



# Forest Hills Mennonite Church

January 1, 2023 – Online Service

## G A T H E R I N G

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Prelude

Gathering Song: *Joy to the World*

2020 Virtual Choir

Call to Worship and Invocation

Jon Carlson

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

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Song: *The First Noel*

Kit Baker, Becky Degan, Cheryl Eshleman, Kori Jantzen – Handbells

Passing the Peace

Song: *Sing We the Song of Emmanuel*

Becky Degan, Willie Hurst, Jon Bishop, Michael Degan, Sheila Snyder

Children's Time

Becky Degan

Offering Prayer

Offertory: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

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

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Looking Back Reflections Josh, Dora, Kennedy, Harper, and Lincoln McCown

Song: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

2020 Virtual Choir

Looking Back Reflections

Ruth Ann Martin

Response Song: *Noel*

Kelly Lapp, Tim & Sandy Smoker

## S E N D I N G

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Benediction

Closing Song: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

2020 Kids' Virtual Choir



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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:

- ❖ Don Beidler continuing to regain strength.
- ❖ Those who are experiencing memory loss and their care providers.
- ❖ For renewal and growth in our faith in the upcoming year.
- ❖ Rose Mosemann recovering from foot surgery.

**Rose Mosemann** had outpatient surgery on her foot on Wednesday, December 28, and is recovering at home.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS >>>

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**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.

**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 [fhmc@foresthillschurch.org](mailto:fhmc@foresthillschurch.org) before January 15.

**Thank you for your generous donations** at the Christmas Eve service. \$1,072 was donated to go to Mennonite Central Committee's food projects.

**Join Mennonite Disaster Service** for their Annual Celebration on Friday evening, February 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Worship Center. There will be a meal followed by a program highlighting MDS stories, the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster, and a performance by Piercing Word Ministries. The celebration will resume Saturday morning with additional stories about the work of MDS volunteers. The event is free and open to all. Register by January 31. Learn more at <https://mds.org/annual-celebration/>

**Everence Stewardship University** is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Calvary Church. This year's event is *Rooted in Faith. Reimagined for the Future*. It will promote faith and financial wellness within a context of stewardship. Registration opens December 15 (with a discounted rate until February 8) at [www.everence.com/StewU](http://www.everence.com/StewU)

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*

## T O D A Y

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- ❖ 10:30 a.m. – Worship online only. The service can be streamed on YouTube: [fhmc.church/youtube](http://fhmc.church/youtube) or Facebook: [www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite](http://www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite).

## T H I S W E E K

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- ❖ Monday – Church office closed.
- ❖ Friday-Saturday – MYF (Youth Group, Gr. 9-12) Lock-in.

## N E X T S U N D A Y

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- ❖ Communion Sunday - Pastor Jon will preach on *The Rhythm of the Night*, based on 1 John 1:1-10.

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### LOOKING AHEAD:

- ❖ 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.

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## WEEKLY REPORT

**12/25 Offering:** General Fund \$11,986; Sanctuary Update \$400;  
YTD Income \$219,133; YTD Budget \$208,495 (+5%)

**Attendance : 93**

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[fhmc@foresthillchurch.org](mailto:fhmc@foresthillchurch.org) ~ [www.foresthillchurch.org](http://www.foresthillchurch.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

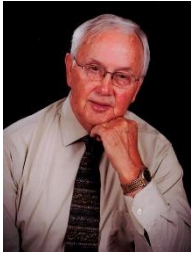
## *We Remember*

*A memorial tribute to those in our Forest Hills church family that we lost in 2022.*



### **Arlene Leatherman (January 25, 1932 - January 21, 2022)**

Arlene was a member of Perkasio Mennonite Church, Perkasio, PA, and associate member of Forest Hills Mennonite Church. In the 1950's she served two summers in Chicago, IL, in voluntary service with the Mexican Mennonite Church and with the Home Mission. Arlene received a BS in Elementary Education from Eastern Mennonite University and a master's degree in Humanistic Studies from Marywood College. Arlene taught grades five and six for 32 years in the Souderton Area School District, Souderton, PA. Arlene invested many hours helping Clara Landis assist local church libraries as well as a library in Tanzania and one in Ethiopia.



