



Forest Hills Mennonite Church

August 16, 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.

Gathering

Prelude Janice Southwick, Becky Degan
Call to Worship and Invocation Nina Harnish
Reflection Song

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Kindergarten Blessing
Porter Miller, Malcolm Rieger, Anthony and Isaiah Taylor
Song
Congregational Prayer
Passing the Peace

Proclaiming

Scripture: Philippians 2:12-30
Solomon and Jimmy Kreider
Sermon: *Joy Shines* Jon Carlson
Response Song

Sending

Benediction
Postlude

AUGUST 31 IS THE END of our church fiscal year. Our year-to-date income totals \$574,633. This means we still need to receive \$93,167 to meet our \$667,800 budget goal. While our congregation has not been able to meet in person, we have been able to continue worshipping together! Our continuing ministries have continued to incur expenses, and I am hopeful we can receive sufficient funds to cover the current gap. We desire to cover our current year expenses and start the new year off in a strong financial position. Please consider being generous to your church, its ministries, and our vibrant congregational life. With everyone contributing as they are able, we will once again honor the financial commitments we agreed to at the beginning of our fiscal year. Thank you for your continued generosity!
Blessings, Sam Clement, Treasurer

THE ANNUAL DISCERNMENT BALLOT was presented to members of the congregation via email this year, since we are not gathering in-person due to the pandemic. Barring objections, directed to Jerry Lile, Chair of the Discernment Committee, or to Dan Hess, Council Chair, we will consider the ballot affirmed on August 23. As you review this ballot (listed below), you are encouraged to support the folks who are taking on the different roles, by a word of encouragement and by holding them in your prayers.
Thanks, Dan Hess, Council Chair

THIS SUNDAY IS THE LAST DAY to sign up for the book study on *Trouble I've Seen*. The book explores ways in which the church can best respond to and take action against the racism and division that our country is experiencing. Please email Zac Hummel at zhummel@foresthillschurch.org if you are interested in joining the ten-week long study. A \$15 donation to cover the cost of the book is recommended. All are welcome to join to conversation.

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 is by the ushers' room. We are trying to collect 40 cards before August 23. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Unangst at 717-656-2185.

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

- Torrin Clapper and Brittany Shoemaker celebrating their recent engagement.
- Lloyd Mast experiencing significant health concerns.
- Keith Lehman, Cheryl Wagner, and Olive Kendig recovering from recent surgeries.
- Students, parents, faculty, and administrators preparing for the start of the new school year.
- Michael, Becky, and Matthew Degan preparing for Michael's surgery to remove a spot on his lung next Wednesday.

CONGRATULATIONS to Torrin Clapper and Brittany Shoemaker on their recent engagement. They are planning for a July 2021 wedding.

KEITH LEHMAN AND CHERYL WAGNER were both discharged last Friday and are recovering at their respective homes.

OLIVE KENDIG had rotator cuff surgery two weeks ago and is recovering at her Lancaster home.

FOREST HILLS will be hosting a blood drive here at church on Thursday, August 27, from 2 -7 p.m. Sign up online and feel free to share this event with friends:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b45aba722a1fc1-penn20>

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. While we are not meeting in person bags can be picked up from the church on Tuesday between 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. or you can contact the church office to set up another time. 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.

PASTOR JON AND NINA HARNISH are taking turns hosting informal opportunities to connect with congregants in small gatherings under the church carport. Groups are limited to 10 people, so sign up here: <https://fhmc.church/connect>.

CLIFF AND JOYCE MARTIN would like to thank everyone for their support after the passing of Cliff's brother.

FROM NOW THROUGH LABOR DAY, Forest Hills worship services will be online only. Beginning Sunday, September 13, Sunday School groups will have opportunity to worship together in-person in the sanctuary. Sunday School Shepherds will have more details in the coming weeks. If you aren't currently connected with a Sunday School class, feel free to pick a Sunday morning and drop in for a worship service. All worship services will continue to be available via livestream for everyone. Given the fluidity of our world right now, some of these plans may change as circumstances change. Thanks for your continued prayers as we navigate this together!

