



Forest Hills Mennonite Church

September 4, 2022

G A T H E R I N G

Prelude

Gathering Song: *Blessed Assurance*

Worship Book No. 332

Kit Baker-Piano, Daryl Eshleman-Leader

Call to Worship and Invocation

Nina Harnish

Passing the Peace

C O N N E C T I N G

Congregational Singing

He Is Exalted

Grace Notes No. 41

In Christ Alone

Grace Notes No. 60

Offering Prayer

Offertory: *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

Grace Notes No. 10

Children's Time

R E F L E C T I N G

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2; Matthew 6:33-34

Sermon: *Growing Deep... Being Present*

Merv Stoltzfus

Response Song: *Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us*

Worship Book No. 352

S E N D I N G

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Postlude



CARES & CONCERNS >>>

As the cares and concerns of our congregation come to mind,
please lift them to the Lord in prayer:

- ❖ Muriel Smoker seeking treatment options for a cancerous growth on her eyelid.
- ❖ Doris Kreider adjusting to new living arrangements.
- ❖ Tom Overly being treated for a nonaggressive bladder cancer.
- ❖ Don Beidler undergoing treatments and medical tests.
- ❖ Brenda Verghese beginning chemotherapy on Friday for a reoccurrence of cancer.
- ❖ Dwight and Jenny Rohrer mourning the loss of Dwight's father.
- ❖ Lois Stoltzfus recovering from a TIA.
- ❖ Thankfulness for the generous people of this church who allowed us to meet our financial commitments for the past year.

We extend our condolences to Dwight and Jenny Rohrer and their family of the loss of Dwight's father, Lloyd Rohrer, on August 25.

Doris Kreider was transferred from Lancaster General Hospital to Fairmount Homes on Tuesday to receive continuing care for her medical concerns.

Don Beidler was hospitalized on Friday, August 26, to begin treatment for the reoccurrence of prostate cancer. He was discharged on Monday and is recovering at home with follow up treatments still being determined.

Lois Stoltzfus was hospitalized on Wednesday for treatment for a minor stroke. She was discharged on Thursday and is recovering at home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS >>>

Welcome Guests! We're glad you are with us today. We hope that you will encounter God's presence as you worship with us and will find yourself renewed and challenged in your journey with God. Let us know you're here by scanning the QR code and filling out the online visitor form:



Newcomers who would like more information about Forest Hills or those who might want to become members are invited to a lunch in the fellowship hall after church on Sunday, September 18. Join Pastor Jon and Nina Harnish for pizza and questions/discussion time. Children are invited to join Becky Degan for a movie in the Elementary 1 classroom after lunch. Please RSVP by September 12 to let Lauren Krady in the church office know if you will be attending: fhmc@foresthillschurch.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS >>>

Copies of the 2022-23 proposed church budget were emailed out on Thursday; paper copies are in church mailboxes and extras are available in front of the mailboxes. **Plan to attend our State of The Church/Annual Business Meeting during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, September 18** (this is a change from the date on the church paper calendar). During this meeting you will have the opportunity to give input on the proposed budget.

“Thank you for your many gifts of kindness to our family these past few weeks following Ken’s passing. Your cards, words of encouragement, food and visits meant so much to me. This Forest Hills family has been so supportive and loving. You have blessed me beyond measure! Thank you!” -Posie Kreider

All Retirees – those living in retirement communities and those living in their own homes – are invited to a luncheon here at church on Monday, September 12, at 11:30 a.m. Donations will be accepted to help cover meal costs. To attend, please RSVP to the church office no later than September 4, by filling out a slip in front of the church mailboxes, calling, or emailing fhmc@foresthillchurch.org. When making your reservation, please indicate any dietary restrictions.

Join Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) on September 17, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at MCC’s campus in Akron, PA for their very first MCC BioBlitz & Nature Fest. Join local experts and citizen scientists across Lancaster County to count as many insects and plants as possible, plus enjoy local festivities for all ages. Enjoy pawpaw tasting, monarch tagging, and live music. Plus, take home a free native plant! For details and registration, visit www.mcc.org/bioblitz-nature-fest.

