



Forest Hills Mennonite Church

November 8, 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

Ellen Hummel, Becky Degan, Daryl Eshleman-Singers
Don Nelson-Guitar, Michael Degan-Bass,
Sheila Snyder-Drums

Call to Worship and Invocation

Reflection Song

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Passing the Peace

Song

Children's Time

Jon Carlson

Dismissal for Kids Church (Grades PreK-Gr. 5, Room #1-2)

Proclaiming

Scripture: Matthew 5:38-48

Sermon: *Try Jesus*

Jon Carlson

Response Song

Sending

Congregational/Offering Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

ALL ARE WELCOME to interact with prayers stations set up throughout church. These prayer stations are interactive experiences with scripture and activities to help us focus on the different promises that Jesus made in scripture. 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.

WE ARE IN NEED OF more people to help with our Sunday morning sound and audio-visual needs. Training will be provided! Please contact the church office if you would like to volunteer in this area.

FOREST HILLS has received a letter of thanks from Mennonite Church USA for our recent gift of \$7,318 to be divided among its various agencies.

THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP meets once a month here at the church for conversation, to knit, and to bless the shawls we have created. Several persons are moving out of the area or are no longer able to knit because of health-related issues. We would welcome anyone who enjoys knitting to join the group. If you have questions or would like to join, contact Becky Siegrist at beckster@comcast.net.

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.

CAROLE SIEGRIST has a new address: 116 Harvestview North, Mt. Joy, PA, 17522.

ROSE MOSEMANN is scheduled for foot surgery next Wednesday and anticipates needing to be non-weightbearing for 6 weeks.

RANDY ESCH had his gallbladder removed on Monday and is recovering very well.

CLAIR HUNSECKER was hospitalized at Lancaster General on Tuesday with heart related issues and anticipates being discharged to his home on Thursday.

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

- Clair Hunsecker undergoing tests for a heart-related issue.
- Carole Siegrist adjusting to her new home.
- Rose Mosemann anticipating and recovering from foot surgery on Wednesday.
- Randy Esch recovering from gallbladder surgery.
- Chet and Ruth Ann Martin grieving the loss of Chet's sister.
- Mary Schlabach recovering from a leg infection.
- Jon and Lyn Carlson and their family grieving the loss of his mother.

WE EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES to Chet and Ruth Ann Martin on the recent loss of Chet's last remaining sibling, Esther Weaver.

WE EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES to Pastor Jon and Lyn Carlson and their family on the loss of Jon's mother, Dorothy Carlson, who passed away on Wednesday. Prior to her death she lived in Reading.

FLEX FUNDS are available for special projects, donations to organizations, and financial assistance requests that arise during the church year. Priority is given to projects that fit the vision, character and theology of our church and those in which Forest Hills people are involved. If you would like to apply for a grant for a ministry that you are involved in, contact the church office for Flex Fund guidelines and an application. Submit completed applications to Erin Hershey, Mission and Service Commission Director.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE is looking for an individual or family that would be willing to shovel the entrances and walks around our church building when it snows this winter. Anyone willing to serve in this capacity is asked to contact the church office or Bruce Stauffer, Property Committee Chairperson.

FOR CONVENIENCE AND CONFIDENTIALITY purposes, Forest Hills provides envelopes for those who wish to use them. Please contact Dean Jantzen, Assistant Treasurer, if you would like to receive a supply of envelopes or if you have questions about how this system works. For those of you who are already using the envelope system, please let Dean know when you are running low so that he can order you a new supply.

TODAY'S HOSPITALITY HELPERS

Head Usher: Vernon Kauffman

Audio Visual Technicians: Dan Baker, Micah Carlson, Dean Jantzen, Davin Esbenshade

Greeter: Kathy Unangst

TODAY

- 9 a.m. - Sunday book study group meeting.
- 9:30 a.m. - Preschool-5th grade, Jr. Youth, and Rest for the Weary Sunday School classes will meet.
- 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.
- After church - Agape class lunch in the Fellowship Hall.
- MYF (Youth Group, Gr. 9-12) Hiking.

