



Forest Hills Mennonite Church

July 19, 2020

ONLINE ONLY

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.

Gathering

Prelude Don Nelson

Call to Worship and Invocation Jon Carlson

Reflection Song

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Children's Time Nina Harnish

**Passing the Peace
Song**

Proclaiming

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-26

Sermon: *Joy Rides* Jon Carlson

Response Song

Sending

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE is in need of volunteers to serve as church sextons. These people will open and close the building for our gatherings on a rotating monthly basis. Please let the church office know if you are willing to serve in this way.

MENNONITE WOMEN ARE COLLECTING DONATIONS of school kits and hygiene kits for Mennonite Central Committee. Please consider taking several of the kit bags from the church bench in the foyer. Fill the bags with the items on the content lists that are attached to the bag and return the completed kits to church by the end of August.

LEE CHARLES would like to thank everyone for the cards and prayers after his recent back surgery.

MARIAN ROHRER has a new phone number: 223-221-0455.

WE ARE COLLECTING GIFT CARDS this summer for families in the Conestoga Valley School District. These cards will be distributed by school social workers to those in need. Please purchase gift cards for Sharp Shopper, Giant, Target, Walmart, Sheetz, or Rutter's in amounts of \$25 or \$50. You can mail the cards to the church or put them in the basket with a snowman on the lid which will be by the ushers' room. Many thanks for your generosity. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Unangst at 717-656-2185.

THE CHURCH LIBRARY committee is looking for some puzzles to add to our inventory! Whether for adults or children, all puzzles must be in good shape and missing no more than two pieces. Once they are processed, you may check them out as you would any of the books in the library for two weeks. All sizes and shapes are welcome. You may place them on the table in the library. Thank you!! And while you're in the library, why not take a look around and see if you can find something to read? Lots of new books and more to be added. Be sure to look closely as some sections have been moved to a new place!

DAVE KRAUSE is scheduled for surgery on Monday at Hershey Medical Center. He anticipates a three-day hospitalization and then will return home to recover.

DALE GAMBER was recently diagnosed with lung cancer and will be undergoing many tests and appointments to determine the necessary treatments.

IF YOUR CLASS OR COMMISSION has any events to be included on the August church calendar, please send them to the church office by July 22.

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

- Don and Anita Beidler supporting Don's brother and sister-in-law who are both experiencing health concerns.
- Dave and Joan Krause and family anticipating Dave's surgery on Monday.
- Carole Siegrist making decisions regarding memory care housing for her mother.
- Those who are struggling with marital challenges.
- Administrators, educators, and parents making decisions about schooling for the fall.
- Dale and Phyllis Gamber and family dealing with Dale's recent lung cancer diagnosis.

WORSHIP SERVICE AND LUNCH IN THE PARK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020 - 10 a.m.

On **Sunday, August 9**, we will gather for our morning worship service at **10 a.m.** in the **West Earl Township Lions Park** on Route 772 North between Talmage and Brownstown. In case of rain, the service will be relocated to the church.

Although we are gathering outside, we will be practicing physical distancing, wearing masks, and hand sanitizer stations will be available. Unlike past years, we will not have a buffet lunch; this year our kitchen committee will be preparing and serving the lunch in a safe manner.

Items to bring:

- Lawn chairs or blankets for seating.
- Face masks.
- Donations will be accepted toward the cost of the meal.

After the service there will be individually packaged chicken barbecue meals available. To help the Kitchen Committee plan for the meal, please email fhmc@foresthillschurch.org or call your reservation into the church office (717-656-6227) by July 23.

In your RSVP please let the office know: Name, number of adults and youth, number of children 10 and under.

Looking Ahead:

- ☼ Sunday, August 9 - Service in the Park.
- ☼ Sunday, September 20 - State of the Church Meeting.

MYF (Youth Group Gr. 9-12) Upcoming Events:

- ☼ Sunday, July 19 - Picnic and games at Denny and Bonnie Sharp's.
- ☼ Saturday, August 15 - Welcome/Farewell at the Nolts' lake house.

TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Audio Visual Technicians: Dean Jantzen, Scott Hertzog, Micah Carlson

TODAY

- 10:30 a.m. - Worship **online only**. The service will also be streamed online on YouTube: <https://fhmc.church/youtube> and on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite.
- Offerings can be mailed to the church office.

THIS WEEK

- Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Kids' Library Time.
- Wednesday, 10 a.m. - Kids' Summer Zoom.

NEXT SUNDAY

- Nina Harnish will preach on *In the Same Boat*, based on Luke 8:22-26.
- MYF Picnic and games at the Sharps' home.

