



Forest Hills Mennonite Church

November 13, 2022

G A T H E R I N G

Prelude

Gathering Song: *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* (1979)

Worship Book No. 229 Sandy and Tim Smoker, Becky Degan, Leanne Beidler,
Warren Tyson, Jonny Bishop—Worship Team

Call to Worship and Invocation

Dan Hess

Passing the Peace

C O N N E C T I N G

Congregational Singing

We Are One in the Spirit (1966)

God Sent His Son (1971)

Worship Book No. 345

Offering Prayer

Offertory: *Pass It On*

Children's Time

Milt Stoltzfus

R E F L E C T I N G

Song: *Praise God from Whom* (Red Hymnal #606)

Worship Book No. 118

Scripture: Psalm 145:1-13

Sermon: *Spotlight - Boomers*

Jon Carlson

Response Song: *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant* (1977)

Worship Book No. 307

S E N D I N G

Congregational Prayer

Sung Benediction: *You Shall Go Out with Joy* (1975)

Worship Book No. 427

Postlude



CARES & CONCERNS >>>

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

- 🔥 The family of Doris Kreider mourning the loss of their mother and grandmother.
- 🔥 Families who are navigating parenting challenges.
- 🔥 College students working hard in their studies and extracurricular activities.
- 🔥 Our older seniors receiving extra care in long-term care facilities or at home- Esther Zook, Ruth Hooper, and Eleanor Glick (Fairmount), Geneva Martin, Lila Neufeld, Mary Schroeder, Anita Beidler (Landis Homes), Marian Rohrer (Pleasant View), Lucy Rudy (Oak Leaf Manor), Andy and Irene Ebersole (Mennonite Home).

We extend our condolences to the family of Doris Kreider. Doris passed away Wednesday, November 9, in her home. Her funeral will be held at Forest Hills on Tuesday, November 22. There will be family visitation at 5:00 p.m. followed by a 6:00 p.m. memorial service.

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:

Everyone is invited to the kitchen/fellowship hall for light refreshments and conversation following today's worship service.



Lauren Krady will be on vacation November 11 - 15. If you need office assistance or to get into the church on Monday or Tuesday, you may contact another staff member.

The Refugee Education Fund is a special project of Forest Hills designed to make excellent middle and high school education accessible to students who have recently experienced war and conflict. The fund was established in 2016 with commitments through the 2023-24 school year, and is entirely funded by designated gifts, not the general operating budget of the church. Several generous donors have stepped forward with an offer to match every donation made toward this fund between now and the Dec. 31, 2022, up to \$10,000. If you feel inspired to support this work, you can contribute to Forest Hills and designate it on the envelope or on the memo line "Refugee Education Support."

Forest Hills received a letter of thanks from Mennonite Church USA for our recent donation for \$3,916, to be distributed amongst their various agencies.

2022-23 Church directories have been printed and placed in church mailboxes. If you would like a digital directory emailed to you, please email the office: fhmc@foresthilchurch.org.

Our sanctuary was built in 1990 and it is time to refresh our meeting space! Planned updates include recovering the pew cushions, installing new carpet, replacing the wallpaper behind the cross, painting, and expanding our sound booth to better meet our current technical needs, such as livestreaming and projection. Church council and the property committee have approved this project, with an estimated cost of \$90,000 – \$110,000. Some of the Future Capital Project Fund will go toward this project, and Council is hoping to raise \$30,000 to kickstart the renovations. As you consider year-end donations remember this project. If you would like to donate towards it please mark “sanctuary update” on your check. We also hope to collect sufficient year end contributions to reach our budget goals for the first 4 months of our church year. We are currently 22% behind. Please consider how you can share generously with our church as we come to year end!

Our auditors, Daryl Eshleman and Mark Zimmerman, have completed a selective review of the Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet for our fiscal year ending August 31, 2021. They are pleased to report that these numbers accurately reflect the cash receipts, disbursements, and financial condition of the church as of this date.

For our Christmas Giving Project this year we will again be supporting families in need in the Conestoga Valley School District. Last year our community helped to make Christmas a bit merrier for 538 children in 230 families! We are collecting \$50 gift cards from TARGET or WALMART. Please bring the cards to church by Sunday, November 27. Cards should be placed in the snowman basket by the ushers' room. New rolls of holiday wrapping paper, clear tape, and gift tags are also needed and may be placed in the silver box by the snowman basket. Last year we collected 84 gift cards! Can we do it again this year? Let's share our abundance with those who are less fortunate. Please contact Kathy Unangst with any questions. Thank you for your generosity!

Friday, November 18, is Lancaster's Extraordinary Give, a chance for the entire county to come together to support organizations that serve our community. Many of the organizations participating have strong connections to Forest Hills, so we encourage you to share your generosity! Visit their website at <http://www.extragive.org> to find out more and donate.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- 🍁 December 11: Photos will be taken for our 2023 picture directory.
- 🍁 December 12: Retiree luncheon at Forest Hills.
- 🍁 December 24: 7pm, Christmas Eve Service.

