



# Sing for Joy



CHRISTMAS AT FOREST HILLS

December 12, 2021 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

## G A T H E R I N G

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Prelude	Ben Schnabel-Piano
Gathering Song: <i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	Worship Book No. 212
Gemma, Mahlon, and Georgia Rodak, Collette Carlson, Willie Hurst – Singers	
	Sandy Smoker-Piano
Welcome and Passing the Peace	Ruth Ann Martin
Call to Worship and Invocation	
Lighting of the Advent Candle	Collette Carlson

## C O N N E C T I N G

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Congregational Singing	
<i>Silent Night</i>	Worship Book No. 193
<i>God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings</i>	
Offering Prayer	
Offertory: <i>Joy to the World</i>	Worship Book No. 318
Children's Time	Jon Carlson

## R E F L E C T I N G

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Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7	
Song: <i>O Come, O Come Emanuel</i>	Worship Book No. 172
Sermon: <i>Comfort from Afar</i>	Jon Carlson
Sharing: <i>Christmas Traditions</i>	Alex Kachkovskiy
Response Song: <i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	Worship Book No. 201

## S E N D I N G

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Congregational Prayer  
Benediction  
Postlude



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## CARES & CONCERNS >>>

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As the cares and concerns of our congregation come to mind,  
please lift them to the Lord in prayer:

- ☆ Toby Leaman anticipating and recovering from Achilles' tendon surgery.
- ☆ Dan Stoltzfus recovering from a recent heart procedure.
- ☆ Advent season and preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.
- ☆ Andy and Irene Ebersole adjusting to Andy requiring additional care at the Mennonite Home.
- ☆ Our older seniors and others receiving extra care in long-term care facilities or at home—Esther Zook, Mary Schlabach and Eleanor Glick (Fairmount), John Smoker (Garden Spot Village), Arlene Leatherman, Jay Groff, Geneva Martin, Lila Neufeld, Mary Schroeder, Gene Siegrist, (Landis Homes), Marian Rohrer (Pleasant View), Lucy Rudy (Oak Leaf Manor), Andy and Irene Ebersole (Mennonite Home), Doris and Gene Kreider (home).

**Andy Ebersole** moved to Swarr Run at the Mennonite Home last week to receive additional care.

**Toby Leaman** is scheduled for reconstructive Achilles' tendon surgery on December 10, at Lancaster General Hospital.

**Dan Stoltzfus** was discharged from Lancaster General Hospital on Monday after a procedure to adjust his pacemaker. He is now recovering at home.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS >>>

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**Coffee Fellowship:** Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments and conversation following today's worship service.

**Welcome Guests!** We are glad you are with us today. Let us know you're here by filling out the online form with the QR code:



**The songs in today's worship service** were chosen by the kids singing on the worship team. Thanks to all of them for leading us in songs of the season today!

**If you would like to host or attend** our Winter Bible School sessions in January, please fill out the bulletin insert or use this link to fill out the online response form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/70ELXYj6vJ>.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS >>>

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**A Christmas Eve service**, celebrating the songs and scriptures of the season, will be held here on Friday, December 24, at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and bring guests. An offering will be received for Mennonite Central Committee's Haiti Relief program. MCC has been providing relief following a large earthquake there last summer. Please make checks payable to Forest Hills. Following the service we will have cookies, punch, tea, and coffee.

**Households attending** the Christmas Eve Service are asked to bring a small plate of cookies to share for the fellowship time that will follow the service. If possible, please bring your cookies to the church by Thursday, December 23, and label them for Christmas Eve.

**Weather cancellation procedures** ~ Church staff and our Property Committee Chair will make a decision as to whether or not Sunday morning worship or Wednesday Evening Activities should be cancelled when there is inclement weather. In case of cancellation, the office will send out an email, and the change will be posted on our website and our social media pages.

**“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 2021-22 fiscal year is 13% behind budget. We need \$57,747 in the next three weeks to bring our giving up to budget by year-end. Expenses have been running close to budget. Please prayerfully consider what you might give between now and year-end. If you wish to have your contributions recorded in 2021 for tax purposes, they will need to be in the church office or post-marked by December 31, 2021.”

– Sam Clement, Treasurer

**The quarterly edition of Everence's** financial newsletter, *Toolkit*, has arrived and is available in front of the church mailboxes. Help yourself to a copy to take home.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

- ☆ **Friday, December 24, 7 p.m.** - Christmas Eve service.
- ☆ **Sunday, December 26 & January 2** - No Sunday School.

## UPCOMING MYF EVENTS

- ☆ **December 19** - Christmas party.
- ☆ **January 9** - Tacos and games at the Clappers' house.
- ☆ **January 14 -15** - Lock-in at church.

# H O S P I T A L I T Y   H E L P E R S

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- ☆ Head Usher: Lee Charles
- ☆ Audio Visual Technicians: Jim Shannon, Dan Baker, Dana Shannon, Micah Carlson
- ☆ Greeters: Becky & Les Siegrist
- ☆ Befrienders: Bonnie & Denny Sharp
- ☆ Coffee Fellowship: Jeanette & Vernon Rice

## T O D A Y

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- ☆ 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages.
- ☆ 10:30 a.m. - Worship in-person or online. The service can be streamed on YouTube: [www.fhmc.church/youtube](http://www.fhmc.church/youtube) or Facebook: [www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite](http://www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite).
- ☆ 6 p.m. - MYF (Youth Group, Gr. 9-12) Game night at the Schlossers' house.

## T H I S   W E E K

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- ☆ Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Adult Choir rehearsal.
- ☆ Saturday, 8 a.m. - Adelpian breakfast at New Holland Family Restaurant.

## N E X T   S U N D A Y

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- ☆ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Pastor Jon will preach.
- ☆ MYF - Christmas party.

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### WEEKLY REPORT (12/05):

General Fund \$21,586; Student Aid Fund \$100  
YTD Income: \$148,132; YTD Budget \$169,548 (-13%)

**Attendance : 171**

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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 ~ Lauren Krady - Administrator  
Becky Bathurst - Youth and Young Adult Director ~ Lesley Wenger - Custodian  
Randy Esch, Kay Hurst, Keith Stuckey - Elders  
Louetta Hurst, Ruth Ann Martin, Clair and Doris Sauder  
Warren and Linda Tyson, Kathy Unangst - Care Team

**Forest Hills Mennonite Church**  
**Winter Bible School**  
**January 2022**

This January we will be organizing three weeks of small groups that will share meals and have guided conversations in people's homes. Staff will organize the groups and they will remain the same for all three weeks. Groups can be held on Sunday or Wednesday evenings the weeks of January 9, 16, and 23. Conversation guides will be tied to the prior Sunday's sermon. If you would like to participate, please fill out this form and put it in the offering plate or in the basket in the church office

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Evening Preference:** Sunday \_\_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_\_ Either \_\_\_\_

**Interest** (check as many as you are willing to do):

**Host:** Have guests in your home and either cook a meal or organize a potluck.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of guests are you willing to host \_\_\_\_\_

Willing to host guests with children \_\_\_\_\_

**Facilitate discussion** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attend as a guest** \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate number of participants from your family unit.

\_\_\_\_ # Adults (including young adults)

\_\_\_\_ # Children (Ages 0 to grade 6)

\_\_\_\_ # Youth (grade 7 to 12)

**I would like to attend but need transportation** \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any dietary restrictions: (Diabetic, celiac, heart, etc.)

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