REPORT: (7/12) Worship 64

General Fund \$13,370; Refugee Ed. \$500

YTD Giving \$533,853; YTD Budget \$590,746 (-10%)

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

July 6, 2020

Leadership Reports:

Jon Carlson, Lead Pastor – Jon reported that COVID continues to dominate the themes of his pastoral ministry – sustaining virtual worship, moving to hybrid services, (in-person and livestreaming) in an effort to bridge the gap between those who gather in person and those who continue to worship at home, developing a plan for regathering, and continuing to follow medical and political developments that are increasingly polarizing. Jon did extensive work to set up the livestreaming capabilities.

Becky Degan, Associate Pastor of Worship and Christian Education – Becky reported that the summer kids' program is going well with about 20 kids participating on Tuesday mornings – library book check-outs, outside activities, lobby activities and a bag to take home for the *Zoom* activities that are held on Wednesday mornings. Becky is also spending time with the transition from virtual worship to regathered worship. This includes finding musicians, sound techs, and worship leaders and adjusting the order of service and its components to accommodate the varied nuances. Live-streaming requires two sound techs, two camera operators, and one person running slides. With our limited number of AV techs, this will not be sustainable long-term.

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 health issues and supporting class shepherds through regathering plans. Nina also spends time with parents and children during the Tuesday kids' drop-ins, is working with staff on regathering plans, and is thinking through appropriate timing and ways to resume outside visits with safe practices.

Zac Hummel, Youth and Young Adult Pastor – Zac reported that the MYF has begun in-person gatherings, and he is hosting games and activities for Junior Youth during the children's library drop-ins. Four MYF advisors have been confirmed for the upcoming year; a smaller group of MYFers will be doing an alternative service trip to Camp Deepark; and plans are being made for an event to welcome graduating high school seniors to the young adult group. With summer schedules and less routine, reconnecting with young adults after COVID restrictions has been challenging.

Lauren Krady, Property Committee – An ethernet cable was installed from Becky's office to the sanctuary to aide in livestreaming; the quarterly HVAC inspection was completed; a few shrubs were replaced; and an electrician will be doing a permanent install of the livestreaming equipment.

Erin Hershey, Mission and Service Commission – The Commission has a zoom meeting planned, and there will be more to report at the next Council meeting.

Jerry Lile, Discernment Committee – The 2020-21 confirmation ballot is officially complete. A vote of affirmation is scheduled for Sunday, August 16. Details of how this vote will take place need to be worked out since we will not all be in the same gathered space.

- **Financial review and update:** Treasurer Sam Clement reported that with the Mission and Service Commission distributions purposely being paid one month behind, giving has exceeded expenses year to date. At the present time, anticipated increases in requests for COVID aid have not materialized, and the additional funds added to this line item have not yet been used. This could change as stimulus payments and the moratorium on evictions come to an end. Our cash position remains strong. Council agreed that money budgeted for the MYF's service trip to Puerto Rico, which did not happen due to COVID, should be remain in the MYF account, and adjustments should be made to next year's budget request.
- **Review and discussion of re-gathering plan and experience** – Good advance thought went into our re-gathering plan, and when the county turned green, staff was ready to implement in-person worship that same week. Nobody likes wearing a mask, but folks were glad to be together again, even under these unusual circumstances. Some who attended expressed surprise, and a bit of discomfort, that there was live music.
People are asking questions about the following aspects of community life:
 - *Is our ventilation adequate?* The doors are kept open and fans are constantly moving the air.
 - *When will we be able to start congregational singing, and when will Sunday School classes be able to gather together at the church?* (One class has met outdoors at the church.) With the confusing data and no clear trajectory with this virus, we will need to wait for more clarity to make these decisions. Until we have larger numbers gathered for corporate worship, it may be too early to welcome people to gather in smaller spaces or join in congregational singing. Most likely it will not be any time this summer. When schools make their decisions, that might give us some guidance.
- **School tuition for refugee family** – Tuition cost for the upcoming school year is \$7,700 – a decrease from previous years due to having one less student attending Lancaster Mennonite School. In the past, paying the tuition cost when it is due has resulted in an account deficit that was repaid through fund-raising and gifts from individuals and Sunday School classes throughout the year. Council agreed to continue funding this expenditure.
- **Upcoming dates** – Online/in-person details are still to be determined.
 - State of the Church Meeting – Sunday, September 20, 2020
 - Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, October 25, 2020
- **Annual review with the Sr. Pastor** - Each year, an annual review is conducted with the Sr. pastor. The Staff Relations Committee recently held a review with Jon. In light of the impact which the COVID crisis has been having, this review was planned as a very informal process, centered around an informal conversation with Jon, guided by several questions formulated by the committee. In the summary which the SRC provided to Church Council it was noted that Jon has responded with strong leadership in managing through the COVID pandemic, while strongly supporting congregational life and involvement under these highly unusual circumstances. He has been effectively providing guidance and support to other members of the staff. Strong affirmation of Jon, and the quality of his work and leadership was expressed in this review process.