### **Chet Martin (June 14, 1942 - January 24, 2022)**

Chet was born in Manheim Township and is survived by his wife of 43 years; Ruth Ann. Chet was a skilled mason worker with Charles W. Weaver Masonry and a cabinet maker for Heritage Custom Cabinetry. In his retirement, he enjoyed driving for Twin Pine Ford. He was a member of Forest Hills Mennonite Church, where he served as sexton for 35 years. Chet enjoyed watching sports, especially when his grandchildren participated. He was an avid card and domino player. He and Ruth Ann enjoyed traveling to the beach and Florida. In addition to his wife, he is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

### **John Smoker (October 14, 1924 - March 2, 2022)**

Born in Salisbury Township, he was the husband of the late Rheta E. Newswanger Smoker, who died in 2003. John was a parts maker at Sperry New Holland and a U.S. Army veteran. He enjoyed bowling with Parmer Welding for 30 years at Blue Ball Lanes. John and his wife are remembered for hosting many people for their annual corn-roast. He is survived by 4 children, 20 grandchildren, and 50 great-grandchildren.



### **Doris Groff (March 7, 1936 - April 19, 2022)**

Doris was married for 67 years to Jay Groff; they had two children, and two grandchildren. She was involved in the sewing circle at church. She worked at Smoketown Elementary school cafeteria and Bird-In-Hand Motor Inn for 30 years. Doris was a member of Farm Women #28 and she and Jay enjoyed many years on the farm. She volunteered at Black Rock Retreat and Camp Deer Park, and hosted kids with the Fresh Air program. They enjoyed many adventures with the Green Laurel Hunting Club. She enjoyed gardening, traveling, cooking, and reading.



### **Gene Kreider (November 21, 1933 – April 23, 2022)**

Gene was married to his beloved wife, Doris Kreider, for 68 years. Gene worked at his father and uncle's business, Kreider Brothers Millwork. He and Doris bought a small homestead in Leola where he refurbished the house and converted the barn to a wood shop. Gene was a master craftsman specializing in architectural reproduction. Beyond his woodworking, his hobbies included photography and weekend trips to their mountain house in rural Monroe County. Gene was a humble man, soft spoken and possessed a witty sense of humor. He is survived by three children, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren.



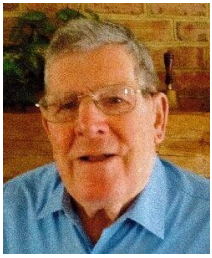
### **Melvin M. Zimmerman (August 27, 1929 – June 2, 2022)**

Mel shared 62 years of marriage with his wife Mabel before her death in 2017. Mel and Mabel opened Zimmerman's Hardware in Strasburg in 1962 and operated the store together until passing it on to the next generation. Mel enjoyed family genealogy, traveling throughout the US, Canada and Europe, and deer hunting in Tioga County. Mel and Mabel were one of the original families at Forest Hills Mennonite Church. He served on the board of Black Rock Retreat and volunteered with the Strasburg Ambulance Association. He is survived by two children, four granddaughters, and give great-grandchildren.



### **Gene Siegrist (April 1, 1958 – June 4, 2022)**

Gene Siegrist passed away following an eleven-year journey with multiple systems atrophy. Gene was the beloved husband of Carole Siegrist, with whom he celebrated 42 years of marriage. Gene was a self-employed farmer, a painter/paperhanger, and an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting in all seasons in PA and hunting elk in AZ. Gene also served on the zoning board for Bethel Township, Berks County. Throughout his illness and death, he participated in research focused on multiple systems atrophy. Gene is survived by his two children and his four grandchildren.



