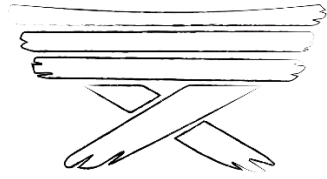


the Human one



Forest Hills Mennonite Church
December 25, 2022

G A T H E R I N G

Prelude

Gathering Song: *Joy to the World*

Worship Book No. 318

Call to Worship and Invocation

Passing the Peace

C O N N E C T I N G

Song: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Worship Book No. 197

Offering Prayer

Offertory: *Away in a Manger*

Worship Book No. 194

Children's Time

R E F L E C T I N G

Song: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Worship Book No. 201

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

Sermon: *A Divine Human*

Jon Carlson

Response Song: *What Child is This*

Worship Book No. 215

S E N D I N G

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Postlude



CARES & CONCERNS >>>

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

- ❖ Gary Kendig receiving therapy following a recent illness.
- ❖ Vernon Schroeder mourning the loss of his wife, Mary.
- ❖ Ken and Arleta Martin as Ken continues to receive hospice care in their home in Virginia.
- ❖ Those traveling to spend time with friends and family.
- ❖ Don Beidler continuing to deal with medical concerns.

Gary Kendig was transferred to Brethren Village on Wednesday to begin to receive physical therapy with the hopes of returning to his home.

Don Beidler was discharged from Lancaster General Hospital on Monday to his home and was readmitted to the hospital on Wednesday. He remained a patient at bulletin publication time.

We extend our condolences to Vernon Schroeder on the passing of his wife, Mary, on Saturday, December 17. Her memorial service will be on January 6, with a 10:00 a.m. viewing and service at 11:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS >>>

Welcome Guests! We're glad you are with us today. We hope that you will encounter God's presence as you worship with us and will find yourself renewed and challenged in your journey with God. Hearing assistance devices are available in the ushers' room near the sanctuary entrance. Let us know you're here by scanning the QR code and filling out the online visitor form:



Staff hours and availability will vary between Christmas and New Year's. If you are in need of pastoral care or other assistance and do not initially reach the individual you wish to contact, please try reaching another staff member in order to have your need addressed promptly.

If you wish to have your contributions recorded in 2022 for tax purposes, they will need to be in the church office or post-marked no later than December 31, 2022.

We are working on creating a Forest Hills picture directory. If you are a regular attendee and were not able to get your picture taken at church the last two weeks, you may email a photo to the church office at fmmc@foresthillschurch.org before January 15.

This Sunday, December 25, there will be no Sunday School. We will have our 10:30 a.m. worship service only. There will not be a staffed nursery or Kids' Church. **On Sunday, January 1**, there will be no in-person service, but we will stream a worship service online.

Plans are underway to refresh our sanctuary including recovering the pew cushions, installing new carpet, painting, and expanding our sound booth. Some of our Future Capital Project Fund will go toward this project, and Council is hoping to raise \$30,000 to kickstart the renovations. So far, we have raised \$9,400. If you would like to donate towards it, please mark "sanctuary update" on your check.

If your class, commission, or committee has meetings or activities planned for the month of January, please submit these dates to the church office by Wednesday of this coming week, December 28, so that they can be included on the next church calendar.

Several donors have stepped forward with an offer to match every donation made toward our Refugee Education fund before December 31, up to \$10,000. If you feel inspired to support this work, you can contribute to Forest Hills and designate it on the envelope or on the memo line "Refugee Education Support." So far, we have \$9,650 given towards this matching grant.

The December edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In the current issue: find out why some disaster survivors may think it's absurd for MDS volunteers to help rebuild and restore, celebrate six home dedications in time for the holidays in Crisfield, MD, and get more details on how to register for the MDS annual celebration in Pennsylvania in February. Visit their website or digital readers can click on this link to read more:

<https://conta.cc/3Whz2F8>.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- ❖ January 1: No in-person Sunday school or worship service; online only.
- ❖ January 18, 25, February 1, 8: Winter Bible School.

UPCOMING MYF EVENTS:

- ❖ January 6-7: Lock-in.
- ❖ January 22: Skyzone.
- ❖ January 29: Game night with ACC youth.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

December 2022

– LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

Jon Carlson, Lead Pastor –Jon started the Advent sermon series on the incarnation of Jesus and its significance for our understanding of our own humanity. He revised and submitted Forest Hills’ response to ACC questions re: LGBTQ credentialing. Jon recorded several personal stories for our annual Looking Back Sunday that will be part of a virtual service on January 1; he is continuing to work with Nina on the Winter Bible School series; and is planning a January sermon series on sin, forgiveness, repentance, and grace.