THE REUZIT ON STATE in Ephrata has reopened to support the worldwide efforts of Mennonite Central Committee and to provide reasonably priced merchandise in the community. They are seeking Volunteer Cashiers for three hours Friday evenings and Monday - Saturday, between 1 - 5 p.m. Additionally, they are seeking Volunteer Donation Receivers between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (minimum two hours). Volunteers may serve weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly and must wear masks or face-shields. Interested persons may contact Sue Shirk, Volunteer Coordinator, at voldev@reuzit.org or call 717-733-4934.

CONESTOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES needs the following items for their food and clothing banks:

- Hamburger, Tuna, and Chicken Helpers
- Bags of rice and Rice-a-Roni
- Pasta - Spaghetti, rigatoni, penne, etc.
- Men's XL boxer brief underwear

Please call 717-208-3711 to schedule a drop-off time.

They are also looking for volunteers on Thursdays for the food and clothing banks. Weekly commitment is not required. Volunteers may help once to twice a month or serve as an on-call person. For questions or more information, please contact Kim Sensenig at 717-208-3711 ext. 105 or by email at volunteers@cvccs.org.

Looking Ahead:

- ☼ Thursday, August 27 - Forest Hills blood drive.
- ☼ Sunday, September 20 - State of the Church meeting.
- ☼ Wednesday, September 9 - KFC and Jr. Youth begins.

FOREST HILLS MENNONITE CHURCH

Discernment Committee Slate for the 2020-2021 Church Year

The following persons are being recommended by our Discernment Committee to serve for the upcoming 2020-2021 church year.

Terms will begin on September 1, 2020.

Office	Term	Nominees
Church Council		
Council Chair	2 years (20-22)	Jerry Lile
Council Vice-Chair	3 years (20-23)	Kevin Hersh
Treasurer	2 years (20-22)	Sam Clement (Renewal)
Member-at Large	3 years (20-23)	Jim Shannon
Pastoral Leadership Team		
Elder/ACC Delegate	3 years (20-23)	Keith Stuckey (Renewal)
Care Team Member	1-year (20-21)	Toby Leaman
Worship Commission		
Youth Member	1-year (20-21)	Kate Lefever
Member-at-Large	2-years (20-22)	Willie Hurst
Member-at-Large	2-years (20-22)	Craig Miller
Worship Aids Coordinator	2-years (20-22)	Ron Weaver
Mission and Service Commission		
Peace and Justice Advocate	2 years (20-22)	Ellen Hummel
Local Outreach Advocate	2 years (20-22)	Andrew Bodden
Youth Member	1-year (20-21)	Camden Clapper
Service Project Coordinator	2 years (20-22)	Cody Hurst
Christian Education Commission		
Member-at-Large	2 years (20-22)	Janette Lile
Youth Member	1 years (20-21)	Faith McGowen
Property Committee		
Property Chair	1 year (20-21)	*Bruce Stauffer *Completing Vacated Term

Discernment Committee Members: Jerry Lile (Chair), Herb Hoover, Kori Jantzen, Becky Siegrist, and Kevin Nofziger.

TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Audio Visual Technicians:

Dean Jantzen, Micah Carlson

TODAY

- 10:30 a.m. - Online worship streaming on YouTube: <https://fhmc.church/youtube> and Facebook: www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite.
- Offerings can be mailed to the church office.

THIS WEEK

- Pastor Jon and Nina Harnish are hosting carport gatherings, sign up here: <https://fhmc.church/connect>:
 - Monday - 1 - 2 p.m.
 - Wednesday - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY

- Pastor Jon will preach on *Joy Subverts* based on Philippians 3.

