



Forest Hills Mennonite Church
Advent 1 ~ December 3, 2017

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.

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Hour

Gathering

Prelude

Becky Degan-Piano

Gathering Song: *Angels we have heard on high*

Worship Book No. 197

Call to Worship

Jim Fenton

Invocation

Praising and Adoring

Congregational Singing

My soul is filled with joy

Grace Notes No. 31

Helpless and hungry

Grace Notes No. 26

What child is this

Worship Book No. 215

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Children's Time

Jon Carlson

Congregational Prayer

Offertory: *O come, O come Emmanuel*

Becky Degan-Piano, Jack Rutt-Cello

Proclaiming

Scripture and Advent Candle Lighting

Sermon: *[Don't] let it be*

Jon Carlson

Special Music: *No Wind at the Window*

Adult Choir

Becky Degan-Director, Cheryl Eshleman-Piano, Jack Rutt-Cello

Response Song: *O come, O come Emmanuel*

Sending

Benediction

Postlude

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

Welcome Guests! We trust that you will encounter God's presence as you worship with us today and will find yourself renewed and challenged in your journey with God. So that we might record your attendance, please complete a guest card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. Feel free to join us for Coffee Fellowship after the service, and please do come back and worship with us again.

"WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK our church family for the loving care and support extended to our family on the passing of our son and brother, Sam. Your prayers, visits, cards, food and other expressions of sympathy were greatly appreciated and have helped bring healing for our loss. May God bless each of you for your kindness." – Lisa, Steve, Luke and Olivia Spangler

OUR CONDOLENCES to Don and Anita Beidler and their family in the death of Don's brother, Murray Beidler, on Thanksgiving Day. Murray resided in the Stowe area of Vermont prior to his death.

CODOLENCES to Randy and Pat Ranck in the death of Randy's brother, Jay Ranck, last Saturday, November 25. Prior to his death, Jay was a Lancaster resident.

CONDOLENCES also to Kris Long and her family in the death of her mother-in-law, Betty Long, this past Monday, November 27. Prior to her death, Betty resided at Landis Homes.

RUTH STOLTZFUS was an overnight patient this past week at Lancaster General Hospital where she had surgery to remove a tumor from her ankle. At bulletin publication time, she was expecting to be released in the near future.

CONGRATULATIONS to Arleta and Ken Martin on the birth of their granddaughter, Finnley Wren, born last Sunday, November 26. Finnley's parents are Nate Martin and Adrienne Herzog. The family resides in Salt Lake City, Utah.

CONGRATULATIONS to Louise Babikow for recently completing the Family Nurse Practitioner program at University of Pennsylvania. For now, Louise's plans are to continue working as an RN at Lancaster General Hospital.

MANY YEARS AGO some of our church women hand-crafted Chrismons to decorate our Christmas tree. Thanks to Phyllis Gamber for assembling the lovely display in the library showcase that tells the history of Chrismons in general and also the history of our own Chrismon ornaments.

AS THE JOYS AND CARES AND CONCERNS of our congregation come to mind, please lift them to the Lord in prayer. Pray specifically for the activities that are happening at our church this week and for the work of the broader church agencies and ministries. Pray also for the following:

- Steve, Lisa, Luke and Olivia grieving the loss of Sam, their son and brother.
- Thankfulness that Keith Lehman received encouraging results from a heart procedure.
- Ruth Stoltzfus recovering from surgery this past week.
- Don Beidler, Kris Long and Randy Ranck mourning the loss of family members.
- Jake Bare recovering from a recent hospitalization.

THANKS TO HELP from Karen Eckert and Kathy Unangst, the updated church directories were assembled this past week and have been placed in church mailboxes. **Please proofread your household's listing**, and let Norma Stauffer know if there are any errors that need to be corrected. Extra copies of the directory are available on the counter in the church office.

A STROOPIE SALE will be held in the foyer after the worship service next Sunday, December 10, and the following Sunday, December 17. Stroopies are Dutch (Holland) stroopwafels that feature caramel spread between two thin waffle cookies that are then partially dipped in chocolate. A variety of 6-packs and a gift box of 10 will be available for purchase. If interested, pre-orders can be placed today. Khalideh Khilo, our Syrian refugee friend, works at the Lancaster Sweet Shoppe where Stroopies are made. Proceeds will benefit our Refugee Education Fund.

ALL SENIORS – those living in retirement communities and those living in their own private homes – are invited to a Christmas luncheon here at the church on Monday, December 11, at 11:30 a.m. There will be no cost to participate. To attend, please RSVP to the church office **today**. When making your reservation, please indicate any dietary restrictions.

THE MISSION AND SERVICE COMMISSION has selected Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services (CVCCS), a local ministry that "works to meet the various needs of our homeless, at-risk and socially isolated neighbors by providing food and clothing," for this year's Christmas giving project. To participate, select a gift tag from the display board in the foyer. If all the tags are gone, simply bring non-perishable food items of any kind. **All items are due back at the church by next Sunday, December 10.** Further instructions can be found on the flyer that has been placed in church mailboxes today.

IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP THE CONGREGATION informed about our current financial position on an on-going basis, Church Council provides monthly updated financial reports in the bulletin. As of November 30, our year-to-date giving totals \$110,209, while our year-to-date budget is \$152,088, a shortfall of 27.5%. During this season of giving, please consider being generous as you contribute to the mission and ministries of our church.