For convenience and confidentiality purposes, Forest Hills provides offering 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: AssistantTreasurer@foresthillchurch.org.

Becky Degan will be out of the office until September 14. She will be attending a worship conference in Nashville with Cheryl Eshleman, followed by some vacation time.

UPCOMING MYF EVENTS:

- ❖ **September 9-11:** Atlantic Coast Conference youth retreat.
- ❖ **September 18:** Lancaster city scavenger hunt.
- ❖ **September 25:** Girls’ / Guys’ night.
- ❖ **October 2:** Parent meeting during Sunday school.

H O S P I T A L I T Y H E L P E R S

- ❖ Head Usher: Larry McJunkin
- ❖ Audio Visual Technicians: Dean Jantzen, Scott Hertzog, Dylan Jantzen
- ❖ Greeters: Herb Hoover
- ❖ Befrienders: Linda & Warren Tyson
- ❖ Coffee Fellowship: Norma & Bruce Stauffer

T O D A Y

- ❖ 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for MYF – Adults; no Jr. Youth or children’s classes.
- ❖ 10:30 a.m. – Worship in-person or online. The service can be streamed on YouTube: fhmc.church/youtube or Facebook: www.facebook.com/foresthillsmennonite.
- ❖ Kids’ activity bulletins and crayons are available on the console table in the lobby.

T H I S W E E K

- ❖ Monday – Church office closed.
- ❖ Friday – Sunday - MYF (Youth Group, Gr. 9-12) Atlantic Coast Conference youth retreat.
- ❖ Thursday, 7 p.m. – Eby Cemetery meeting; anyone is welcome to attend.

N E X T S U N D A Y

- ❖ Pastor Jon will preach a sermon based on Ephesian 4:17-5:2.

WEEKLY REPORT

8/28: General Fund \$13,329

YTD Income \$627,732; YTD Budget \$629,750 (-0.3%)

Attendance : 154

fhmc@foresthillschurch.org ~ www.foresthillschurch.org

100 Quarry Road, Leola, PA 17540 ~ 717-656-6227

Staff and Leadership Teams

Jon Carlson - Lead Pastor

Becky Degan - Assoc Pastor of Worship and Christian Education

Nina Harnish - Minister of Care and Visitation ~ Lauren Krady - Administrator

Becky Bathurst - Youth and Young Adult Director ~ Lesley Wenger - Custodian

Kay Hurst, Allon Lefever, Keith Stuckey - Elders

Louetta Hurst, Ruth Ann Martin, Clair and Doris Sauder

Warren and Linda Tyson, Kathy Unangst - Care Team

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

August 29, 2022

– LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

Jon Carlson, Lead Pastor – Jon has had ongoing individual conversations with Forest Hillers regarding MC USA delegate actions and also conversations with newer attendees; preached a sermon series on the book of Ephesians; and participated in two funerals. New initiatives that Jon is working on are a Winter Bible School series exploring faith, the church, the LGBTQ community, and how we live together in the midst of differences; a new attendee luncheon planned for September 18; and a sermon series revisiting generations and how when we were born shapes who we are. The first Sunday after Christmas this year falls on New Year's Day and staff is recommending that we offer a virtual, prerecorded service only.

Becky Degan, Associate Pastor of Worship and Christian Education – Becky organized the move-up Sunday for elementary through high school classes for August 7, has planned the KFC schedule for the fall and is now soliciting volunteers for that program. She reported that the sign-up schedule for Elementary 1, Elementary 2, Junior Youth, and Kids Church is very empty after multiple asks. Becky plans to attend the *Sing!* worship conference in Nashville with Cheryl Eshleman on September 4-7. She is also working to transition the musician scheduling to an online app used by our AV techs.

