



Forest Hills Mennonite Church

March 4, 2018 ~ Lent 3

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

Gathering Song: *How great Thou art*

Grace Notes No. 4

Janette Lile, Tim Smoker-Leaders

Call to Worship and Invocation

Nina Harnish

Praising and Adoring

Congregational Singing

Sandy Smoker-Piano

Janice Southwick-Guitar, Craig Miller-Bass, Sheila Snyder-Drums

Longing for light

Grace Notes No. 23

In Christ alone

Grace Notes No. 60

My soul cries out

Grace Notes No. 22

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Children's Time

Janette Lile

Offering

Proclaiming

Song: *Come, ye disconsolate*

Worship Book No. 497

Scripture: 2 Kings 20:12-21

Mary Harnish

Sermon: *This is our story: Babylon the great*

Jon Carlson

Response Song

Sending

Congregational Sharing

Congregational Prayer

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 OFFER OUR CONDOLENCES to LeRoy Petersheim and his family in the death of his son, Rob Petersheim, who passed away last Thursday, February 22.

CHRIS SEBELIST had emergency abdominal surgery at Lancaster General Hospital this past week. She has been discharged and is now continuing her recovery at home.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ruth Stoltzfus, the only living charter member of Forest Hills Mennonite Church, previously Monterey Mennonite Church, on the celebration of her 103rd birthday today. Thanks, Ruth, for your vision and commitment that helped shaped our church.

"I WISH TO EXPRESS my sincere appreciation to my church family for all the support, caring and kindness shown to Wilbur and me over the past 4+ years. This was a long and challenging journey, and I know I could not have traveled this journey without all of your support. Thank You, everyone, for the many ways you showed you cared! God bless you each and every one!" – Maddie Sollenberger

ZAC HUMMEL will be serving with Mennonite Disaster Service in Saipan from March 9-30.

PLEASE NOTE that Leanne Beidler's email address has been changed to herlder4@gmail.com.

BECKY DEGAN has been working with the service team in Puerto Rico this past week. She plans to return to the office this coming Wednesday, March 7.

A NEW COPIER was installed in the church office this past week. Our current copier had exceeded its life expectancy, and when both the copier and the printer started to fail, a decision was made to replace both of them with one new machine. If you need assistance with using the new equipment, please consult a staff member for instructions.

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:

- LeRoy Petersheim mourning the loss of his son Rob.
- Ruth Stoltzfus celebrating her 103rd birthday and recovering from surgery.
- Chris Sebelist recovering from recent surgery.
- Valentina Yermolov recovering from injuries sustained in an earlier fall.
- Puerto Rico service team traveling home.
- Zac Hummel traveling to Saipan to serve with Mennonite Disaster Service.
- Our youth who are participating in baptism preparation classes.
- The Khilo's extended family and all who are suffering immensely due to the fighting in Syria.

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 February 28, our year-to-date giving totals \$317,145, while our year-to-date budget is \$304,175, a positive difference of 4.3%. Thanks for your generosity in contributing to the mission and ministries of our church.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE: Janette Lile, Bruce Stauffer, Jess Martin, Troy Hurst, Carl Schnabel and Duane Lapp have been working to determine the feasibility of adding a playground to our church grounds. They recently met with a representative to design a structure suitable for the growing amount of children we are blessed to have as part of our church family. More details will be coming soon. If you have any specific questions, please see Janette Lile or one of the other playground committee members.

THE MOMS annual meal and auction will be held Friday, March 23, with dinner starting at 5 p.m., and the auction at 6:30 p.m. Baked goods for the meal and donated items for the auction would be appreciated. Best sellers are gift certificates, services and food. A table has been set up in the foyer where you may place auction donations marked with your name. If you cannot attend the auction but would like to support the MOMS program, take an ornament from the angel tree to sponsor a classroom, teacher or school supplies. The MOMS group appreciates the church's support.

LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL is offering a new Church Partnership Program that gives matching scholarships to students based on giving by individual churches. Council gave preliminary affirmation for the program with the agreement that guidelines would need to be clearly outlined. As a first step in this process, several Church Council members will meet with parents of existing LMS students and other interested persons at 6 p.m., this evening.

THE DENLINGER'S February 2018 newsletter has arrived. Copies are available in the literature rack next to the fellowship hall bulletin board for anyone interested in reading their update. Garry and Ruth Denlinger are missionaries in Israel who were once supported by one of our Sunday School classes.

