



Forest Hills Mennonite Church

October 18, 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

Gathering Song

Collette Carlson, Gemma, Mahlon and
Georgia Rodak, Willie Hurst-Leaders
Don Nelson-Guitar, Jimmy Kreider-Bass,
Sheila Snyder-Drums

Call to Worship and Invocation

Nina Harnish

Reflection Song

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Passing the Peace

Offertory

Collette Carlson

Song

Children's Time

Becky Degan

Proclaiming

Scripture Zac Hummel, Norma Stauffer, Warren Tyson

Sermon: *The Box*

Jon Carlson

Response Song

Sending

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

ALL ARE WELCOME to interact with prayers stations set up in the church. These prayer stations are interactive experiences with scripture and activities to help us focus on the different promises that Jesus made in scripture. *I AM the True Vine, I AM the Bread of Life, I AM the Door, I AM the Light of the World, I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life, I AM the Resurrection and the Life, and I AM the Good Shepherd.* In the midst of these stressful and complex times, these simple, creative experiences can help us to slow down and listen for what God reveals to us. The drop-in hours are Monday and Wednesday 12 p.m.-3 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m.-12 p.m., and Sunday after church until 5 p.m. They will be available through November. Thank you to Bonnie Sharp, Anna Nofziger, Phyllis Gamber, Beth Fenton, and Kristin Lapp for their creative contributions to this experience.

CHURCH DIRECTORY INFORMATION UPDATE forms for all Forest Hills attendees have been placed in church mailboxes. A new church directory will be published in November. Please complete these forms and return them to Lauren Krady's mailbox or the box in the church office by November 1. If you are not at church before then, you can email changes to the office. Family members or previous Forest Hills attendees who wish to be included in this directory are asked to contact the church office or complete one of the pink forms on the ledge beneath the mailboxes.

DO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY have a cherished Christmas tradition? Would you be willing to let the congregation take a peek inside it as part of our Advent worship services? If so, reach out to Pastor Jon by phone or email.

BEGINNING THIS SUNDAY, October 18, we will be holding in-person worship services that are open to everyone. We will continue to wear masks and physical distance and we ask that if you have any respiratory symptoms that you stay home and join our online service instead. Sunday School hour will be held on a rotating basis so that classes can use our larger spaces like the fellowship hall and solar lounge for these gatherings. The schedule for Sunday School hour will be:

Salt and Light, Grounded, MYF, & Jr. Youth:

October 18, November 15

Agape & Gemeinschaft: October 25, November 22

Adelphian & Diakonia: November 1, December 6

Rest for the Weary & Children's classes: November 8, December 13

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

- College students living and studying with COVID restrictions and adaptations.
- Our seniors and others receiving extra care in long-term care facilities - Esther Zook and Eleanor Glick (Fairmount), John Smoker (Garden Spot Village), Arlene Leatherman, Geneva Martin, Lila Neufeld, Mary Schroeder, Gene Siegrist (Landis Homes), Marian Rohrer (Pleasant View), Lucy Rudy (Oak Leaf Manor).
- John Smoker adjusting to a new memory loss care facility at Garden Spot Village.
- Gratitude for those who care for our church facility.

“THANK YOU to each of you who responded with feedback and questions about our budget and the proposed use of the year-end surplus. In light of the feedback received, and our congregation’s continued strong financial position, council has decided to amend the proposal for use of our surplus. Our desire is to share our blessings with the community at large, and impact organizations where you, our congregation, are involved. As such, we are proposing the setup of a restricted fund in the amount of \$15,000 that will be dispersed by the Missions and Service Commission according to the Flex Fund guidelines. If you are involved in a deserving organization, contact the church office for an application! The balance of the surplus, or \$18,089 will be allocated to the Future Capital Projects Fund. This amount covers the streaming equipment we purchased to better enable our virtual services and leaves a small amount in the fund for our upcoming, larger projects. Thanks to everyone for your continued generosity with your congregation!” - Sam Clement, Church Treasurer

WE WILL NOT BE HAVING our Annual Meeting in-person this year. However, we do ask church members to vote on the proposed budget that was emailed out a few weeks ago as well as the amendment Sam listed. Please enter your vote online before October 22 using this link: <https://fhmc.church/budget> or submit a paper ballot located in front of the church mailboxes. Contact Council Chair Jerry Lile with any questions at jerryl@fairmounthomes.org.

TODAY WE WELCOME Dan Baker to our Audio/Visual team. Dan brings experience with church A/V technologies and will be working as a resource and coordinator for our tech team for the next six months. Dan and his wife Kit live in Fivepointville and are expecting their first child in January.

THE MYF IS LOOKING for five more yards to 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 to set up a time.

JOHN SMOKER has moved to a new memory care unit, Meadow View. He does not have a phone, but cards can be mailed to the Garden Spot Village address.

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE'S Peace and Justice Committee is once again collecting grocery boxes to be distributed to families in need by Mennonite Central Committee throughout the region. You can pick up a box and a suggested list of contents in the church foyer. Filled boxes should be returned by Sunday, November 1, or you can drop them off directly to the Materials Resource Center in Ephrata. For more information on this project visit www.mcc.org/stories/groceries.

THE FALL EDITION of Atlantic Coast Conference’s quarterly publication *Currents* is available online through their website: <https://atlanticcoastconference.net/resources-2/currents/>. This publication has congregational stories from churches around the ACC. A printed copy is also available in our church library.

TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Head Usher: Lee Charles

Audio Visual Technicians: Dean Jantzen, Jim Shannon, Davin

Esbenshade, Micah Carlson, Dan Baker

Greeters: Kathy Unangst

TODAY

- 9 a.m. - Sunday book study group meeting.
- 9:30 a.m. - Salt & Light, MYF, and Jr. Youth Sunday School.
- 10:30 a.m. - Worship service in-person and open to everyone. It will also be online on YouTube: <https://fhmc.church/youtube> and Facebook: www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite.
- 6 p.m. - MYF (Youth Group, Gr. 9-12) pumpkin carving at church.

THIS WEEK

- Tuesday, 6 p.m. - Tuesday book study group meeting.
- Wednesday, 8 a.m. - Diakonia Women's Breakfast at Oregon Dairy.
- Wednesday, 7 p.m. - KFC (Kids for Christ, Age 4-Gr. 5) & Jr. Youth.
- Thursday, 10 a.m. - Thursday book study group meeting.
- Friday - Saturday - Atlantic Coast Conference Virtual Assembly.

NEXT SUNDAY

- Pastor Jon will preach.
- MYF Leaf raking fundraiser.

REPORT: (10/11) General Fund \$6,545

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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

Louetta Hurst, Toby Leaman, Joyce Martin,

Warren and Linda Tyson, Kathy Unangst, Dana Shannon - Care Team

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

October 5, 2020

Leadership Reports:

Jon Carlson, Lead Pastor – Jon reported that the logistics of providing both live-streaming and in-person services has been challenging, but the rotation of Sunday School classes attending worship services has gone well. He's been prepping for a sermon series on political engagement leading up to the election and working with Becky on advent worship planning. He reported that 3,450 Facebook users saw a Forest Hills post between September 6 and October 3. Volunteers and Jon have been stretched very thin to coordinate audio, video, and lighting needs on Sunday mornings. Council approved contracting an A/V Coordinator for a six-month period.

Becky Degan, Associate Pastor of Worship and Christian Education – Becky reported that KfC on Wednesday evenings is continuing and going well, and Kids Church met with eight kids in attendance when the Rest for The Weary Class attended worship on Sunday. She continues to work through what worship looks like when different Sunday School classes gather for in-person worship, e.g. scheduling sound techs, worship leaders, and musicians and planning the logistics of each service accordingly. Her Advent planning includes working on virtual choirs for both adults and kids and preparing bags with Advent devotions to be distributed to families next month.

Nina Harnish, Minister of Care and Visitation – Nina reported that Care Team members distributed 45 gift bags, assembled by the MYF, to our seniors in retirement communities or in their own homes. She and the Care Team continue to stay connected with individuals having health or personal crises. Nina, with assistance from Bonnie Sharp, is developing a plan for prayer stations to be offered in mid-October (six stations for six weeks). The following is a report of the number of persons attending in-person worship and / or Sunday School on their designated Sunday: 50% Rest for The Weary, 95% Salt and Light, 2 people from Grounded, 81% Gemeinschaft, 59% Agape, 94% Diakonia, and 53% Adelpian.

Zac Hummel, Youth and Young Adult Pastor – Zac spent four days at Camp Deepark with the young adults working on their newest building that will be used as a dining hall / multi-purpose room. He helped the MYF assemble care packages for our seniors and prepared for and participated in the MYF's camping weekend at French Creek. He is having meaningful engagement with the congregation as he continues to lead the book studies on *The Trouble I've Seen* by Drew Hart. Looking ahead, he is working with the MYF to plan for a fall yard work fundraiser and beginning to think about Sunday School curriculum. He stated that it is challenging to figure out how to create meaningful Sunday School /faith formation experiences for the youth without having the pre-COVID consistency.

Lauren Krady, Property Committee – Lauren reported that ten programmable thermostats were ordered and will be installed to help with temperature management.

Erin Hershey, Mission and Service Commission – Erin reported that this Commission is continuing to look for an additional member. In the near future, they will be planning our Christmas giving activities. The Bridge of Hope initiative is continuing to move forward.

Financial Review and Update: Treasurer Sam Clement reported that agency checks are still being cut one month in arrears. Contributions to-date have been below budget, which is normal at the beginning of our fiscal year. However, percentagewise, we are ahead of where we were last year at the same time. The Balance Sheet indicates that we are still in a strong financial position; unrestricted funds would cover 11 weeks of budgeted expenses.

Budget Discussion: The proposed budget was presented to the congregation several weeks ago, and members were asked for feedback. Based on feedback received, a recommendation was presented that \$15,000 be added as one-time additional amount into the Flex Fund for the 2020-21 year only. Flex Fund guidelines would include a temporary change to the maximum distribution, increasing it from \$1,000 per request to up to \$2,500 per request. Other standard guidelines will apply. The remainder of the excess will go into the Future Capital Projects Fund. Council approved this recommendation that will be presented to the congregation for a vote.

Congregational Vote on Budget: An email vote will be received on the proposed 2020-21 budget and the recommendation of what to do with the excess of income over expenses. This process will be communicated to the congregation in Lauren's weekly communications. All votes will be due by October 22. Only church members are authorized to vote. Anyone with questions is asked to contact Jerry.

In-person Church: Unless there would be significant changes in the current coronavirus stats, staff is recommending that starting on October 18 and continuing through end of calendar year, worship services now be open to all who feel comfortable attending in person. This assumes that only healthy persons would attend, and current precautionary procedures – masks and hand-sanitizing – would continue. Sunday School classes will meet in larger spaces – the fellowship hall and solar lounge – on a rotating, prescheduled basis. However, this plan will be fluid, and we will continue to monitor the situation to make sure we are being safe. Council affirmed these guidelines.