



Forest Hills Mennonite Church

January 17, 2021

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.



SUBSCRIPTION UPDATE – 2021

Gathering

Prelude

Jeff Raught

Call to Worship and Invocation

Nina Harnish

Offering Our Tithes and Ourselves

Songs

Passing the Peace

Children's Time

Jon Carlson

Offering Prayer

Proclaiming

Songs

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Toby Leaman

Sermon: *Allow Me to Reintroduce Myself*

Jon Carlson

Response Song

Sending

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

It is time to update our group subscription list for *Anabaptist World*, a monthly magazine that merged *The Mennonite* and *Mennonite World Review*. (This is an earlier renewal timeframe than previous years.)

A copy of this publication will be placed in the church library for those who want access to the periodical but do not wish to pay the subscription fee.

If you are actively involved in our congregational life and wish to have this publication sent to your home on a regular basis, we will be happy to include your name on the subscription list. The regular rate for a subscription is \$46 per year. Forest Hills Mennonite Church is asking subscribers to pay a discounted rate of \$20 to join our group subscription.

To renew or enroll in our group subscription, mail a \$20 check to the church office along with a note that it is for *Anabaptist World* by Sunday, January 24. Checks should be made payable to Forest Hills Mennonite Church.

PLEASE NOTE: Being on the subscription list in the past will NOT automatically place you on the list for the coming year. Only those who submit a \$20 payment by January 24, will be included in our group subscription to *Anabaptist World*.

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

- Doris Sauder who is scheduled for cardiac catherization and stent placement this week.
- Mary Schlabach struggling with heart related issues.
- Larry Wenger recovering from COVID-19.
- Jean Hunsicker completing radiation therapy this week.
- Andy and Irene Ebersole receiving additional care.
- Randy Ranck recovering from a recent hospitalization to stabilize blood pressure.
- Those dealing with challenging relationships with friends, family, or spouses.
- Our ability to see our commonalities instead of our differences.

AS WE CONTINUE TO TRY to stay connected during this time of distancing, we encourage you to send a picture to the church office of yourself or your family participating in your daily activities. We will compile them as a slideshow for use on a Sunday morning. Pictures can be sent to fhmc@foresthillschurch.org.

DORIS SAUDER is scheduled for a cardiac catherization and stent placement on Friday as a day procedure at Lancaster General Hospital.

MARY SCHLABACH was hospitalized at Ephrata Community Hospital on Monday with a buildup of fluid within her body. She remained a patient at bulletin publication time.

LARRY WENGER continues to be hospitalized at Lancaster General Hospital for COVID-19 and remained a patient at bulletin publication time.

RANDY RANCK was discharged from the hospital on Sunday and is recovering at home.

ANDY AND IRENE EBERSOLE have both been moved to a memory/personal care unit at The Mennonite Home.

FOREST HILLS RECEIVED a letter of thanks from Mennonite Central Committee for the nine grocery boxes, one comforter, and recent donation of \$6,500 that we sent to them.

TODAY

- * 10:30 a.m. - The worship service will be online only. You can watch it on YouTube: <https://fhmc.church/youtube> or Facebook: www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite.
- * Financial contributions can be mailed to the church office. You can also donate via credit card through our Forest Hills Facebook page.

NEXT SUNDAY

- * Pastor Jon will preach.

REPORT: (1/10) General Fund \$11,735
YTD Giving \$245,368; YTD Budget \$248,278 (-1%)

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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

January 4, 2021

- **Leadership Reports:**

Jon Carlson, Lead Pastor – Jon reported that worship services were shifted back to live-streaming on November 25. He and Becky collaborated to create Advent services that while not the same as being together in person, were nevertheless meaningful and included a lot of people. He noted that 190 gigabytes of digital content were created for Advent, Christmas, and Looking Back Sunday, and 5,197 Facebook uses saw a Forest Hills post in December.

