



# together.

**Forest Hills Mennonite Church - November 24, 2019**

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**9:30 a.m. Sunday School**

**10:30 a.m. Worship Hour**

## **Gathering**

**Prelude** Gemma Rodak-Piano  
**Gathering Song:** *We Gather Together* (Grace Notes No. 17)  
Norma Stauffer, Willie Hurst-Leaders  
**Call to Worship and Invocation** Nina Harnish

## **Praising and Adoring**

**Congregational Singing** Becky Degan-Piano, Dean Jantzen-Guitar  
Michael Degan-Bass, Sheila Snyder-Drums  
*How Deep the Father's Love for Us* (Grace Notes No. 10)  
*Blessed be Your Name* (Grace Notes No. 61)  
*Love Come Down*

## **Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves**

**Children's Time** Becky Degan  
**Dismissal for Kids Church** (Grades PreK-Gr. 2, Room #1-2)  
**Offering**

## **Proclaiming**

**Song:** *The Love of God* (Grace Notes No. 55)  
**Scripture:** Ephesians 3:14-21  
**Sermon:** *Together* 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.

SUPPORT OUR MYF (Youth Group, Grades 9-12) by helping to fund their yearly activities and upcoming service trip to Puerto Rico. The envelope fundraiser is on a display board in the foyer. Give donations matching the dollar number on the front of each envelope and place it in the box provided below the board.

THE MENNONITE CHILDREN'S CHOIR OF LANCASTER (MCCL) invites you to ring in Christmas with them and guest artist Sherrie Strange-Pratt, NYC soprano, here at Forest Hills on Saturday, December 7, at 4 p.m. Several of our elementary children sing in this choir. Tickets are not required; a free-will offering will be taken.

TO HELP LAUNCH OUR VISION PROCESS, let's find how we all fit together as Forest Hills. On the wall in the foyer, you'll find a large map of Lancaster County. After the service, place one color-coded thumbtack per family at your approximate home address. The colors of the thumbtacks represent how many years each family has been attending Forest Hills Mennonite Church.

MENNONITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES (MEDA) will host a dinner and documentary screening on December 3, at 6 p.m. *Before the Flood*, a documentary about a changing world climate, will be shown at Zoetrope Cinema in Lancaster City. The film interviews world leaders and experts about the effects of climate change near and far. The night will end with dessert and a talk-back from MEDA's project coordinators. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased on their website: [www.meda.org](http://www.meda.org).

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed Thursday, November 28-Monday, December 2, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Feel free to reach out to staff via email or phone as needed.

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:

- Mary Glick adjusting to her new apartment at Fairmount.
- Cheryl Wagner recovering from heart surgery in California.
- Rob and Becky Bathurst and family celebrating the birth of their son Oliver.
- Esther Kreider adjusting to new living arrangements at Garden Spot.
- Katie and Joe Whitehill and family dealing with Joe's extended work assignment in Georgia.
- Those who are experiencing loneliness.

MARY GLICK moved to Fairmount last week. Her new address is in the new directory.

CONGRATULATIONS to Rob and Becky Bathurst on the birth of their son Oliver Jacob, who was born on November 16. He is also the grandson of Don and Jackie Nelson and great-grandson of Esther Kreider.

CHERYL WAGNER had heart valve surgery on Wednesday in California and remained a patient there at bulletin publication time.

THE FLEX FUND was established to respond to special projects and requests for financial assistance that arise during the church year. Priority is to be given to projects that fit the vision, character, and theology of the church and those in which Forest Hills people are involved. Contact Mission and Service Commission Director Erin Hershey for guidelines or an application.

THE BULLETIN WILL BE PUBLISHED on Wednesday of this coming week due to the Thanksgiving holiday. All announcements will need to be in the church office by early Wednesday morning, November 27, to be included in the bulletin for December 1.

DIRECTORY CORRECTION: Please note that in the recently distributed church directories, Joe & Chris Sebelist should have been listed as one of the shepherd couples for the Agape class.

ESTHER KREIDER has moved to a personal care unit at Garden Spot. She now lives in Mountain View B129.

A STROOPIE SALE will be held in the foyer after the worship service on December 8, 15, and 22. Stroopies are a sweet treat made of thin waffles with a caramel spread in the middle - they make great Christmas gifts! A variety of types and amounts will be available for purchase. All proceeds will go towards our Refugee Education Fund for the Khilos, the Syrian family that Forest Hills helped welcome to Lancaster. They currently have three children who attend Lancaster Mennonite School: Mohammad (grade 12), Amina (grade 9), and Hevin (grade 8). The oldest two children have graduated and are now employed by Lancaster General Hospital. The whole family describes their experience at Lancaster Mennonite as extremely positive. We hope to continue to assist them with the cost of education. In addition to supporting their schooling, you will be supporting The Stroopie Company, located in downtown Lancaster. This company has a mission to empower refugees through meaningful employment. Khalideh Khilo has worked there for several years. Thank you for your support!

