

Mt. Hope Community Presbyterian Church

It is our mission to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ! (Matt.28-19-20)

2nd Sunday of Advent & Communion — December 6, 2009 – 11:00 a.m.

**Those who are able, please stand*

Please be respectful of those worshipping around you! If you must talk, exit to the narthex!

THE PEOPLE GATHER...

Please sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pad!

If you have a prayer request, fill out a blue card and pass it toward the center aisle!

Silent Preparation for Worship “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Min. Jennifer Geibel

Welcome/Recognition of Visitors/Special Events

Pastor Carmen Cox Harwell

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Liturgists

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Page 22, v1

(Please stand)

** Call to Worship (Luke 1.68-72, 78-79)*

Elder Betty Noah

L: *“Bless be the Lord God of Israel, for He has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them.*

P: *He has raised up a mighty Savior for us, in the house of His servant David, as He spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old,*

L: *That we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.*

P: *Thus He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered His holy covenant.*

L: *By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,*

All: *To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Let us worship the Lord our God!*

***Hymn of Praise**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Page 22, v2-4

***Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer**

Elder Noah

God of grace, truth, and peace, the privilege is ours to, once again, gather to worship You and sit at the feast You have prepared for us. In this sacred hour, speak words of life and healing, and grace and forgiveness, and love and mercy. We are Your people, and You are “**Our Father...**”

(You may be seated)

TO CONFESS OUR SIN...

Call to Confession (Acts 2.38-39)

Min. Judith L. Wilson

Peter said to the first converts, “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Him.*” In **silent** obedience, let us repent of our sin so that our sins may be forgiven, again.

Kyrie

“**Amazing Grace**”

Page 280, v4

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 44.21b-22

Pastor Carmen

TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN...

The Children’s Chat

Pastor Carmen

*(Following the Chat, all children 7 & under
may leave to attend “Children in Worship” downstairs)*

TO PRESENT OUR FINANCIAL OFFERINGS WITH GRATITUDE...

Offering Call (Numbers18.25-27,29)

Elder Noah

“*Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ...When you receive from the Israelites the tithe that I have given you from them...you shall set apart an offering from it to the Lord, a tithe of the tithe. It shall be reckoned to you as your gift...Out of all the gifts to you, you shall set apart every offering due to the Lord; the best of all of them is the part to be consecrated.*” Let us prepare to offer “*the best*” of our tithe, our financial gifts, and our pledges for the new year to the Lord!

*(As the choir sings, the ushers will direct you to bring
your offerings and your pledges, to the front!)*

Offertory

“**Bells and Noels**”

The Chancel Choir and Hand Chimes

(Please stand)

***Doxology**

“**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**”

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***Prayer of Dedication**

Min. Wilson

(You may be seated)

TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION...

*Welcome to the Lord's Table
The Words of the Institution
Consecration of the Elements
Distribution of the Elements
The Prayer of Thanksgiving*

TO HEAR THE WORD...

(Please pass your Prayer Request cards toward the center aisle)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Hymn of Preparation</i> | <i>“What Child Is This”</i> | Page 53 |
| <u><i>New Testament</i></u> | <u><i>Matthew 1.18-25</i></u> | Pastor Carmen |
| <i>The Sermon</i> | <i>“Just in the Nick-of-Time!”</i> | Pastor Carmen |
| <i>A Moment for Reflection</i> | <i>“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”</i> | Min. Geibel |
| <i>Prayers of the People</i> | | Pastor Carmen |

AND TAKE THE WORD OUT IN PEACE!

(Please stand)

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>*Hymn of Departure</i> | <i>“Angels We Have Heard on High”</i> | Page 23 |
| <i>Blessing & Receipt of the Communion Kits</i> | | Officers |
| <i>*Charge & Benediction</i> | | Pastor Carmen |
| <i>(Please do not leave the sanctuary until the worship leaders and the elders have recessed!)</i> | | |
| <i>*Postlude</i> | <i>“Good Christian Men Rejoice”</i> | Min. Geibel |

Welcome to Mt. Hope! We are blessed by your presence this morning! We invite you to come and worship with us as often as you can, and join us in ministry! Please know that the doors of God's church and the hearts of His people here are always open to you!

