

**Mt. Hope Community Presbyterian Church**

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

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3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent — December 13, 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**      **“Il Est Ne”**      Min. Jennifer Geibel

**Bringing in the Light of Christ**      The Acolytes

**Welcome/Recognition of Visitors/Special Events**      Pastor Carmen Cox Harwell

**Moment –for–Ministry: Nominating**      Elder Bill Tis

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**      **“Peace”**      The Liturgists

**“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”**      Page 38, v1

*(Please stand)*

*\* Call to Worship (Isaiah 52.7-10)*      Miss Jordan Williams

**L:**      *“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’*

**P:**      *Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sights they see the return of the Lord to Zion.*

**L:**      *Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.*

**All:**      *The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.” And in response, we have gathered to worship and proclaim the glory of the Lord our God!*

**\*Hymn of Praise**      **“It Came upon a Midnight Clear”**      Page 38, v2-4

**\*Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer**      Miss Williams

Spirit of God descend upon us as we worship You in this hour. Allow Your presence to fill us anew with Your peace...the peace of Christ which passes all understanding. May it rest and rule in our hearts, our minds, our lives, and Your world. We pray in

the name of the One who is our Prince of Peace, and who taught us to pray to You,  
“*Our Father...*” *(You may be seated)*

**TO CONFESS OUR SIN...**

**Call to Confession** *(Psalm 51.1-5)*

Trustee Andy Vitko

King David confessed to the Lord, “*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless when You pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.*” Likewise, **in silence**, let us confess to the Lord our transgressions, and plead for Him to wash us thoroughly.

**Kyrie**

**“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”**

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**Assurance of Pardon**

**Isaiah 54.7-8, 10**

Pastor Carmen

**TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN...**

**The Children’s Chat**

Mr. Hamner Williams

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

**TO PRESENT OUR FINANCIAL OFFERINGS WITH GRATITUDE...**

**Offering Call** *(Exodus 23.15c)*

Trustee Vitko

God has commanded that we bring an offering to Him, for He said, “*No one shall appear before Me empty-handed.*” Therefore, let us present our financial tithes and offerings to the Lord with grateful hands!

**Offertory**

**“Gesù Bambino”**

The Chancel Choir, Dennis Chisnell – solo, Chris Dick - piano

*(Please stand)*

**\*Doxology**

**“Glory Be to the Father”**

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**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Trustee Vitko

*(You may be seated)*

TO HEAR THE WORD...

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

**Hymn of Preparation**      **“In the Bleak Midwinter”**      Page 36

**New Testament**      **Luke 2.8-14**      Pastor Carmen

**The Sermon**      **“Those Whom God Favors!”**      Pastor Carmen

**A Moment for Reflection**      **“Let There Be Peace on Earth”**      Min. Geibel

**Prayers of the People**      Pastor Carmen

AND TAKE THE WORD OUT IN PEACE!

(Please stand)

**\*Hymn of Departure**      **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**      Page 31

**\*Taking the Light of the Christ-Child into the World**      The Acolytes

**\*Charge & Benediction**      Pastor Carmen  
**(Please do not leave the sanctuary until the worship leaders and the elders have recessed!)**

**\*Postlude**      **“Angels We Have Heard on High”**      Min. Geibel

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**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.

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*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!*

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*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,  
\***Pearl Hicks**, 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.**

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*Rev. Carmen Cox Harwell, Pastor*  
*Mrs. Jennifer Geibel, Minister of Music*  
*Mr. Dan Hadzima, Custodian*  
*Mrs. Rita Hardin, Administrative Assistant & Clerk of Session*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sanctuary Flowers are given by Jack and Clare Heidish in celebration of their 14<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and Clare's birthday.

Our Weekly Financial Stewardship: needed each week=\$4,058; received last week = \$4,968; difference= +\$910.

Today's Young Children in Worship story is "The Shepherds" led by Alexandra Newby and assisted by Judy Schramm and Jordan Chisnell.

Birthday Wishes to Clare Heidish (12.13), Judy Griffin (12.17) and Bill Haley (12.20). Anniversary Wishes to Clare and Jack Heidish (12.15).

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

Our deepest condolences to the family of Robert Baur who is the son of Ernie and Margie Baur following his death last week.

My Gift to the Christ-Child: Between now and Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 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. 27<sup>th</sup>, take your gift home as your personal reminder of the gift you've given!

Come and celebrate Christmas with the staff at our Office Christmas Party on Wed. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> from 11a-2p! Refreshments will be provided, but feel free to bring whatever you'd like!

Congregational Meeting: First Call! All members are urged to be present on Sun. Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> for a brief meeting to approve Pastor Carmen's Terms of Call for 2010. Thank you!

Elizabeth McKelvey wishes to thank everyone who sent cards or called during her absence from worship due to blood pressure and knee challenges. Thank you and God bless you all!

Thank You to those who donated books ! We look forward to sharing them with the Tanzanians we meet! -Eric Tans and Margaret Tassaró

**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 to donate it to a homebound member. Deadline for ordering is TODAY!

**Keep a good check on your health** right here at Mt. Hope. **NEXT** Sunday, December 20, immediately following Worship will be our Blood Pressure day. Our own Health Ministry nurses will meet you then!

Your **Worship & Music and Christian Education Ministries** are presenting this year's **Christmas Pageant**, "Listen to Christmas," on Sun. Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 5p. 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\*\*!

**Zumba Gold and Zumba Classes** will resume Wednesday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 the new year healthy by joining us Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>!

**Continue to bring your non-perishable food items** to the church every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, so that we can help "*feed the hungry*" as Jesus commanded every day of the year!

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

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## **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!

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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Enterprise Rent-a-Car is seeking applicants for entry-level Management Trainee opportunities. To apply go to [www.go.enterprise.com](http://www.go.enterprise.com).

**Assist. Director, Alumni Reunions** – *position #6380*. Go to [www.cmu.edu/job](http://www.cmu.edu/job) and submit a cover letter and resume.

**W. L. Mellon Society Gift Officer** – *position #6381*. Go to [www.cmu.edu/job](http://www.cmu.edu/job) and submit a cover letter and resume.

**Dir., Corporate Development and Student Programs** – *position #6382*. Go to [www.cmu.edu/job](http://www.cmu.edu/job) and submit a cover letter and resume.

**Nationwide Insurance Company** has two openings: *Associate Agents/Producers* and *Agency Owner Training Program*. Go to [www.nationwide.com/careers/career-opportunities.jsp](http://www.nationwide.com/careers/career-opportunities.jsp), or contact agency recruiter John [Choma\\*\\*](#).

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**THIS WEEK AT MT. HOPE**

<b><u>TODAY</u></b>	after worship		<b><u>All Officer's Luncheon!</u></b>	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	<b><u>Office Christmas Party!</u></b>	Office
		8p	Narcotics Anonymous	JK Hall
Thu.	Dec. 17	730p	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sat.	Dec. 19	2p	Gamblers Anonymous	MP Room

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**LOOKING AHEAD IN 2 WEEKS...**

Sun.	Dec. 20	5p	Christmas Pageant	JK Hall
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**LOOKING AHEAD IN THE YEAR & NEW YEAR...**

Sun.	Dec. 27	after worship	<b><u>New Member's Reception!</u></b>	MP Room
Tue.	Jan. 5	530p	<b><u>Tuesday's Together returns!</u></b>	All over!
Wed.	Jan. 13	10a	<b><u>The Morning Word Study returns!</u></b>	MP Room

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*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 **TODAY** in John Knox Hall!

There will also be a practice **and costuming time on Sat. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> – from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

The pageant will be held on Sun., Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 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!*