FOR CONVENIENCE AND CONFIDENTIALITY purposes, Forest Hills provides offering envelopes for those who wish to use them. Please contact Donna Roggie, Assistant Treasurer, if you would like to receive a supply of envelopes or if you have questions about how this system works. For those of you who are already using the envelope system, please let Donna know when you are running low so a new supply can be ordered.

WORSHIP AIDS ARE AVAILABLE for persons who have trouble experiencing various aspects of our worship services. Large print hymnals and bulletins are available in the ushers room. More will be provided if needed; please don't hesitate to ask. Hearing amplifiers are available in the sound room for anyone who has trouble hearing our worship services. If you wish to use one of these devices, you may pick it up on the ledge outside the sound room at the rear of the sanctuary prior to the start of the service. And finally, wheelchairs are available for those needing a bit of assistance to enter or move through the building. Please ask an usher or sound technician for assistance in obtaining these resources.

LOOKING AHEAD

- * Sunday, December 17, 10 a.m. – Christmas Celebration Sunday; no Sunday School.
- * Sunday, December 24, 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. – Worship; 7 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service.
- * Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31 – 6 p.m. Shared Supper; 7 p.m. – Winter Bible School for all ages.

MYF CORNER – Youth Group, Grades 9-12

- * Today, 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
- * Today, 6-8 p.m. – Cookie baking at Hursts'. Bring a batch of cookie dough and directions for baking.
- * Next Sunday, December 10, 6 p.m. – Deliver Christmas cookies to Fairmount Homes.
- * Sunday, December 17 – Christmas Scavenger Hunt.
- * Friday-Saturday, December 29-30 – New Year's Lock In.

THE LEOLA MOMS (Morning Out for Mothers) group has extended an invitation for everyone to join them for a Christmas Cookie Concert featuring the talented Spare Parts men's a cappella quartet this coming Tuesday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m. (Daryl Eshleman is one of the vocalists in this quartet.) The evening will include an opportunity to purchase homemade Christmas cookies, frozen cookie dough, and cookie mixes with proceeds supporting the MOMS ministry. An angel tree with suggested donation ornaments has been placed on the kitchen counter for those who wish to make financial contributions.



THE WALKING ROOTS BAND, a well-loved folk band out of Harrisonburg, Virginia, will be opening its CD Release Tour at Neffsville Mennonite Church on Saturday, December 9, at 7 p.m. (Kathleen Ranck's grandson and his wife are part of this group.) A portion of the proceeds from their new Christmas album *Hark!* will be donated to Mennonite Central Committee to support its relief and development work around the world. The concert is free; a free-will offering will be received.

BLACK ROCK RETREAT is offering a unique Silent Sanctuary Retreat for folks who wish to venture into the world of intentional stillness. Winter dates are Friday-Sunday, January 12-14. Retreat will include creative journaling, an art station, prayer labyrinth, and evening prayer walks. For more information or to download a retreat brochure visit www.blackrockretreat.com/silent or call 717-529-3232. Brochures are also available in the literature rack next to the fellowship hall bulletin board.

REPORT: (11/26) General Fund \$6,409
Sunday School 139; Worship 206

100 Quarry Road, Leola, PA 17540 ~ Phone 717-656-6227 ~ Fax 717-656-8607
E-mail: fhmc@foresthillschurch.org ~ URL: <http://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
Janette Lile - Director of Children and Youth Programming
Norma Stauffer - Administrator
Keith Lehman, Ruth Ann Martin, Keith Stuckey - Elders
Louetta Hurst, Joyce Martin, Rose Mosemann,
Warren and Linda Tyson, Kathy Unangst - Care Team

TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Head Usher: Ken Martin
Sound Technicians: Dean Jantzen, David Bontrager-Assistant
Befriender: Kathy Unangst
Greeters: Michael and Matthew Degan
Coffee Fellowship Hosts: Lisa and Steve Spangler
Nursery (Ages 0-3): (SS) Leanne Beidler, Rose Miller
(W) Leanne Beidler, Rose Miller

TODAY

- * 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School for all ages.
- * Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings in Adelphian Room #17 after the service.
- * Noon – Grounded Class Lunch at Stuckeys'.
- * 6 p.m. – MYF (Youth Group: Gr. 9-12): Cookie Baking at the Hursts'.

THIS COMING WEEK

- * Monday, 8:30 a.m. – Care Team.
- * Monday, 7 p.m. – Church Council.
- * Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. – MOMS Christmas Cookie Concert. (See bulletin insert for details.)
- * Tuesday, 7 p.m. – Gemeinschaft Ladies Night at Marcia's.
- * Wednesday, 7-8:15 p.m. ~WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES
All are welcome. Childcare provided for children up through Pre-K.
 - KfC (Kids for Christ, Gr. K-5): *Wise and foolish builder.*
 - Junior Youth (Gr. 6-8): *How bright is your light?*
 - Adult Choir Rehearsal.
 - Adult Men's and Women's Bible Study.

NEXT SUNDAY

- * 2nd Sunday of Advent: Jon Carlson will be preaching on *Don't let it be chaos* based on Luke 1:5-25.
- * 6 p.m. – MYF: Deliver Christmas cookies to Fairmount Homes.

FOREST HILLS has received letters of thanks from Mennonite Church USA for our recent gift of \$6,855 to be divided among its various agencies and from Atlantic Coast Conference for our \$11,725 contribution to support its ministries.

TODAY'S REPORT can be found on the bulletin insert.