#### LOOKING AHEAD

- 🍁 Sunday, December 15 - Kids Christmas Program and the Adult Choir will sing.
- 🍁 Sunday, December 22 - Sunday School elective - Christmas caroling for all ages in the Sanctuary. Adult Choir and Kids Choir will sing during worship.
- 🍁 Tuesday, December 24, 7 p.m. - Join us for a Christmas Eve service of scripture and carols celebrating the birth of Jesus, ending with candle lighting.
- 🍁 Wednesdays in January - Winter Bible School.

#### MYF CORNER - Youth Group, Grades 9-12

- 🍁 Sunday, December 8 - Cookie making at the Hursts'.
- 🍁 Sunday, December 15 - Deliver cookies to Fairmount.
- 🍁 Friday, December 27 - Lock-in.
- 🍁 January 31 - February 2 - Winter Retreat.

## TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Head Usher: Ron Weaver

Audio Visual Technicians: Scott Hertzog, Jamie Eshleman

Befrienders: Kathy Unangst, Marty Peifer

Greeters: Becky & Les Siegrist

Coffee Fellowship Hosts: Arleta & Ken Martin

Nursery: (SS) Kristy & Mark Snyder

(W)

## TODAY

- 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages.
- 6 p.m. - MYF (Youth Group, Gr. 9-12) Skyzone.

## THIS WEEK

- Monday, 11:30 a.m. - Garden Spot Village Senior Lunch.
- Monday, 6 p.m. - Worship Commission meeting.
- Monday, 7 p.m. - Mission and Service Commission meeting.
- Tuesday - No MOM's group.
- Wednesday - No Evening Activities.
- Thursday - Happy Thanksgiving; church office closed.

## NEXT SUNDAY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent - Pastor Jon will preach on *Mesopolonica*, based on Isaiah 9:1-7.
- After Worship Service - Monthly Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings in Adelphian Room #17.
- Noon - Grounded class lunch.
- No MYF.

REPORT: (11/17) General Fund \$20,877; Refugee Education \$160

Sunday School 234; Worship 228

YTD Giving \$122,606; YTD Budget \$154,107 (-20%)

Expenses are running close to budget.

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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

Zac Hummel - Youth and Young Adult Pastor

Lauren Krady - Administrator

Randy Esch, Ruth Ann Martin, Keith Stuckey - Elders

Kay Hurst, Louetta Hurst, Joyce Martin,

Warren and Linda Tyson, Kathy Unangst, Dana Shannon - Care Team

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**  
**November 4, 2019**

**LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

**Pastoral Leadership Team and Worship Commission - Jon Carlson**

Has been involved in getting Zac onboard, helped lead recent Atlantic Coast Conference Fall Assembly at FHMC, and hosted a film screening and conversation about secularism. Preparing for Advent and working with a team on a congregational re-visioning process. He also brought up our physical space; how we use it, if it needs to be updated, and who should lead that process.

**Christian Education Commission - Becky Degan**

Helped lead music and a workshop at the recent Atlantic Coast Conference Fall Assembly, planned schedules for 2nd quarter children's programming and worship, started rehearsals for kids' Christmas program, planning for Advent and Christmas worship, and continues communicating with new families to include them in children and youth programs. The Christian Education Commission and the VBS Committee recommended, and council approved, that we should not have VBS next year; ideas for different activities are being considered.

**Care Team - Nina Harnish**

One recent death, and three out of four weekends with church responsibilities. Nina and Jon have been discussing the possibility of alternating "on-call" weekends. Planned the blood drive in November and is helping to plan quarterly men's and women's activities. The MOMS leader approached Nina to suggest that they take a pause after this year's program ends in April, due to low attendance. Nina presented this recommendation to Council, and it was approved.

**Youth and Young Adult Pastor - Zac Hummel** - Has been in this new role for one week. Appreciates the skillful advisor team as he learns how he can be most effective.

**Mission and Service Commission - Erin Hershey** - No report.

**Discernment Committee - Jerry Lile** - Nothing new to report.

**Property Committee - Lauren Krady, for the committee** - Landscaping in beds around the church was replaced, carpet was cleaned in the basement and next to the kitchen, a new faucet and dishwasher were installed.

**Financial reports - Sam Clement** - Giving continues to fall behind budget. It was suggested that retirees could be reminded of the option of designating the required distributions from retirement accounts directly to the church, and the related tax benefits. The entire congregation will be encouraged to be generous with year-end giving, hopefully bringing us up to date with our budget goals by year-end.

**New role of Youth and Young Adult Pastor:** (Zac will participate on Council as a non-voting member.) There was a lengthy discussion regarding how Council can best support Zac in his new role, as well as monitor the effectiveness of the model of a half-time Youth Pastor.

**Budgeting Process:** Dan and Jon initiated discussion of reflecting on our budgeting process. This was prompted by some questions from our State-of-the-Church Meeting and Annual Meeting, as well as the fact that at the end of the last church fiscal year, giving did not cover our expenses. The focus of the discussion was, "How well do we do at engaging the congregation in setting priorities, to develop a sense of ownership of the budget among members?" While our budgeting process is still months away, it's appropriate to look at our process now in advance preparation for when that time comes.

**Re-visioning Process:** A steering group has been working on a re-visioning process for our congregation. The congregation will be invited to look at four questions: *Who is Jesus? Who Are We? Who Are They (People Around Us)? Who Is Right?* This process will begin in November.

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