Nina Harnish, Minister of Care and Visitation – Nina is staying connected with individuals having health or personal crises; completed the summer Sunday School elective; participated in three funerals since last Council meeting; assisted with changes to the library; and focused attention on the nursery schedule. She has begun communication with class Shepherds regarding the start of a new church year and is planning a meal for retirees and one for new attendees in September.

Becky Bathurst, Youth and Young Adult Director – Becky reported that Junior Youth held its Welcome/Farewell Pool Party in July and an end-of-summer event in August. Junior Youth Wednesday evening activities will begin on September 21. The MYF held its Welcome/Farewell overnight in August with 24 participants. All current advisors were bid farewell, and new advisors and six freshmen were welcomed into the MYF. The MYF will be participating in the Atlantic Coast Conference Youth Retreat on September 9-11. Becky is organizing the Adopt-a-Student program for young adults for the upcoming school year.

Andrew Boddin, Mission and Service Commission – Andrew said the Commission met in August to review updates on different activities happening in the congregation, the need for training for new Greeters, and reporting back to the congregation after a service project. The following grant requests were also reviewed and approved:

Flex Funds

Bridge of Hope \$1,000

Hope for Haiti \$2,000

Fairmount Homes/FHMC \$8,000 (Alex Kachkovskyi)

FH Women's Sewing for MCC Comforters \$1,000

The Factory Ministries \$2,000

Friendship Community \$2,000

Investment Funds

Paradise California: \$1,438

Lauren Krady, Property Committee – On behalf of the Property Committee, Lauren reported that a \$5,000 deposit was made for carpet replacement scheduled for mid-October in the solar lounge and surrounding hallways. (Since that area gets a lot of use, a decision was made to go with carpet tiles that will match the carpet in the foyer.) Because the Library has been experiencing limited use, a reconfiguring plan is being worked on that would include a conference table and chairs to seat 15 people. This would provide a good meeting space for council, committees, funeral planning, etc. The committee had a workday to build a new dumpster fence and install a vanity in the men's restroom adjacent to the Fellowship Hall.

Kevin Hersh, Discernment Committee – The ballot for the 2022-23 church year was presented to the congregation and affirmed on August 21. At that time, one Auditor was still needed. Mark Zimmerman has consented to work with Daryl Eshleman in this capacity.

- **SANCTUARY RENOVATIONS:** The Property Committee presented a proposal for sanctuary upgrades in 2023. Projects would include having the pews recovered as numerous tears have occurred, carpet replaced, walls and trim repainted, and an expansion of the sound booth to include the table that is currently being used outside the enclosed area. Estimated costs are:
 - Pew recovering: \$40,000-50,000 (a suggestion was made to possibly consider chairs).
 - New Carpet (only wherever there is carpet or tile now; the wood style flooring will stay) \$20,000-\$35,000 with estimates varied based on the type of carpet selected.
 - Expand the sound booth: \$5,000.
 - Painting: No estimate yet, perhaps \$20,000.
 - Ballpark Total Cost: \$100,000.

It is estimated that the sanctuary would be unavailable for use for two weeks during this process. Treasurer, Sam Clement, has suggested that we fundraise \$30,000 so that our Future Capitol Project Fund is not significantly depleted. The Property Committee would like to have a committee of 4-5 people to handle the whole project including fundraising, picking colors and materials, and project management.

- **FINANCIAL REVIEW:** Treasurer Sam Clement reported that expenses are under budget and income is very close to covering expenses. Final end-of-year figures have not yet been determined. However, to date, giving while under budget, has been strong in August. He is hoping to finish the year strong, coming in close to budget and close to covering expenses.
- **BUDGET APPROVAL:** Council suggested a goal of keeping the upcoming year's budget as flat as possible. However, we are also experiencing high inflation. The suggested budget is an overall increase of 3%. However, due to the rental income received from Atlantic Coast Conference for the use of space in our building, projected giving will only need to increase by 1.25%. Council approved the proposed budget that will be presented to the congregation for consideration prior to the State of the Church meeting on Sunday, September 18.