



Forest Hills Mennonite Church
Advent 2 ~ December 10, 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

Sandy Smoker-Piano

Gathering Song: *The first Noel*

Worship Book No. 199

Becky Degan, Tim Smoker-Leaders

Call to Worship and Invocation

Praising and Adoring

Congregational Singing

Bless'd be the God of Israel

(Worship Book No. 174)

Hark! the herald angels sing

(Worship Book No. 201)

Infant holy, infant lowly

(Worship Book No. 206)

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Children's Time

Janette Lile

Dismissal for Kids Church (Grades PreK-Gr. 2, Room #1-2)

Congregational Prayer

Offering Prayer

Sam Clement

Sung Offertory: *Longing for light*

Grace Notes No. 23)

Proclaiming

Scripture and Advent Candle Lighting

Luke 1:5-25

(Video includes brief depictions of civil unrest from news reports.)

Sermon: *Don't let it be chaos*

Jon Carlson

Response Song: *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* Worship Book No. 178

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.

GARY DAVIS was hospitalized at Ephrata Community Hospital for several days this past week to address several blood clots. He has since been released and is now continuing his recovery at home.

STROOPIES will be sold in the foyer after the worship service today and next Sunday, December 17. Proceeds will benefit our Refugee Education Fund. See bulletin insert for further details.

OUR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CELEBRATION will be held next Sunday, December 17. There will be no Sunday School, and the worship service will begin at 10 a.m. **(Note change of time.)**

A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, celebrating the songs of the season, will be held here Sunday, December 24, at 7 p.m. Come and bring guests. An offering will be received for Mennonite Central Committee. As is our tradition, attending households are asked to bring a small plate of cookies to share for the fellowship time that will follow the service.

WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER NURSERY CARE for our Christmas Eve service. Anyone willing to serve in the nursery that evening, on an as-needed basis, is asked to contact Liz Clapper or Norma Stauffer.

CHURCH COUNCIL discussed church safety and emergency preparedness at this past week's meeting. This issue will require further discussion. Anyone who has interest in helping define the need and develop a preparedness plan is asked to contact Pastor Jon. Until that plan is developed, one small step that will be implemented is that once the worship service begins at 10:30 a.m., the rear entrance will be locked to permit exiting only from the building. A sign will be posted on that door inviting people to enter through the main entrance. Questions about this initiative may be addressed to Pastor Jon or Rod Lefever, Council Chair.

OUR WINTER BIBLE SCHOOL will be held on four Wednesday evenings in January, beginning on January 10. This year's theme will focus on a Biblical understanding of racial reconciliation and its central importance in the Kingdom of God. The evening will start with a shared meal followed by childcare for preschoolers of participants, activities for children in grades K-8, and the sessions for adults. Watch for more details in the near future.

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:

- Cheryl Wagner recovering from knee surgery.
- LeRoy Petersheim recovering from a heart issue requiring a brief hospitalization last week.
- Gary Davis dealing with blood clots.
- Miriam Umble and her family as they experience her decline.
- Ruth Stoltzfus recovering from surgery last week.
- Those experiencing profound sadness and grief during this holiday season.
- College students completing fall classes and finals.

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. As of the end of November, we needed \$100,373 to reach budget by year end or an average of \$20,075 for each of the five Sundays in December. Expenses have been running close to budget, which means we have had to dip into our reserves to pay invoices. Please prayerfully consider what you might give between now and year-end. Remember, if you wish to have your contributions recorded in 2017 for tax purposes, they will need to be in the church office or post-marked by December 31, 2017. – Sam Clement, Treasurer

PERSONS WHO MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER reading through the Bible in 2018 and sharing the experience with others are asked to contact Nina Harnish for more information.

CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT GIFTS for Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services (CVCCS), a local ministry that works with our homeless, at-risk and socially isolated neighbors, are due **today**. If you took a gift tag with a suggested gift item and need to make other arrangements, please contact the church office ASAP.

UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORIES were placed in church mailboxes last week. **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 in the church office.