Your children are loved and welcomed at Mt. Hope! We provide a nursery for infants and toddlers up to age 4. Please ask an usher for directions to the nursery. Also a cry room is located at the rear of the Sanctuary for your convenience.

Worship kits are available in the *Kids' Korner* of the Narthex and must be returned following worship.

Our worship services are recorded: <http://www.mthopechurch.org/Welcome.html>. Click on *recordings*. Thank you! Elder Eric Schramm.

Our vision for fulfilling Christ's Great Commission is that, by praying without ceasing, God will enable us to: develop relevant studies of God's Word; go out & reach out to our neighbors in the spirit of service & Christ-like hospitality; model the blessings that come when we cheerfully give our tithes & offerings; celebrate often our life together in Christ, and; worship & give thanks to God as we witness our children & their families loving & serving God & His people!

Please pray for, call, and send a card to our sick & shut-in members**:
Virginia Ayres, Ernie & Margie Baur, Irene Bender, May Bourne, Carolyn Griffith, Hilda Kerr, Betty McKelvey, Bob McKnight, Lou Sanabor, Annabell Scott, Melba Seaman

**** For additional information such as phone numbers, e-mail or addresses please contact the church office.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sanctuary Flowers are given by Ray and Nancy Schramm in loving memory of parents Margaret and Charles Holliday and Hazel and Arthur Schramm.

Our Weekly Financial Stewardship: needed each week=\$4,058; received last week = \$3,658; difference= -\$400.

Today's Young Children in Worship story is "Mary and Joseph" led by Alaina Napolitana and assisted by Laurie Napolitana and Chris Dick.

Birthday Wishes to Shannon Dillman (12.5) and Clare Heidish (12.13).

Thanks to the Children's Ministry for providing for fellowship time today! Fellowship for next Sunday will be provided by the Worship and Music Ministry.

Our deepest condolences to Trustee Bill Haley and his family following the death of his mother, Martha L. Haley last Sunday. The family respectfully suggests memorial contributions be made to the Valley View Presbyterian Church-601 N. Aiken Ave.-Pgh, 15206. Condolences may be sent to Bill Haley** or Marcie Haley**.

Thanks to everyone who supported me and The Invisible Children cause by coming to the breakfast or through donations. God bless you! -Helene Mauser

My Gift to the Christ-Child: Between now and Dec. 27th, Pastor Carmen is asking that we each place a note inside a box, of what we, symbolically, want to give the Christ-child this Christmas as our gift! Wrap the gift, and place it on or near the Communion Table as a visual reminder of all our gifts! On Sun. Dec. 27th, take your gift home as your personal reminder of the gift you've given!

The Flower Ministry will again be decorating the sanctuary with red & white poinsettias for Christmas. Ordering envelopes (\$10 ea.) are in the pews, & checks should be made payable to Mt. Hope church. Please indicate your color preference, dedication, and if you will take your poinsettia(s) home after the Christmas Eve service, or if you would donate it to a homebound member. Deadline for ordering is next Sun., Dec. 13th!

Zumba Gold and Zumba Classes will resume this coming Wednesday, Dec. 9th at 6:00p and 7p respectively. If you have not attended Zumba at Mt. Hope you are missing out on great music, laughter, fun, (and of course exercise)! Plan to start coming on Dec. 9th!

Mt. Hope's Holiday Tea: Saturday, Dec. 12th 12:30-3p. Tickets (a \$12 donation) will be available in the narthex after worship today, and advance reservations are necessary. We have plenty of seating so plan to attend and enjoy an afternoon of fun, fellowship, tea, and delicious goodies. As in the past, men are welcome and we will have a "Men's Table" for all of you fellows to enjoy a wonderful afternoon!

Your **Worship & Music and Christian Education Ministries** are presenting this year's **Christmas Pageant**, "Listen to Christmas," on Sun. Dec. 20th at 5p. A reception will be held after the pageant. Please plan to attend, support and enjoy our children and adults who are participating in this presentation. If you are interested in participating or helping in any way, please see the enclosed flyer and contact Elders Doris Kuhn** or Betty Ann Tis**.