THE 62nd ANNUAL PA RELIEF SALE that benefits the ministries of Mennonite Central Committee is scheduled for April 6-7 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Building in Harrisburg. Volunteers are needed to staff the Ten Thousand Villages stand on Friday from 10 a.m.-noon to unpack and display items. Additional volunteers are also needed in 2-hour shifts to sell the TTV products on Friday from 5-9 p.m., and again on Saturday from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. If you are willing to offer your assistance, please contact Marilyn Kreider at mekreider@comcast.net or by phone at 717-333-7123.

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE, a faith-based disaster response agency, is seeking qualified candidates with multi-cultural experience to apply for the following positions: Coordinator for Weekly Volunteers, Program Administrative Assistant, and Public Relations and Social Media Coordinator. These positions all work in MDS's Lititz office. Spanish language is an asset. For more information, visit mds.mennonite.net/who-we-are/employment/#jobs.

AMERICAN HOME LIFE, a Christian organization based in Lancaster, is seeking hosts for French students, ages 14-17, as they study English and learn about American culture in our area this summer. There will be two different groups. The first will be July 14-August 2, and the second will be August 5-24. Hosts are asked to accommodate two students per home, provide three meals a day, and arrange transportation to and from weekday ESL classes at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, 333 Delp Road, Lancaster. Hosts receive an up-front stipend of \$440 per 3-week session. To learn more, contact Jeff Nolt at jeffn@amhomelife.org or call 717-224-3695. Further information is posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board.

LOOKING AHEAD

- † Sunday, March 18, Noon – Junior Youth Lunch and Pinewood Derby competition.
- † Friday, March 23, Evening – MOMS Supper and Auction.
- † Wednesday, March 28 – Final night of Wednesday Evening Activities; activities will resume in the fall.
- † Sunday, April 22 – Youth Sunday.
- † Sunday, April 29, Noon – MYF (Youth Group: Gr. 9-12) Fundraiser Meal and Auction.
- † Sunday, May 13 – Baptism Sunday.

MYF CORNER – Youth Group, Grades 9-12

- † Today, 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School: Girls meet at Rose Mosemann's home; boys meet in the Donut.
- † Today, 3 p.m. – Mall Scavenger Hunt concluding with ice cream treat at church.
- † Today, 6 p.m. – Baptism Preparation Class.
- † Sunday, April 22 – Youth Sunday.
- † Sunday, April 29, Noon – Fundraiser Meal and Auction.
- † Sunday, May 13 – Baptism Sunday.
- † Sunday, August 5 – Welcome/Farewell Day at Nolts' lake house.

REPORT: (02/25) General Fund \$12,527
Puerto Rico School \$150; Student Aid \$100
Sunday School 144; Worship 212; MYF Retreat 16

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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



THE POTTER'S HOUSE, a local transitional residency program for men who have been released from prison, has scheduled its annual benefit banquet for Friday, March 9, at Shady Maple at 6:30 p.m. David Hain will speak on *Captivity to destiny: Hope in the face of addiction*. This event is free; a freewill offering will be received for the ministry. To register, email ttcph.development@gmail.com or call 717-943-7230. Further information is posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board.

FAIRMOUNT HOMES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY is planning to hold its 3rd annual Book Sale on Saturday, April 28, from 6 a.m.-noon in the Farm Crest Community Room on the east side of the campus. Starting now, donations of used books are welcomed so there is time to sort and price them. Please bring your donations to the Wheat Ridge or Crest View front desks. Children's books, Christian fiction and non-fiction, biographies, history, songbooks, memoirs, and books of local interest would be appreciated. Encyclopedias, secular fiction, and Reader's Digest Condensed Books **cannot** be accepted. All proceeds from the book sale will go to the Fairmount Homes Sharing Fund for the benefit of residents who have outlived their resources.

KAIROS SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION is hosting Ted & Co. in *Holy surprises* on Sunday, March 18, at 5 p.m., at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Lancaster. Laughter and new understandings are often rooted in surprises that delight, challenge, and inspire us. Ted Swartz and Jeff Raught will weave sketches, monologues and song into an evening celebrating God's subversive sense of humor. When we are surprised, we almost always learn something new. Recommended donation is \$50 per person; all proceeds to benefit the work of Kairos. Register at www.kairosjourney.org by March 9. Further details are posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board.