POINSETTIAS AND COOKIES that were left from the MOMS Cookie Concert this past week are on display and available for purchase in the kitchen area. All donations benefit the MOMS program.

CD RECORDINGS OF OUR WORSHIP SERVICE are available upon request. Fill out a request form that you will find inside the small door in the hallway where the sound room is located. Your recording will be produced and forwarded to you as soon as possible. Suggested donation is \$1 per recording.

SNOW CANCELLATION PROCEDURES ~ Snow could be arriving in the near future. Church staff, in consultation with our own snow experts, will make a decision as to whether or not Sunday morning worship or Wednesday Evening Activities should be cancelled when it snows. In case of cancellation, club leaders and class Shepherds will be contacted and asked to notify their respective members. Additionally, the change will be posted on our website, on our church voice mail message, and on WDAC and WJTL radio stations – if we can get through – and on WGAL.com (website, not on the TV listing). If you have questions about whether or not services will be held, check one of these places.

FOREST HILLS has received a letter of thanks from Mennonite Disaster Service for our recent contribution of \$2,000 for Puerto Rico relief.

THE WRITING TEAM FOR JOURNEY FORWARD, which Pastor Jon is a part of, will meet next week to complete a draft of the Journey Forward identity document, incorporating feedback from the Future Church Summit, Executive Board, Constituency Leaders Council, and Mennonite Church USA national staff. This document is part of the visioning process of describing who we are and who God is calling us to be as 21st century Anabaptists. The writing team and a reference council will play an important role in gathering feedback and updating this draft over the two-year process to culminate at the 2019 MC USA Convention. Visit <http://mennoniteusa.org/news/journey-forward-embracing-gods-hope-mc-usa/> to learn more about this initiative.

LANDIS HOMES is seeking persons age 16 and older to escort residents in wheelchairs to events, appointments and elsewhere. If interested in volunteering, please contact the volunteer services office at 717-509-5409 or email volunteer@landishomes.org for more information.

YOUTH VENTURE, a 2-week, short-term summer service and learning experience for students ages 16-22, has announced its 2018 locations – Benin, Ecuador, Peru, Japan and Spain. Join a team of other students and adult leaders to explore the world and experience how God is at work. Visit <https://www.mennonitemission.net/Serve/Youth%20Venture> for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD

- * Sunday, December 17, 10 a.m. – Christmas Worship Celebration; 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 – Shared Supper and Winter Bible School.

MYF CORNER – Youth Group, Grades 9-12

- * Today, 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
- * Today, 6-8 p.m. – Deliver Christmas cookies to Fairmount Homes.
- * Sunday, December 17, 5-8 p.m. – Christmas Road Rally Scavenger Hunt.
- * Friday-Saturday, December 29-30 – New Year's Lock In.

REPORT: (12/03) No offering report was available at bulletin publication time. Figures will be reported in next week's bulletin.

Sunday School 200; Worship 240

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: Vernon Kauffman
Sound Technicians: Alden Southwick, David Bontrager-Assistant
Befrienders: Ruth and Jake Bare
Greeters: Ruth and Harold Mast
Coffee Fellowship Hosts: Arleta and Ken Martin
Nursery (Ages 0-3): (SS) Louetta Hurst, Ernestine Lehman
(W) Joanne Martin, Jeanette Rice

TODAY

- * 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School for all ages.
- * 6-8 p.m. – MYF (Youth Group: Gr. 9-12): Deliver Christmas cookies to Fairmount Homes.

THIS COMING WEEK

- * Monday, 11:30 a.m. – Forest Hills Seniors Christmas Lunch.
- * Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. – MOMS (Morning Out for Mothers): Flower arranging led by Nadine Clay from Petals.
- * 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): Christmas celebration.
 - Junior Youth (Gr. 6-8): Christmas activity.
 - Adult Choir Rehearsal.
 - Adult Men's and Women's Bible Study.
- * Thursday, 8:15 a.m. – Diakonia Class leaves for organ concert and lunch in Hanover.
- * Friday, 5 p.m. – Agape Class Christmas show and dinner theater at Bird-in-Hand Restaurant.
- * Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – Adelpian Class Breakfast at New Holland Family Restaurant.