UPCOMING MYF EVENTS:

- 🍁 November 20: Friendsgiving.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

November 7, 2022

- **RESPONSE TO ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE:** Atlantic Coast Conference has received requests from several churches that have non-credentialed staff members in a same-sex relationship who now wish to be credentialed. The ACC Ministerial Committee has asked for congregational input before making this decision. Council members agreed that there is congregational fatigue around this issue. After recent discussions related to this matter at a denominational level (Mennonite Church USA), it was apparent that our congregational members do not all hold the same position. With this in mind, it is hard to give a definitive answer to ACC about where we stand. Pastor Jon will write a response to ACC that will communicate this ambiguity. The congregation will be invited to engage in further discussion on this issue at a Winter Bible School series in January 2023.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

Jon Carlson, Lead Pastor – Jon participated in the new attendee luncheon; made a multipurpose trip to Harrisonburg, VA where he engaged with some Forest Hills folks; and started a sermon series on healthy relationships across generational differences. Jon led chapel services at Lancaster Mennonite School and Kraybill Mennonite School; accepted an invitation to speak at MennoCon23; and spent two weeks engaging our senior high MYF on questions of nonresistance and nonviolence. He has begun planning for Advent and a Winter Bible School series exploring faith, the church, the LGBTQ community, and how we live together in the midst of our differences.

Becky Degan, Associate Pastor of Worship and Christian Education – Becky reported that attendance at KFC on Wednesday evenings has been averaging 12-15 kids, and Christian Education Committee met in October. Because children's Sunday School attendance has increased but is sporadic, a list of "on call" helpers was created to assist when class size is larger than anticipated. The Commission is hosting a kids ministry Thank You Luncheon for all Kids Church, Elementary and Junior Youth Sunday School teachers and helpers, and KfC volunteers; our Child Protection Plan will be highlighted at this luncheon. She's been working with Pastor Jon on the Generations sermon series and starting to plan for Advent and Christmas.

Nina Harnish, Minister of Care and Visitation – Nina has stayed connected with individuals having health or personal crises; connected with new families in their homes; is facilitating conversations with parents of young children on Wednesday evenings; planned a luncheon for new attendees; and re-started lunches with seniors. Going forward, she is helping to plan for Winter Bible School, including meals; relating to two families

with members in Hospice care; plans to continue connecting with new families; and will organize Christmas care bags from Care team with assistance from Junior Youth and KFC kids.

Andrew Boddien, Mission and Service Commission – Andrew reported that the Commission made a decision that Flex Fund requests greater than the current \$2,000 limit will be reviewed and approved only up to the limit. Any additional fund allocations will be tabled until the fiscal year-end and re-evaluated if there is still a balance in the Flex Fund account at that time. This decision was made in order to support as many Flex Funds requests as possible throughout the year. The following Flex Fund approvals were granted: \$2,000 approved for Brooklyn Peace Center, a project of the Atlantic Coast Conference, \$1,000 for CrossNet, a ministry for youth and families in the Eastern Lancaster County School District, and \$2,000 for Sparrow Fund that cares for caregivers and supports families in foster care and adoption.

The Commission designated the Conestoga Valley School District's holiday program for our Christmas Giving Project. Fifty-dollar gift cards will be collected for families in need. Our Christmas Eve offering will go to a Mennonite Central Committee project.

Lauren Krady, Property Committee – On behalf of the Property Committee, Lauren reported that the solar lounge carpet has been replaced with new carpet tiles, and a new in-ground basketball hoop was purchased to replace the previous one that was damaged when it fell over. Neighborhood children who use this equipment raised money for the new hoop with bake sales and lemonade stands.

Sanctuary Update: The Property Committee presented a proposal for sanctuary renovations and church council approved the budget amount of \$100,000 with a 10 % contingency. This project, scheduled for 2023, will include having the pews recovered, carpet replaced, walls and trim repainted, and sound booth expanded to include the table that is currently in front of the booth. Council approved formation of a committee to implement the project – picking colors and materials, project management, etc. Funds from our Future Capital Projects Fund will be used to finance this project. However, in order to not completely deplete this Fund, Council approved an initiative to fundraise \$30,000 toward this project's cost.

Financial Review: Treasurer Sam Clement reported that giving to date has lagged a bit. This is a normal pattern after the fiscal year-end requests for funds and before end-of-year giving that often occurs.

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

- ❖ Head Usher: Lee Charles
- ❖ Audio Visual Technicians: Dan & Kit Baker, Rod Lefever, Dana Shannon, Micah Carlson
- ❖ Greeters: Ernestine & Keith Lehman
- ❖ Befrienders: Phyllis & Keith Stuckey
- ❖ Coffee Fellowship: Kevin Hersh, Rose Mosemann

T O D A Y

- ❖ 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ After the service – MYF (Youth Group, Gr. 9-12) Yardwork.

T H I S W E E K

- ❖ Wednesday, 6:45 p.m. –
 - KfC (Kids for Christ) for kids in PreK-Grade 5.
 - Parents' group with Nina Harnish.
- ❖ Wednesday, 7 p.m. – Jr. Youth for kids in grades 6-8.
- ❖ Saturday, 8 a.m. – Adelphian breakfast at New Holland Family Restaurant.

N E X T S U N D A Y

- ❖ Pastor Jon will preach: *Snapshot: Builders*.
- ❖ MYF – Friendsgiving.

WEEKLY REPORT

11/13 Offering: General Fund \$15,454; Refugee Education \$700
YTD Income \$95,481; YTD Budget \$122,644 (-22%)

Attendance : 155

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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 ~ Lauren Krady - Administrator
Becky Bathurst - Youth and Young Adult Director ~ Lesley Wenger - Custodian
Kay Hurst, Allon Lefever, Keith Stuckey - Elders
Louetta Hurst, Matthew Degan, Ruth Ann Martin, Clair and Doris Sauder
Warren and Linda Tyson, Kathy Unangst - Care Team