



**February
2017**

**Forest Hills EFC Messenger
5183 Pebble Creek Trail
Loves Park, IL 61111**

WWW.FHEFC.ORG

Email: office@fhefc.org

Phone: 815-877-1919



If we have missed your birthday or someone else's, please contact the office to inform us.

February 11	Phyllis Moore
February 15	Pat Neubauer Tim Anderson
February 18	Delores Swanson
February 19	Todd Meyerdirk
February 20	Wayne Hussong
February 23	Hunter Evans Paul Jacobsen
February 24	Cindy Neubauer

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning

9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:25 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesdays

5:45-6:15 p.m. Meal
6:30 – 8:00 AWANA
6:30 Adult Bible Study

Contacting Pastor Mitch

Call or Text
(815) 391-3133
Email: mitch@ihgg.net
Blog: IHGG.NET

Father Please Take This Cup From Me

by Betty Bumell

I now know how Jesus felt when He prayed "Father Please take this cup from me." And I too am finding myself praying that same prayer ...

Jesus had a noble purpose for His suffering ... to save mankind from their doom of sin and failure and provide a way to save our souls.

My suffering though ... doesn't have that noble of purpose ... but I thought to myself ... it still has purpose ... Without purpose to suffering ... it is extremely hard to bare ... Even with purpose it often seems unbearable. But if we could open the flaps of closed doors to see the spiritual battle over us we would probably understand a little better why we are undergoing our pain.

With that said ... I tried to think of ways that my suffering has purpose. I can say it has helped me better understand myself and know my God better. Heres how:

Read Ps. 6:2-9 with me "Have mercy on me, for I am weak" (I'm finding out just how weak I actually am and how much I need Jesus mercy!) O Lord, heal me for my bones are troubled (I am facing the truth that I have no control over my terminal illness. But You O Lord, how long (It has opened communication with God about how long or how many times I have to endure the same trial) Return O Lord, deliver me! Oh, save me for your mercies sake! For in death there is no remembrance of you; in the grave who will give you thanks (I'm finding out how important it is to give God thanks for everything! Life and Death and everything inbetween!) I am weary with my groaning. All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears. My eye wastes with grief; (I'm spending time with God, tear filled eyes telling HIM how I'm feeling in life's toughest moments) It grows old because of all my enemies. Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; For the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping; The Lord has heard my supplication; The Lord will receive my prayer. (I am standing confident that my sickness does NOT keep Jesus from hearing my every plea and I am certain He is keenly aware of my every tear)

Ps. 56:8 "Record my misery; list my tears on your scroll – are they not in your record?"

Be assured, the God of the universe does not miss a beat in our lives. He keeps track of us and our heart aches. And someday, all we went through will be completely understood and once we are in eternity it will no longer matter because we will be in the presence of Jesus our Savior and King!

Praise God!!!

Is It a Time for Optimism or Despair?

If you listen to the media, then you are experiencing one of two polar opposites – Giddy Optimism or Crushing Despair. Are you experiencing one of these extremes or are you like me floating somewhere between cautious optimism and unsettled skepticism? Of course, I am talking about the new administration of President Trump and the reactions of people around the world.

On one hand, it seems somewhat silly to plan protests against the new President before he even has an opportunity to do anything. I was saddened to see people protesting and some creating the very kind of chaos they accused their political rivals of doing after they lost the election. It was not long ago political liberals were lecturing the Trump supporters about how they should act if they lost the election. For those who took their own advice after their loss, well done, but consistency would call for the same kinds of lectures to be given to your people. Unfortunately, I am not surprised. We have all become sore losers and not much better winners. I take it as one of the warning signs of the decay of our culture, and we should all take note.

On the other hand, it seems just as premature to breathe a sigh of relief before the new President has had a chance to deliver on any of his many promises. I believe every new president has arrived in office with great energy and indomitable optimism, but each of them has also faced the harsh reality of how hard change truly is in our government. Regardless of party, those who have been elected to office and those who are part of the permanent bureaucracy create an incredibly large amount of inertia. Reality and history suggest to me it will be remarkable if President Trump accomplishes even a fraction of his agenda.

The good news is neither extreme is likely to have it right. My hope is President Trump will be moderately successful, particularly in the area of health care, but I am not putting all my hope in his success. Perhaps the biggest thing on my mind is the appointment of the new Supreme Court Justice. I am remembering to temper all of this with a healthy dose of reality. Maybe this makes me hopefully skeptical or skeptically optimistic?

With all this in mind, may we as believers in Jesus Christ not lose sight of the unique truths we hold onto regardless of the political system or party in control. Because we

know the fundamental corruption of human nature, we should be careful not to base too much of our happiness and outlook on the performance of men and women with power. There have been many more who claimed the desire to reform than have remained true to that calling throughout their lives. Too many have been corrupted by the institutions they started out to change.

Christians should not forget there is only one true path to lasting change, a relationship with Jesus Christ informed and guided by the Bible. This transformation and reformation happens one person at a time. It cannot be legislated or forced by any other person, group or government. Truthfully, it requires the direct active intervention of God in our lives. Sadly, the self-determination, self-esteem, and exercise of rights in American culture today are in direct contradiction to the humility and dependence required to have saving faith in Jesus Christ. Every time an individual comes to saving faith, it is a miracle of God's mercy and a miracle of human humility.

This causes me to remember no matter how great or terrible President Trump turns out to be, my only hope is in a merciful and gracious God. My hope rises as I read the Scriptures that teach me the hearts of the world's leader is in the hands of my glorious God.

“The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes. ² Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts. ³ To do righteousness and justice Is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice.” Proverbs 21:1-3

I remember the admonition of Scripture as I pray for the President and our nation.

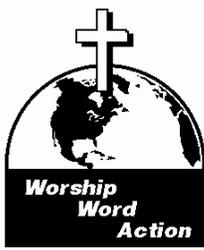
“Live in peace with one another. ¹⁴ We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.” ¹ Thessalonians 5:13-15

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch

Forest Hills EFC Calendar

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 AWANA/FAMILY NIGHT 5:45-8 6:30 pm Bible Study	2	3	4 8:00 am Men Pray
5 Lord's Supper Prayer for Russ and Laura Dedication 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	6 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm CE MTG	7	8 AWANA/FAMILY NIGHT 5:45-8 6:30 pm Bible Study	9 7:00 pm Elders MTG	10	11 8:00 am Men Pray
12 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	13 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	14 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	15 AWANA/FAMILY NIGHT 5:45-8 6:30 pm Bible Study	16 7:00 pm Council MTG	17 Valentine's Dinner@ Franchesco's	18 8:00 am Men Pray 1:00 pm Scandroli's - Fellowship Hall
19 Mary Pulliam - One Body Collaborative - Missions Moment 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	20 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	21	22 AWANA/FAMILY NIGHT 5:45-8 6:30 pm Bible Study	23 12:00 pm Goldenagers	24	25 8:00 am Men Pray
26 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	27 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	28				



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