THIS WEEK

- Wednesday, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. - KfC (Kids for Christ)
- Wednesday, 7 - 8:15 p.m. - Jr. Youth

NEXT SUNDAY

- Pastor Jon will preach on *COVID Table*, based on Isaiah 25:1-9.
- MYF Road Rally.

REPORT: (11/1) Worship 110

General Fund \$13,649

YTD Giving \$72,688; YTD Budget \$117,605 (- 38%)

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

Louetta Hurst, Toby Leaman, Joyce Martin,

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

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

November 2, 2020

- **Leadership Reports:**

Jon Carlson, Lead Pastor – Jon reported that in-person services resumed in October; Dan Baker’s part-time assistance with a/v and lighting issues has been a positive experience; and church leadership continues to monitor the trajectory of the pandemic. New initiatives include collaborating with Becky on Advent worship planning, developing worship services that can function either in person or livestreamed; and having conversation with pastoral and lay colleagues about post-election issues that may arise and what the church’s responsibility might be. Jon also voiced concern for the well-being of our staff as we all continue to navigate the pandemic and expressed thanks for the support of the Staff Relations Committee during this time.

Becky Degan, Associate Pastor of Worship and Christian Education – Becky reported that Kids Church was restarted with regathered worship; meeting time for KFC on Wednesday evenings was changed to a half hour earlier to address feedback that the original schedule kept kids out too late on school nights; she continues to plan for kids’ Sunday School when the Rest for the Weary Class meets; she is organizing both adult and kids virtual choirs as part of the Advent and Christmas worship planning; preparing Advent bags with family Advent devotions that will go to families next month; and she continues to work through what worship looks like when Sunday School classes are here.

Nina Harnish, Minister of Care and Visitation – Nina reported that she coordinated 45 gift bags for seniors last month. She, along with a couple of volunteers, assembled and set up prayer stations throughout the church to be available for people to drop in and use at certain times throughout the week. She helped to coordinate Tom Verghese’s funeral and graveside service. She is thankful for her hardworking Care Team in coordinating several care issues and connecting with people who can’t make it to the in-person church services.

Zac Hummel, Youth and Young Adult Pastor – Zac reported that the MYF is completing the fall yard clean-up fundraiser; the book study on racism will culminate with all participants meeting to recap conversations and explore other initiatives they may want to start; he has started meeting for Sunday School with the MYF on a weekly basis and leading a series about the importance of the Bible in their lives; and he is preparing a sermon for late November; thinking about how to have safe winter retreats for the Junior Youth and MYF; and working on completing a virtual 13-year-old milestone celebration. Zac said finding consistent volunteers for our Junior Youth has been challenging.

Erin Hershey, Mission and Service Commission – Erin reported that the Mission and Service has gotten several applications for the additional Flex Fund money that is available for this year. Her team will meet as soon as schedules allow to review them.

Kevin Hersh, Discernment Committee – Working on filling the Mission & Service Member-at-Large position.

Lauren Krady, Property Committee – Lauren reported that a new dehumidifier was purchased for the basement, 10 new programmable thermostats were installed, fall landscaping and trimming was done, the picnic area and gazebo were pressure-washed, and a bench was replaced by the gazebo. Future projects include painting the parking lot lines in the spring.

- **Financial Review and Update:** Giving is below normal for this time of year but not yet concerning. Expenses are running below average.
- **75th Anniversary Proposal:** Adam Harnish presented a proposal for writing an historic update as part of our 75th anniversary celebration. Jon will get more details about what the end format would be, the timeline, etc.
- **In-person Church Monitoring:** Jerry and Jon discussed the recent spike of COVID cases in Lancaster and how that affects our in-person meetings. We will keep monitoring the county’s risk category, hospital capacities, Lancaster county positive test rate, and if there are school closings.