REPORT: (8/9)

General Fund \$11,691; Refugee Education \$565
YTD Giving \$574,633; YTD Budget \$642,115 (-11%)

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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

FOREST HILLS MENNONITE CHURCH - CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

August 3, 2020

- Leadership Reports:

Jon Carlson, Lead Pastor – Jon reported that COVID continues to dominate the themes of his pastoral ministry – worship was moved back to exclusively livestreaming, and he continues to monitor medical and political developments. Jon began a new sermon series based on Philippians, worked with Staff Relations Committee to outline safe travel plans for staff during COVID, and helped Duane Lapp organize an IT security training session for staff.

Becky Degan, Associate Pastor of Worship and Christian Education – Becky reported that the summer program for kids has gone well. Nineteen kids from nine families have participated in the summer program so far. Becky continues to plan the musical aspect of our worship services, involving other musicians when possible. She and Janette Lile provided a webinar for Atlantic Coast Conference related to creative thinking for children's programming during the pandemic. Kids will be receiving hand-delivered back-to-school bags, and plans are being made for a fall drop-in program on Wednesday evenings.

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 own homes. She continues to stay in touch with individuals who are dealing with health crises and offers support to class Shepherds through regathering plans and filling positions for next year. Nina also spent time with parents and children during the Tuesday kids' drop-ins, is helping staff think through regathering plans, and helping plan for the Service in the Park.

Zac Hummel, Youth and Young Adult Pastor – Zac reported that the MYF had a good week serving at Camp Deerpark. He is planning a congregation-wide book study on racial issues, planning for fall activities for MYF and Junior Youth and putting together back-to-school bags for the Junior Youth. The MYF will say farewell to eight seniors and welcome four freshmen.

Lauren Krady, Property Committee – Lapp Electric completed the installation of our new livestreaming equipment, High Property Service plans to trim some low-hanging trees in the parking lot, and the search for more sextons continues to be a challenge.

Erin Hershey, Mission and Service Commission – The Commission met in July and approved several Flex Fund grants. A note was placed in the bulletin about service opportunities for volunteers at the Material Resource Center. Due to COVID, requests for mission trip funding have been limited.

Jerry Lile, Discernment Committee – The 2020-21 confirmation ballot is officially complete with several extended terms authorized by Council. This ballot was emailed to the congregation. Congregants were asked to give feedback or report concerns to Jerry or Dan. Since we are not meeting together, an in-person vote cannot be received. The slate will be affirmed if there is a general positive consensus and lack of objections.

- **Financial Review and Update:** Treasurer Sam Clement noted that the push for end-of-year giving via email and bulletin announcements will start this week. With just four Sundays left, we are 11.5% behind budget. Current income has nearly covered expenses year-to-date, and many budget categories are expected to come in under budget due to us not meeting in-person. Several Commissions, but not all, have submitted their 2020-21 budget requests.
- **Recommendation Revisions to the Annual Report:** Dan presented a new outline for a less extensive Annual Report organized around *ministries*. Council approved this new outline.
- **Child Protection Process Modifications:** A recommendation was brought to Council to dissolve the Child Protection Committee and assign the various responsibilities to individuals or other committees. Assignment of the responsibility for ongoing training has not yet been determined. While emphasizing our commitment to maintaining the safety of our children at all levels, Council authorized dissolving the CPC.
- **Terms of Employment Modifications:** A recommendation was brought from the Staff Relations Committee that we change the structure of employment for our pastoral staff to no longer have defined terms of service. Our congregation has in place processes for annual work performance reviews, as well as periodic reviews that involve wider input from the congregation. Council affirmed the recommendation to drop defined terms of employment for our pastoral staff members.
- **Fostering Spiritual and Communal Growth in Upcoming Months:** Assuming that conditions remain more or less consistent throughout the fall with continued limitations on indoor gatherings, ideas were discussed as to how can we best foster spiritual growth and a sense of connection within Forest Hills. When schools begin to open, we can see how it goes and learn from them as well. Staff will discuss ideas and keep Council updated.
- **Executive Session:** Council meeting was concluded with an executive session.