



## Forest Hills Mennonite Church

May 24, 2020

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.

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### SUNDAY

- 9:30 a.m. - Preschool-Grade 5 Online Sunday School: <https://zoom.us/j/4021588624?pwd=OGV3MGZ0eWxxdlVFalpPYjh3b2cvQT09>.
- 9:30 a.m. - Online Jr. Youth Sunday School: <https://zoom.us/j/3370009781>.
- 10:30 a.m. - Online Worship: <http://foresthillschurch.net/covid-19-updates> or [www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite](http://www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite) - you do not need a Facebook account to view the service.
- Financial contributions can be mailed to the church office. You can also donate via credit card through our Forest Hills Facebook page.

### THIS WEEK

- Tuesday, 10 a.m. - Preschool/Kindergarten Storytime Zoom room.

### NEXT SUNDAY

- Next Sunday - The church service will be online.

REPORT: (5/17) Offering: General Fund \$7,569;  
YTD Income: \$445,423 YTD Budget: \$488,007 (-9%)

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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

AS THE JOYS AND CARES AND CONCERNS of our congregation come to mind, please lift them to the Lord in prayer:

- Ruth Bare recovering from a heart valve replacement.
- Ruth Hooper recovering from a stroke.
- Students, teachers, and parents working hard to complete the end of the school year.
- Vernie and Merle Herr experiencing health concerns.
- Doris Kreider recovering from a heart bypass.
- Seniors graduating from high school.
- Reuben Stoltzfus' family as they grieve his passing.

RUTH BARE was discharged from Lancaster General Hospital to her apartment at Fairmount on Wednesday.

RUTH HOOBER is expected to be discharged on Thursday from Lancaster Rehabilitation Center to her home. She will be receiving additional care while she continues to recover from a recent stroke.

DORIS KREIDER was discharged on Saturday from Lancaster Rehabilitation Center to her apartment at Woodcrest Villa.

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### FROM MENNONITE CHURCH USA:

GET THE LATEST news and information from our denomination, Mennonite Church USA, and its five agencies in *PeaceMail*, a colorful, e-news digest. Subscribe today at [www.mennoniteusa.org/peacemail.com](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/peacemail.com)

LEARN, PRAY, JOIN - "People of faith are well-positioned to respond to climate change injustices. We can carry the candle of hope in a world longing for light," says Luke Gascho, executive director of Goshen College's Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center. Read more: [www.mennoniteusa.org/climate-justice-pursuit.com](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/climate-justice-pursuit.com).

MENNO SNAPSHOTS - "What if a loved one or I get sick and have to go to the hospital?" Iris de León-Hartshorn, associate executive director for operations for Mennonite Church USA and a former chaplain, shares her views on how difficult end-of-life decisions can be "a time to love and honor our loved ones." Read her blog here: [www.mennoniteusa.org/honor-loved-ones.com](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/honor-loved-ones.com)

OUR CHURCH LIBRARY project is almost complete, thank you to Cheryl Eshleman and family, Les Siegrist, and Mark and Liz Clapper for all of the time and work put into this room. We look forward to being able to use the library again soon. Here is a picture of the progress:



TODAY WE RECOGNIZE our 2020 high school graduates for all their hard work. Congratulations to the class of 2020!

**Lancaster Mennonite School** - Emily Eshleman, Isaac Harnish, Cyleigh Hurst, Jeffrey Lile, Noah Schnabel, and Cesther Ekpo.

**Lampeter Strasburg** - Kyra Hersh.

**Manheim Township** - Grace McGowan.

**Hempfield** - Katie Yoder.



THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our blood drive last week; 19 units of blood were collected for the Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health blood bank. The organizers were very happy with the turnout and thankful for everyone who donated.

FOREST HILLS received a letter of thanks from Atlantic Coast Conference for our recent donation of \$12,500.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

May 4, 2020

### **Leadership Reports:**

**Jon Carlson, Lead Pastor** – Jon is adapting to the challenges of COVID-19; helping staff transition to working at home, working with staff and Council to make decisions about in-person worship gatherings, thinking through pastoral care responses during social distancing, and creating virtual worship experiences each week. Virtual worship seems to take about twice the amount of preparation, and high participation has been sustained week after week.

**Becky Degan, Associate Pastor of Worship and Christian Education** – Becky continues to offer the Zoom room experiences for various age groups of children throughout the week and on Sunday mornings, some are Bible-based, and some are for social interaction. She continues to assist Jon in planning virtual worship by organizing musicians, kids' time, and scheduling scripture readers.

**Nina Harnish, Minister of Care and Visitation** – Nina organized the distribution of 40 gift bags that were delivered to our seniors who live in retirement communities or in their homes. She's been connecting with class shepherds, making phone calls, participating in Zoom chats, and sending texts to connect with people in the congregation. Care Team has been meeting monthly through Zoom and has been doing extraordinary work.

**Zac Hummel, Youth and Young Adult Pastor** – Zac is meeting weekly with Junior Youth and MYF through Zoom. A gift bag and lawn sign were delivered to each graduating high school senior. Bags included notes of encouragement from seniors (older persons) in our congregation.

**Lauren Krady, Property Committee** – The library refresh is almost complete. The HVAC unit in the fellowship hall was replaced.

**Erin Hershey, Mission and Service Commission** – Lee Charles connected with Mennonite Disaster Service and obtained supplies to make masks for WellSpan. Seamstresses in the congregation made approximately 2,000 masks. Discernment Committee will be looking for someone to serve as Member-at-Large on this Commission in the coming year.

**Jerry Lile, Discernment Committee** – A Member-at-Large position on Council is open and a prospect was presented and approved by council to fill this role.

**Financial review and update by Sam Clement, Treasurer:** Sam reported that offerings have continued to be quite strong over the last four weeks. This has been somewhat surprising and remains something that we are grateful for. We have close to eleven weeks of budgeted expenses in reserve. We are currently not pursuing any major property projects, and due to us not meeting, expenses are running behind where we would expect them to be at this time of year. Also, the Corinthian Plan has waived health insurance premiums for one month adding to a reduction in expenses.

**Vote to increase Compassion Fund budget in response to COVID-19:** During the past month, an email vote was taken to approve an additional \$4,000 in this budgeted account for the current fiscal year.

**Preparing for resumption of in-person activities:** Pastor Jon distributed a draft of considerations for reopening our physical church. It was agreed that we cannot do both virtual and in-person services. Going forward, decisions about resuming our gatherings will be made using the red, yellow, and green classifications that the state government is using. Questions about social distancing, how singing might spread the disease, or whether or not we will require masks will need to be addressed. With all these variables, there seems to be no way to hold Sunday worship until the County moves to the green stage. While in the yellow phase, staff will have the option to move back to working at their church offices or continuing to work from home. Small groups, like Sunday School classes, will be encouraged to plan activities to foster connectivity. Circumstances affecting this decision are fluid and will need to be continually re-evaluated on an ongoing basis.