NEXT SUNDAY

- * 10 a.m. – 3rd Sunday of Advent: Christmas Worship Celebration. No Sunday School. **(Note change of time!)**
- * Jon Carlson will preach on *Don't Let it Be Unjust* based on Luke 1:39-56.
- * 5-8 p.m. – MYF: Christmas Road Rally Scavenger Hunt.

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

Council Highlights – December 4, 2017

– Leadership Team Reports

Pastoral Leadership Team and Worship Commission: Jon Carlson recently completed a sermon series on the book of James and is now planning Advent worship. He said he appreciates the new families that have recently begun worshipping with us. He noted feedback received regarding repositioning the piano in the sanctuary, including affirmation from musicians / vocalists and questions about how it may impact the way our services incorporate traditional Mennonite hymnody. He is currently working on a Winter Bible School series on racial reconciliation and a sermon series on history in the Bible, particularly related to the chronology, and how it affects our vision for the church. He has been engaging in conversation with other pastors about what church safety might look like in an Anabaptist setting.

Minister of Care and Visitation: Nina Harnish affirmed the Care Team for their dedication and the work they do in visiting our elderly, those with health issues, and newcomers. She too continues to make visits, in home and in the hospital, and many phone calls. Nina, along with Jon and Becky, walked with the Spangler family during the time of Sam's hospitalization and subsequent death. She will participate in the upcoming Christmas Senior Lunch and the MOMS fundraiser concert. Current and future projects include adult Wednesday evening Bible studies (after Winter Bible School), partnering with Jon in creating a Sunday School curriculum for adults to use at some time in the future, and the summer Sunday School elective. **Christian Education**

Commission: Becky Degan said that despite a few technical problems, the primary children's Sunday School continues to go well. Teachers are in place for the primary classes, but the preschool could use a few more. She expressed joy that so many individuals approached her with offers to provide music during the Christmas season. **Children and**

Youth Programming: Janette Lile said she has gathered an exploratory committee to look at the possibility of installing a playground on our property. Eight Bibles were recently given to those who will turn 13 this year. She expressed excitement about the curriculum that has been chosen for our Vacation Bible School next summer. **Mission and Service Commission:** Tom Verghese reported that the Commission is currently working on two projects – the Christmas giving project with gifts designated to go to Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services and the Christmas Eve offering that will be designated for a Mennonite Central Committee project.

Council Highlights - continued

Discernment Committee: Ryan Nolt said that this Committee is working to fill spots on the Property Committee, Discernment Committee and Atlantic Coast Conference Delegates. **Property Committee:** Norma Stauffer listed finished projects – repairs to two sanctuary HVAC units, a new seating area off of the kitchen, replacement of the fire and security system main panel, and new pads installed on our AED equipment, and upcoming projects – pruning and replacement of the pines along our eastern border, new bulbs in the carport lights, repairs to several emergency lights, repairs to the dishwasher, and discussion about creating a family restroom.

- Treasurer Sam Clement presented a current financial report and noted that we are in a similar position to where we have been other years at this same time. Council authorized emails and bulletin announcements to be made requesting end-of-year generosity in an effort to reach our budget goals.
- Pastoral housing allowances were authorized for Jon Carlson and Becky Degan.
- Staff Relations Committee Chair Evanna Hess presented updated job descriptions for staff. These documents were updated in an attempt to align current positions and responsibilities.
- Pastor Jon asked Council for input on how we approach church safety issues. Council approved a suggestion that the rear doors be locked during our worship services since no one is stationed at that entrance during this time. It was also suggested that persons in the congregation who have an interest in this area be invited to give input on other possible initiatives.

In executive session, Evanna Hess provided Council with a Staff Relations Committee update.

Complete copies of the meeting's minutes are placed in a notebook that is kept in the library. Interested persons are welcome to take a look at the full minutes at this location.