Calling All Instrumentalists and Vocalists! If you would like to perform throughout the Advent and Christmas season, please contact our Min. of Music, Jenifer Geibel**

Used Book Donations: Eric Tans and Margaret Tassaro will be traveling to Mwanza, Tanzania this Dec. to visit Eric's parents, who work with the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee. They are requesting 10-12, gently used young adult books for people interested in learning English. According to Eric's mom, "Books are like gold in Tanzania." Please contact us if you have any questions: Margaret Tassaro**. Thank you!

Continue to bring your non-perishable food items to the church every 4th Sunday, so that we can help "feed the hungry" as Jesus commanded every day of the year! Jell-O, Jell-O pudding and saltine crackers are always needed!

The Flower Chart Notebook for 2010 is in the Narthex. 1 arrangement - \$15.00; 2 - \$30.00. Contact Elder Doris Kuhn**.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

What is going on in Penn Hills? To find out, log on to www.pennhills.org.

What is going on in our Presbytery? Log on to www.pghpresbytery.org to find out!

Men's and Women's Shelter basket in the narthex for contributions! Thank you!

The Penn Hills Service Assoc. continues to be thankful for your generous support!

THIS WEEK AT MT. HOPE

| | | | | |
|------|---------|-------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Mon. | Dec.7 | 630p | Worship & Music Ministry | Conference Room |
| Tue. | Dec. 8 | 630p | New Members' Class | Conference Room |
| Wed. | Dec. 9 | 10a | The Morning Word Study | MP Room |
| | | 6p | Zumba Gold Dance Class | MP Room |
| | | 7p | Zumba Dance Class | MP Room |
| | | 8p | Narcotics Anonymous | JK Hall |
| Thu. | Dec. 10 | 730p | Chancel Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| Sat. | Dec. 12 | 1230p | Holiday Tea | JK Hall |
| | | 2p | Gambler's Anonymous | MP Room |

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2 WEEKS...

| | | | | |
|------|---------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sun. | Dec. 13 | after worship | <u>All Officers Dinner</u> | MP Room |
| Mon. | Dec. 14 | 630p | Session Meeting | MP Room |
| | | 7p | Trustee's Meeting | Conference Room |
| Tue. | Dec. 15 | 630p | New Members' Class | Conference Room |
| Wed. | Dec. 16 | 11a-2p | <u>Office Christmas Party!</u> | Office |
| | | 8p | Narcotics Anonymous | JK Hall |
| Thu. | Dec. 17 | 730p | Chancel Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| Fri. | Dec. 18 | | Annual Reports Due! | |
| Sun. | Dec. 20 | 5p | Christmas Pageant | JK Hall |

LOOKING AHEAD IN THE YEAR & NEW YEAR...

| | | | | |
|------|---------|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sun. | Dec. 27 | after worship | New Member's Reception | MP Room |
| Tue. | Jan. 5 | 530p | <u>Tuesday's Together returns!</u> | All over! |

Mt. Hope Community Church, Presbyterian, USA

12106 Frankstown Road, Penn Hills, PA 15235 - 412.793.0227

email: mthope@mthope-church.org **website:** mthopechurch.org

Rev. Carmen Cox Harwell, Pastor

Mrs. Jennifer Geibel, Minister of Music

Mr. Dan Hadzima, Custodian

Mrs. Rita Hardin, Administrative Assistant & Clerk of Session

Listen to Christmas

Mt. Hope Community Presbyterian Church 2009 Christmas Pageant

If you have signed up or are interested in participating or helping with this year's pageant, please plan to stay for one hour after worship to be assigned your part and to practice on the following dates:

TODAY, Sun. Dec. 6th – **and** – **NEXT** Sun., Dec. 13th

There will also be a practice **and costuming time on Sat. Dec. 19th – time to be announced.**

The pageant will be held on Sun., Dec. 20th at 5p in our John Knox hall.
You will need to be at the church by 3p on the day of the pageant.

Thank You!