HABECKER MENNONITE CHURCH, 451 Habecker Church Road, Lancaster will be hosting the Karen participants from their congregation in a benefit concert in both English and their native Karen language on Saturday, March 10, at 6 p.m. This concert will include traditional Karen choir music, children's voices, and various ensembles. A freewill offering will be received to assist five Karen students who sing in the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster participate in an upcoming choir tour. Further information is posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board.

Continued on next page

Community Happenings – continued

RENOWNED OPERATIC TENOR TIMOTHY BENTCH will be in concert with the Chamber Choir of Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster and the Philadelphia Praise Center Indonesian Praise team at St. Edward's Episcopal Church, Lancaster, on Sunday, March 11, at 3 p.m. The concert is free. A freewill offering will be received; recommended donation of \$25 person. This will support the MCCL Chamber Choir's short-term mission assignment in Indonesia this summer under Eastern Mennonite Missions' GO! Program. For more information, contact MCCL at mccl@lancastermennonite.org.

THIS EVIL THING, an acclaimed drama about conscientious objection to war in WWI will be performed at Akron Mennonite Church on Tuesday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m. This one-person drama, written and performed by Michael Mears, offers a moving portrayal of the voices that said no to war 100 years ago. Admission is free; an offering will be received to help cover expenses. This event is sponsored by the Center on Conscience and War. Visit <https://michaelmears.org/this-evil-thing/> for more details. Further details are posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board.

LANDIS COMMUNITIES will host poet-physician Joseph Gascho reading excerpts from his poetry book *Cornfields, cottonwoods, seagulls, and sermons*, on Thursday, March 15, in the West Bethany Chapel at 7 p.m. Hear the author reflect on how driving a tractor at age five, irrigating corn, and reading a cartoon book about anatomy in a three-shelf-library, one-room country school prepared him to become a physician. A book signing will follow the presentation. Further details are posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board.

EVERENCE will present an *End of life planning* series hosted by Ridgeview Mennonite Church at 6:30 p.m., on five upcoming Thursdays, beginning April 5 and ending May 3. Presenters will help participants explore topics such as necessary conversations with family and friends, advance planning, what to do with the body, personal finances and more. Cost is \$30 per person. Email office@ridgeviewmennonite.net or call 717-768-3143. Seminar brochures are available in the fellowship hall literature rack.

LANCASTER MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY is hosting its annual family history conference at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center on April 19-21. Conference theme will be *Research all about it! How Newspapers enhance family history*, and keynote speaker will be James M. Beidler. Visit www.lmhs.org to register. Further information is posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board.

TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Head Usher: Vernon Kauffman

Sound Technicians: Bruce Stauffer, Alden Southwick-Assistant

Befriender: Kathy Unangst

Greeters: Evanna and Dan Hess

Coffee Fellowship Hosts: Bonnie and Dennis Sharp

Nursery (Ages 0-3): (SS) Vanessa Bunting, Lauri Lefever

(W) Joan Krause, Norma Stauffer

TODAY

† 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages.

† After Worship Service – Monthly Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings in Adelpian Room #17.

† 3 p.m. – MYF (Youth Group: Gr. 9-12): Mall Scavenger Hunt.

† 6 p.m. – Baptism Class.

† 6 p.m. – Lancaster Mennonite School Partnership Program Meeting. (See bulletin announcement for further details.)

THIS COMING WEEK

† Monday – Puerto Rico Service Team returns home.

† Tuesday – No MOMS (Morning Out for Mothers) this week.

† Wednesday, 7-8:15 p.m. ~WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

No childcare will be provided for preschool children this week.

- No KfC (Kids for Christ, Gr. K-5) this week.

- Junior Youth (Gr. 6-8): *iPromise - Risky business*.

- Adult Choir Rehearsal.

- No Adult Bible Study this week.

NEXT SUNDAY

† Daylight Savings Time begins; don't forget to move your clocks forward one hour.

† Mennonite Disaster Team leaves for service week in West Virginia.

† Lent 4 with Communion: Pastor Jon will continue his sermon series *This is our story*, preaching on *Mixed breeds* based on Nehemiah 13:23-31.

† Noon – Salt and Light Class Lunch.

† 6 p.m. – MYF (Youth Group: Gr. 9-12): Olympic Games.

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