Becky Degan, Associate Pastor of Worship and Christian Education – Becky submitted a sermon series on Philippians for Leader magazine's summer edition, delivered Advent bags to families, and collaborated on planning Advent worship services that included many ideas, music, and people. KFC was modified to a family drop-in and zoom Christmas gathering in December. Lent planning has begun,

Nina Harnish, Minister of Care and Visitation – Nina reported that she coordinated assembly and distribution of 45 gift bags for seniors in November and December. She is continuing to stay connected with persons having health or personal crises, including some diagnosed with COVID, following up with persons who completed visitor cards online, and monitoring the facebook chat during worship services when not involved in leading worship. Currently 22 Forest Hills households have had the COVID virus.

Zac Hummel, Youth and Young Adult Pastor – Zac hosted a Junior Youth zoom Christmas party that, is updating lesson plans for Junior Youth and MYF, having conversations with MYF Council and Advisors about what activities to schedule when they begin gathering again, and prepared and preached a sermon on justice. He's planning retreats for both Junior Youth and MYF that will be rescheduled from winter to spring. A group of young adults is planning another service trip to Camp Deerpark in the spring.

Erin Hershey, Mission and Service Commission – Erin reported that the Mission and Service Commission approved Flex Fund requests for Frederick Living, New Holland Early Learning Center, Friends of Shirati, Camp Deerpark, Fairmount Homes, and Homes of Hope; more requests are still coming in. A group is exploring the possibility of becoming a Bridge of Hope neighboring group; the Christmas giving project was the collection of gift cards for struggling families in the Conestoga Valley School District.

Kevin Hersh, Discernment Committee – The Committee has received a list of openings for the 2021-22 church year and will begin working to fill these positions in the near future. The Kitchen Committee will need new coordinators as Ken and Arleta Martin will be moving to Virginia in May.

Lauren Krady, Property Committee – Lauren reported that more emergency light packs were fixed or replaced, and Les Siegrist will be painting the hallways in the foyer and around the offices. Council discussed a proposal to renovate the crib nursery into a unisex bathroom. Money is available for this project in the Future Capital Projects Fund. Council agreed that it is a church priority to be accessible to all people and now, while we are not meeting, would be a good time to do this.

- **Financial Review and Update for Year-End:** Overall, we are in a healthy financial position. Mission and Service Commission contributions to church agencies were held for November and December because we were below the threshold of having enough unrestricted funds to cover eight weeks of expenses. Because this is no longer the case, November and December contributions will be made, and January will most likely be paid in early February. Sam is encouraged by the fact that contributions are coming in on a regular basis despite not meeting. Several additional plans for giving are being explored, e.g., PayPal, Venmo, Text-to-give, etc.

- **In-person Church Services:** Council has used the state numbers on COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths to determine whether or not we meet. State numbers have shown some improvement over the past two weeks, and some indoor restrictions have been lifted. Although churches are exempt from state guidelines, restrictions on other large venues limit gatherings to 10% of capacity, meaning 45 people could meet in person at Forest Hills under the capacity guidelines. Everyone readily agreed that online services aren't like being together and mental health is a concern during this time of distancing. We've come this far, and there is light at the end of the tunnel. We are

reminded that we don't meet is because we care for each other. Council agreed that we will keep meeting virtually through the end of January. If in a few weeks, the numbers change, we will revisit this decision.

- **75th Anniversary Proposal:** Jon met with Adam Harnish to discuss his 75th anniversary proposal further. Adam would schedule in-person interviews and research archives in order to write the history related mostly, but not exclusively, to the last 25 years. His final product would be in the form of podcasts that could be printed into a manuscript. While recognizing the current trend for digital production, there were some questions as to the best ways to distribute this to congregation and how it can be made accessible for future generations. Council approved a budget for this initiative not to exceed \$3,000.
- **MC USA Delegates:** Plans are proceeding for a July in-person churchwide gathering in Cincinnati, Ohio. Forest Hills is allowed four delegates; Council will find delegates in the upcoming months.