



Forest Hills Mennonite Church

June 14, 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.

SUNDAY

- 9:30 a.m. - Preschool-Grade 5 Online Sunday School: <https://zoom.us/j/4021588624?pwd=OGV3MGZ0eWxxd1VFalpPYjh3b2cvQT09>.
- 10:30 a.m. - Online Worship: <http://foresthillschurch.net/covid-19-updates> or 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, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Kids' Library Time.
- Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Jr. Youth outdoor games with Zac.
- Wednesday, 10 a.m. - Summer Kids' Zoom Program.

NEXT SUNDAY

- Next Sunday - The church service will be online.

REPORT: (6/7) Offering: General Fund \$14,702; Refugee Ed. \$200
YTD Income: \$480,844 YTD Budget: \$526,534 (-9%)

100 Quarry Road, Leola, PA 17540 ~ 717-656-6227

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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:

- Carole and Gene Siegrist dealing with Gene's declining health.
- Doris Lefever recovering from elbow surgery.
- Lee Charles recovering from back surgery.
- Staff and church leadership making decisions on how to regather safely.
- Alice, Andy, and Louise mourning the loss of their mother and grandmother.
- Those living and working in retirement and care facilities.

DORIS LEFEVER had elbow surgery at North Point Surgical Center on Wednesday and is now recovering at home.

LEE CHARLES had back surgery at Lancaster General Hospital on Tuesday and was discharged on Wednesday to continue his recovery at home.

WE EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES to Alice and Andy Babikow and Louise Babikow as they grieve the loss of Alice's mother, Joan Fromm, who passed away on Tuesday. Prior to her death she lived in the Lancaster area.

IF YOUR CLASS, COMMISSION, OR COMMITTEE has meetings or activities planned for the month of July, please submit these dates to the church office by Wednesday of this coming week, June 17, so that they can be included on the next church calendar.

BEGINNING ON THURSDAY, June 18, from 9 - 11 a.m. the church library will be open weekly for adults to come checkout and return books.

THE JUNIOR YOUTH will have their annual Welcome/Farewell pool party date on August 9, (immediately after church UNTIL 3:30 p.m.) at Colleen and Chad Hurst's home. Lunch will be provided courtesy of the Jr. Youth. We will make arrangements to get the youth over to the Hurst's home after church is over. Parents are responsible for picking up their youth at the Hurst's. PLEASE RSVP to Ryan & Pat Nolt rpnolt@ptd.net by August 7th! In addition to saying farewell to the 9th graders we will welcome in the new 6th graders.

Forest Hills Mennonite Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

June 1, 2020

Leadership Reports:

Jon Carlson, Lead Pastor – Jon reported that COVID continues to dominate the themes of his pastoral ministry – sustaining virtual worship, more frequent communication with the congregation, monitoring increasingly polarized medical and political developments, and balancing church life and home life when they both are occurring at home. Jon officiated at a funeral for Reuben Stoltzfus. He has begun a new sermon series on listening that will include hearing from people within the congregation. The decision-making process for when and how we will meet has been a challenge, and Jon is looking at how we might livestream services when we begin meeting again.

Becky Degan, Associate Pastor of Worship and Christian

Education – Becky continues to offer the Zoom Sunday School for children each week. Kids' programming for the summer will include open library hours and a Wednesday morning Zoom program using Rock Railway VBS materials. Gift bags with summer activities and Rock Railway materials are being prepared for our kids. She continues to assist Pastor Jon plan and implement virtual worship services and is planning to gather small groups of musicians together to record music for virtual worship services when we enter the yellow phase.

Nina Harnish, Minister of Care and Visitation – Nina organized the monthly distribution of 45 gift bags that were delivered to our seniors who live in retirement communities or in their homes. She continues to stay in touch with individuals who are dealing with a health crisis. Nina and other staff members are contacting all Forest Hills households by phone, Zoom or text messages. When Lancaster County moves to yellow, Nina plans to make home visits again and will encourage class shepherds to organize small gatherings.

Zac Hummel, Youth and Young Adult Pastor – Zac continues to meet weekly with Junior Youth and MYF through Zoom. He is planning to transition to in-person MYF gatherings, mostly outdoors, when we move to the yellow phase. Zac helped prepare a virtual Youth Sunday and is looking for a replacement service trip for the MYF. He is currently communicating with Camp Deerpark about this possibility.

Lauren Krady, Property Committee – Nothing new to report.

Erin Hershey, Mission and Service Commission – The Commission is considering a few Flex Fund requests, and masks keep trickling in from the recent mask-sewing project.

Jerry Lile, Discernment Committee – A Member-at-Large position on Mission and Service Commission is still open, and contacts are being made. If no one is found, consideration is being given to leave this position open. The full Discernment Committee ballot will be presented to the congregation for affirmation in mid-August.

Financial review and update by Sam Clement, Treasurer – Sam reported that at the present time, we have about ten weeks' worth of expenses in unrestricted cash. While we are currently 9% behind budget, we are a full 1% ahead of where we were last year at this same time. Expenses are running significantly below budget, partly due to the fact that contributions to outside agencies are continuing to be paid one month behind. A health ins premium rebate for month of May also reduced our expenses. Income exceeds total expenses by approximately \$8,000.

Re-gathering: There was discussion of our priorities, vulnerabilities, and comfort levels regarding resuming small and large meetings. During the yellow phase, Sunday School classes and other small groups can be encouraged to get together. If we open the building, sanitization must occur after events. With this in mind, we suggest that small group activities not be held in our building. Pastor Jon agreed to work on a document of guidelines that listed projections and limitations for individual ministries during the varied phases of re-gathering that is tailored to our own situation. Jerry, Jimmy, and Dan will collaborate with him as needed.