**Jay Groff (May 8, 1931 – June 30, 2022)**

Jay was a lifetime farmer. He also worked at Denlinger's Paving and Nolt's Feed Mill. He enjoyed hunting and traveling with the Green Laurel Hunting Club. He enjoyed volunteering with Sertoma International. He also enjoyed fishing and spending time with his family. He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Doris. He had two children, two grandchildren, and three great-granddaughters.



**Mary Schlabach (June 4, 1937 - July 11, 2022)**

Mary was born in Ohio and had three children, 15 grandchildren, and 33 great-grandchildren. She will be remembered for her breathtaking flowers she loved to grow at her house in Benton, OH, while her health allowed, and for starting the Schlabach Amish Made Bakery with her husband in Benton, OH. She loved to do puzzles and play marbles with her dear friends at Fairmount Homes where she lived the last year of her life.



**Leenie Charles (November 25, 1947 – July 26, 2022)**

Eileen M. "Leenie" Charles was the loving wife of Lee for 53 years last December. Born in Lancaster, she was a Licensed Practical Nurse and spent most of her nursing career in the office of Dr. John Rutt, Gordonville. She filled many volunteer roles including teaching Sunday school, VBS, and decorating the church. She was a 27-year breast cancer survivor. Leenie enjoyed trips to Tioga County to her family cabin, book club with friends, decorating her home and helping others decorate theirs. Together with Lee, she enjoyed motorcycle trips, square dancing, and traveling with friends. She enjoyed playing tennis and trips to the beach with her sisters. But most of all she enjoyed spending time with her family and watching her grandchildren grow. She had two daughters and seven grandchildren.



**Ken Kreider (July 18, 1947 – August 12, 2022)**

Ken was the loving husband of Violet "Posie" Weaver Kreider, and they observed their 52nd wedding anniversary in June. Ken was a 3rd-generation co-owner of excavation and paving contractor B.R. Kreider & Son, Manheim, along with his two siblings, where he served as CEO until 2009 and retired in 2015. In his early years from 1966-68, Ken worked in alternative service at St. Peters Hospital in Albany, NY. Ken was a faithful and active member of Forest Hills. Ken served as chairman of the property committee for 25 years and was a volunteer for Mennonite Disaster Relief Service. Ken served on advisory boards at Habitat for Humanity, Lancaster YMCA, Camp Shand, and Fulton Bank. Ken lived a full and active life, whose interests included: hunting, fishing, golf, cars, snowmobiling, farming, and spending time at the family's cabin in Potter County. Ken had a deep passion for his

family and cherished all the time he could spend with his wife, three sons, and grandchildren.



**Doris Kreider (January 27, 1937 – November 9, 2022)**

Doris was married to the love of her life, Gene Kreider, for 68 years of marriage until his passing in the spring of 2022. She taught in the Arts Department at the School District of Lancaster. She retired in 1996, after which she helped Gene with the thorough restoration of their farmhouse in Leola. There she continued her art of wheel thrown pottery. She was a member of the Village Art Association and exhibited her work at the Lititz Outdoor Art Show. She was adventurous, from climbing the apple trees at the family mountain house and chaperoning high school backpacking trips, to hiking to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.



**Mary Schroeder (May 10, 1933 – December 17, 2022)**

Born in Manheim Township, she was the daughter of immigrants from Crimea, (1923). She was the wife of Vernon Schroeder with whom she shared over 71 years of marriage. She enjoyed singing in the choir and teaching Sunday school. Mary was a dedicated wife, mother, and homemaker, enjoyed quilting, playing the organ, and loved furry pets. She excelled in the gifts of hospitality and service- as a foster parent, adopting a son, volunteering at Landis Homes, the local hospital, and Akron Elementary School playground, as well as opening her home to board five international trainees for MCC. She is survived by two sons and six grandchildren.