Becky Degan, Associate Pastor of Worship and Christian Education – Becky reported that the KFC kids, averaging 18-20 kids each Wednesday evening, made goodies for the seniors’ Christmas gift bags. Becky and the Education Commission hosted a children’s ministry volunteer appreciation luncheon for about 25 volunteers; several portions of our Child Protection Policy were highlighted at this luncheon. Becky and the handbell ensemble recorded several pieces to be used during Advent and Christmas, and approximately 27 kids took part in the Children’s Christmas program.

Nina Harnish, Minister of Care and Visitation – Nina has stayed connected with individuals having health or personal crises; is facilitating conversations with parents of young children on Wednesday evenings; with the help of FKC and Junior Youth, organized the assembly of Christmas bags for seniors to be delivered by the Care Team; attended senior lunch at Fairmount; and worked with Beth Fenton and Lisa Spangler to set up the remembrance tree for Christmas. Nina is working on the Winter Bible School schedule and meals; continuing to connect with new families; and hosted the Christmas lunch for seniors at the church.

Andrew Bodden, Mission and Service Commission – Ninety-one \$50 gift cards – seven more than last year – were collected for the Conestoga Valley School District. The Christmas Eve offering will go to food projects supported by Mennonite Central Committee in the countries of Lebanon, Syria, and South Sudan.

- **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Treasurer Sam Clement distributed a current financial report to Council members via email. He reported that as of the end of November, giving was behind budget. Several donations have come in for the Refugee Education Fund.
- **HOUSING ALLOWANCES:** 2023 Housing allowance amounts were approved for Jon, Nina, and Becky.

Complete council minutes are available in the church library.

Forest Hills Mennonite Church

WINTER BIBLE SCHOOL 2023



The Church in Discernment

Winter Bible School provides food for both body and soul. Supper begins at 6 p.m. followed by adult group, KfC, and Jr Youth at 6:45 p.m. There is no charge for the meal, but donations to cover the costs (\$5-10/person) will be gratefully accepted.

The Church operates in various modes—worship, service, community, learning—but one of the central tasks given to the church is discernment. As N.

T. Wright says, “the church [is] characterized, at the very heart of its life, by prayerful listening to, strenuous wrestling with, humble obedience before, and powerful proclamation of scripture.”

Discernment is the process of wrestling with Scripture and coming humbly before God to better understand the challenges of contemporary life.

Discernment is always happening, but throughout this Winter Bible School we will look at four specific questions where the Church has engaged in the challenging work of discernment.

>> January 18
Discerning Dress

>> January 25
Discerning Divorce & Remarriage

>> February 1
Discerning Sexual Ethics

>> February 8
Discerning Political Engagement

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

- ❖ Head Usher: Larry McJunkin
- ❖ Audio Visual Technicians: Jim Shannon, Dana Shannon, Micah Carlson
- ❖ Greeter: Evanna & Dan Hess
- ❖ Befrienders: Kathy Unangst, Marty Peifer
- ❖ Coffee Fellowship: Jeanette & Vernon Rice

T O D A Y

- ❖ 10:30 a.m. – Worship in-person or online. The service can be streamed on YouTube: fhmc.church/youtube or Facebook: www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite.

T H I S W E E K

- ❖ Monday & Tuesday – Church office closed.

N E X T S U N D A Y

- ❖ New Year's Day – No in-person service, online only. Looking Back Sunday.

WEEKLY REPORT

12/18 Offering: General Fund \$16,549; Refugee Education Fund \$5,000;
Sanctuary Renovation \$5,200
YTD Income \$207,147; YTD Budget \$196,230 (+5%)

Attendance : 223

fhmc@foresthillschurch.org ~ www.foresthillschurch.org
100 Quarry Road, Leola, PA 17540 ~ 717-656-6227

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

Kay Hurst, Allon Lefever, Keith Stuckey - Elders

Louetta Hurst, Matthew Degan, Ruth Ann Martin, Clair and Doris Sauder

Warren and Linda Tyson, Kathy Unangst - Care Team