on to his

kids and grandkids. Reuben never missed a Phillies game, whether on TV or the radio. Reuben is survived by 7 children, 22 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren.



**John Rudy**  
(March 6, 1924 - August 26, 2020)

John attended Pennsylvania State University, studying chemical engineering. He was employed for 14 years by RCA Corporation in Lancaster in various engineering, financial, and administrative capacities. During that time, he was also one of the founders of Neffsville Mennonite Church in Lancaster.

John served as pastor of Bethel Mennonite Church, Gettysburg, for 5 years. He was also a vice-president of financial services with Mennonite Mutual Aid, now Everence. He continued to work at the MMA office in Lancaster for 6 years after his return to Lancaster County in 1984.

John wrote, preached, and counseled extensively throughout the country about Christian stewardship issues during his ministry with the Mennonite Church. He served as congregational moderator at Forest Hills Mennonite Church as well as a Sunday school teacher.

John and his wife Lucy were married 73 years, had three children, and one grandchild. They enjoyed travel together throughout their lives, visiting all 50 states and making numerous foreign trips, including many trips to Japan to see their son.

**Tom Verghese**  
(May 7, 1946 - October 26, 2020)

Born in Nariyapuram, Kerala, India, Tom was the loving husband of Brenda Alger Verghese for 44 years. He had two children; Samuel Verghese and Sheila Taylor, and two grandchildren; Anthony and Isaiah Taylor.

Tom came to the United States in 1968 and graduated from Eastern Mennonite College with a business degree; then obtained a Master of Business Administration degree from James Madison University. Tom owned and operated the Tom Verghese Insurance Agency where he represented several companies. He enjoyed his church, his family and friends, and the Philadelphia Eagles.



## 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

- \* Church office closed December 28, 29, & 31.

## NEXT SUNDAY

- \* Pastor Jon will preach.

REPORT: (12/20)

General Fund \$15,911

YTD Giving \$173,689; YTD Budget \$209,076 (- 17%)

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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

Louetta Hurst, Toby Leaman, Joyce Martin,

Warren and Linda Tyson, Kathy Unangst, Dana Shannon - Care Team