



## Forest Hills Mennonite Church

September 27, 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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### Gathering

**Prelude** Janice Southwick, Becky Degan  
**Call to Worship and Invocation** Becky Siegrist  
**Reflection Song**

### Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

**Children's Time** Becky Degan  
**Passing the Peace**  
**Song**  
**Offertory**

### Proclaiming

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:1-17  
**Sermon:** *...but verify* Jon Carlson  
**Response Song**

### Sending

**Congregational Prayer**  
**Benediction**  
**Postlude**

THIS FALL, THE MYF IS OFFERING yardwork cleanup as a fundraiser and service to our church family. They can rake leaves, weed, or complete a variety of other outdoor tasks you might need to get your yard ready for winter. The yardwork will be completed over the weekends of October 24-25 and October 31-November 1. A suggested donation for their services is \$100/yard. If you would like to hire the youth to work in your yard, or if you have a neighbor or friend who you would like to gift a yard cleanup to, please contact Zac Hummel at [zhummel@foresthillschurch.org](mailto:zhummel@foresthillschurch.org) to set up a time. They look forward to hearing from you!

CONGRATULATIONS to Jess Martin and Clayton Kurtz on their marriage last Saturday, September 19.

ORPHA KING fell and broke her clavicle. No surgery is needed, and she is recovering at home.

THE ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE FALL ASSEMBLY will take place October 23-25. A video will be made available to all delegates along with an electronic form to record votes and other necessary responses. This video will include updates on conference life, an overview of ACC's current financial situation, and a presentation on any action-items needing affirmation from delegates. The morning of October 24 will feature a webinar with various leaders from around ACC on ways that the conference and its congregations are taking meaningful steps to end racism on an individual as well as on an organizational level. Participants can ask questions or send them ahead by emailing [office@atlanticcoastconference.net](mailto:office@atlanticcoastconference.net).

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE invites you join *Celebration 2020: MCC at 100*, a livestreamed event commemorating a century of MCC's ministry on Saturday, Oct. 17, starting at 6:50 p.m. The event will feature photos, videos, and storytelling that highlight MCC's work over the years. Former MCC leader and pastor Leonard Dow of Philadelphia will inspire participants to walk boldly into the next century of MCC's ministry while talented musicians will lead in prayer and thanksgiving. Find more information about MCC's centennial and log in for the livestreamed event at [www.mcc.org/celebration-2020](http://www.mcc.org/celebration-2020).

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

- Jess Martin and Clayton Kurtz on their recent marriage.
- Young adults serving at Camp Deerpark this weekend.
- Orpha King recovering from a broken clavicle.
- Vernon Schroeder recovering from oral surgery.
- The four engaged couples preparing for marriage: Torrin Clapper and Brittany Shoemaker, Jenna Lile and Seth Peters, Abby Mosemann and Carson Lehman, and Carter Hurst and Ashley King.

THE MATERIAL RESOURCES CENTER in Ephrata needs help to check 240,000 cans of meat by January. These cartons are sitting in the warehouse waiting for this final part of the process before being ready for shipment to Ethiopia and Ukraine. Consider coming with people in your "pandemic bubble" to work at this. Daytime hours for this activity are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Evening hours can be arranged for Tuesdays or Thursdays from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. To sign up, please contact Marilyn Peters, Ephrata MRC Volunteer Coordinator, at MarilynPeters@mcc.org or 717-733-2847.

START THE NEW (CHURCH) YEAR with a thoughtful and convenient plan for your charitable giving. Contributions can be automatically debited from your bank account. This electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. You will no longer need to write checks, and when travel, illness, or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will provide the church with consistent income on an uninterrupted basis. Request an enrollment form and a Frequently Asked Questions flyer from the church office.

Looking Ahead:

- 🍁 Sunday, October 11 - Baptism Sunday - online service only.
- 🍁 Sunday, November 1 - Communion Sunday.

MYF Upcoming Events:

- 🍁 Saturday, October 4 - Camping.
- 🍁 Sunday, October 11 - Party at the Harnish barn.
- 🍁 Sunday, October 18 - Pumpkin carving.

## TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Audio Visual Technicians: Dean Jantzen, Jim Shannon,  
Davin Esbenshade, Micah Carlson  
Greeter: Kathy Unangst  
Head Usher: Ron Weaver

## TODAY

- 9 a.m. - Sunday book study group meets under the carport.
- 10:30 a.m. - Online worship streaming on YouTube: <https://fhmc.church/youtube> and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite](http://www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite).
- Diakonia & Adelphian are invited to worship in the sanctuary.
- 12:30 p.m. - Agape class picnic at the Sharps' pavilion.
- 6 p.m. - MYF - Corn Maze.

## THIS WEEK

- Tuesday, 6 p.m. - Tuesday book study group meets under the carport.
- Wednesday, 7 p.m. - KFC (Kids for Christ, Age 4-Gr. 5) & Jr. Youth.
- Thursday, 9 a.m. - Mennonite Women comforter knotting.
- Thursday, 10 a.m. - Thursday book study group meets under the carport.
- Saturday - Sunday - MYF Camping at French Creek.

## NEXT SUNDAY

- Nina Harnish will preach.
- The Rest for the Weary class and their families are invited to worship in the sanctuary.

REPORT: (9/20) General Fund \$6,150

Worship 64

100 Quarry Road, Leola, PA 17540 ~ 717-656-6227  
fhmc@foresthillschurch.org ~ [www.foresthillschurch.org](http://www.foresthillschurch.org)

### 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  
Louetta Hurst, Toby Leaman, Joyce Martin,  
Warren and Linda Tyson, Kathy Unangst, Dana Shannon - Care Team

**FOREST HILLS MENNONITE CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

**September 14, 2020**

**- Leadership Reports:**

Jon Carlson, Lead Pastor – Sunday School classes are now gathering together, and individual baptisms were held and will be live-streamed during worship on October 11. Jon started a new sermon series on truth, falsehoods and conspiratorial thinking and will be doing a series on political engagement leading up to the election. Live and live-streamed worship happening simultaneously is challenging; this format requires greater human resourcing and can be overwhelming at times. Additional volunteer and/or staffing options were discussed.

Becky Degan, Associate Pastor of Worship and Christian Education – Becky reported that 24 kids from 10 families participated in the summer kids' program; four kindergarteners were given a blessing and a gift during a worship service; back-to-school bags were delivered to 32 elementary kids and 23 junior high kids with Zac's help; and Christian Education Commission met to discuss fall and Advent plans. Christian Education made a decision to cancel our traditional fall Halloween Alternative this year. KfC fall schedule began with in-person gatherings on Wednesday evenings staffed by Becky and volunteers; and planning has begun for a virtual Christmas program – there will be no in-person choir this year. Becky has ordered a few copies of the new Mennonite hymnal and plans to take an AMBS course on using it as a resource in worship.

Nina Harnish, Minister of Care and Visitation – Nina, along with Care Team members, distributed 45 gift bags to our seniors in retirement communities or in their own homes, meeting in person with some folks outside. As personal care facilities relax their restrictions, Nina plans to do more in-person visitation. She continues to stay in touch with individuals who are dealing with health and personal crises and offers support to class Shepherds through regathering plans. She also worked with the Rudy family to help plan a graveside service after John's death. Nina, with assistance from Bonnie Sharp, is developing a plan for prayer stations in mid-October.

Zac Hummel, Youth and Young Adult Pastor – Zac began meeting three times a week with 20 persons in different groups to discuss the book, Trouble I've Seen by Drew Hart; these meetings have been going well and have generated helpful conversations. He delivered back-to-school bags to junior high students. He and the MYF said goodbye to eight seniors and three advisors and welcomed four freshmen and three new advisors on Welcome/Farewell Day, and the MYF Council met to plan activities for the fall, including a camping weekend in lieu of the cancelled Atlantic Coast Conference Youth Retreat. Since traditional Soup 'n Sandwich fundraisers are not currently an option, the MYF has planned fall yard clean-up projects. Our young adults are planning a work weekend at Camp Deerpark.

Lauren Krady, Property Committee – Lauren reported that due to the lack of new sexton volunteers, ushers are being asked to assist in this role on Sunday mornings. Current sextons will take care of mid-week needs, and persons are still needed to lock up after Sunday worship. The carpet shampooer will be replaced, fall tree pruning was done, and a quote to repaint the faded parking lot lines was obtained. A decision is still pending on whether to purchase a memorial obelisk, and video-specific lighting may need to be considered for the future.

Erin Hershey, Mission and Service Commission – Erin reported that this Commission has several new members and is planning to meet soon. Several Sunday School classes volunteered at MCC's Material Resource Center, and more will be encouraged to give their time to this effort. Consideration is being given to starting a partnership with a Bridge of Hope family.

Kevin Hersh, Discernment Committee – Kevin reported that the 2020-21 ballot was approved by congregational affirmation. No further action is needed at this time.

**Financial Review and Update:** Treasurer Sam Clement stated that we came in approximately \$20,000 under budgeted giving at year-end but we were \$33,000 under expenses. He proposed and explained the 2020-21 budget. Congregants will be invited to ask questions or give feedback prior to a virtual State-of-the-Church meeting on Sunday, October 4. Any necessary adjustments will be made after these discussions, and the final proposed budget will be distributed two weeks before our Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 25. A vote on the proposed budget will take place at this meeting.

Council is recommending that the excess of income over expenses be transferred to our Future Capital Projects Fund, in part to replace the \$12,000 that was used to purchase live-streaming equipment this past year. This recommendation will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

- **What will worship look like in the next 3 months?** We've been making our decisions about gathering based on current COVID data, but it's been difficult due to inconsistent reporting. Having Sunday School classes attend on a rotating basis has been a positive experience and will continue through October 4. Significant discussion occurred around the issue of how we create community when we are apart. People need to be together, and many are feeling COVID fatigue. Everyone was encouraged to give this issue thought and bring ideas about future worship services to the next meeting.
- **Employment Processes for Supporting Strong Congregation-Pastoral Relationships:** Evanna Hess, on behalf of Staff Relations Committee, presented a document outlining changes to our pastoral employment review process. This document was approved by Council.
- **Executive Session:** Council meeting was concluded with an executive session.