



**May  
2017**

# Forest Hills EFC Messenger

5183 Pebble Creek Trail  
Loves Park, IL 61111

**WWW.FHEFC.ORG**

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**Phone: 815-877-1919**



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

- May 1          Joni Lownsdale
- May 3          Mitch Sayler
- May 5          Danny Lopez
- May 9          Linnea Sayler
- May 11        Vera Bochert  
Fred Gangel
- May 14        Tony Thode
- May 19        Rick Dray
- May 21        Kody Leathers
- May 26        Nicci Leathers
- May 28        Jack Allman

## Annual Meeting

May 21<sup>st</sup> 4 p.m.

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday Morning

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

### Wednesdays

6:30 Adult Bible Study

## A Necessary Reminder

by Betty Burnell

Someone shared a Facebook post that stuck with me in such a vivid real way that I thought you all might benefit from its impact as well.

It started off with a professor that decided to hand out an assignment to his students. Each student received the exact same piece of 8 ½ by 11 white piece of paper that had a dime sized solid black dot in the center. They were told to take the sheet home and formulate an essay on what they saw.

When the students returned their essays, the professor noted that each student painstakingly detailed everything they could think of about the black dot in the middle.

The professor then asked the students why none of them thought to construct an essay on the white part of the paper that surrounded the black dot. He then went on to point out that it is human nature to always zero in on the black or difficult parts of life and that by doing so we miss many of the blessings that surround the black dot.

James 1:17 says "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

Try not to become so focused on the negative sides of life (the black dot) that you neglect to see all the blessings and good gifts (the entire white page surrounding the black dot) Be hyper alert to all the blessings sifted and spread in abundance around the black dot. And don't forget to give God thanks for those blessings which, if you really think about it, far outweigh the stressful bad parts of life.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! And remember this too... that even the black dots that are meant for our harm, our great God can turn into good fortune that benefit and aid us and others. Look at this verse ... actually don't just look at it ... memorize it.

Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." In other words, you can ad lib and say this black dot (whatever it is ... cancer, relationship problems, financial problems ... you fill in the blank... was meant to harm you, BUT GOD INTENDED IT FOR GOOD TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT IS NOW BEING DONE! Our black dots cant' hurt us ... they will actually help us and others. PRAISE THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE WHO NEVER HAS ANYTHING BUT OUR BEST INTEREST AT HEART! How can we not love HIM with all of our being!!!

## Now What Am I Supposed To Do?

I had someone ask the other day, "What am I supposed to be doing?" The context was a conversation about serving the Lord and the Church.

Many books have been written about what we should be doing for the Lord as Christians. If I were to summarize most of these books they in one way or another say this: Christians like sharks will die if they stop moving. Some are subtle and others not so subtle. It makes no difference if we are talking about individuals or the local church, but here is the implication, when in doubt do something. The problem is all too often we become so busy doing things for the Lord that we fail to take the time to actually listen to Him.

Please understand, this is not an admonition to do nothing, but it is an admonition to do those things the Lord directs us to do. The resulting list of the Lord's admonitions may not look like we are doing much, but it may surprisingly result in a greater effectiveness. To say it another way, it is possible to be more efficient in our labors because we are following the direction of the Lord.

A good place to start is to consider what the Scriptures exhort us to do as followers of Jesus Christ. Let's consider a couple passages to get us started.

*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. <sup>9</sup> Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. <sup>12</sup> This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I*

*have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do what I command you. John 15:1-14*

- We resist this because we do not really understand what it means to "abide in Christ." Another way to say this is to learn to depend on Christ more. We must stay connected to Him in the same way a branch must stay connected to the vine to stay alive and bear fruit.
- We are called to glorify God by not only abiding but bearing fruit. Fruit is naturally produced by those who are connected to Christ in a loving dependent relationship. It is primarily evidenced by our love for the Lord and one another.

*<sup>14</sup> We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always; <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing; <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit; <sup>20</sup> do not despise prophetic utterances. <sup>21</sup> But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22*

This passage exhorts us to the following activities:

- Admonish those who misbehave and encourage those who are discouraged and suffering
- Help the weak and be patient with everyone
- Do not seek revenge but seek what is good for each and every person
- Learn to rejoice in all things and pray constantly – giving thanks to God
- Do not quench the Holy Spirit – Do not be a wet blanket on the movement and power of the Holy Spirit – Do not despise the word of the Lord spoken through His servants
- Evaluate everything carefully and diligently while holding fast to what is good and abstaining from all forms of evil

If you are looking for something to do, try starting here.

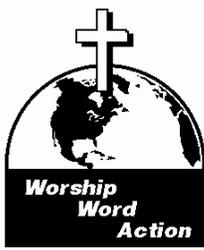
In His Grip & Grace  
Pastor Mitch

Contacting Pastor Mitch  
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Blog: IHGG.NET

# Forest Hills EFC Calendar

# May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm CE MTG 7:30 pm Annual Reports Due	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Audra Freeze -- CC uses Fellowship Hall</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>7</b> <b>Lord's Supper</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>8</b> 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>9</b> 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>11</b> 11:30 am Elders MTG	<b>12</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>13</b> 8:00 am Men Pray 12:00 pm Ladies Luncheon
<b>14</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship  <b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Council MTG	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>20</b> 8:00 am Men Pray 9:00 am Church Work Day
<b>21</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship 4:00 pm Annual Meeting  <b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>25</b> 12:00 pm Goldenagers	<b>26</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>28</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>29</b> <b>Setup for Harvest Time Sale -- Fellowship Hall</b>  <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Setup for Harvest Time Sale -- Fellowship Hall</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Setup for Harvest Time Sale -- Fellowship Hall</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>June 1</b>  <b>Harvest Time Sale</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>Harvest Time Sale</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>Harvest Time Sale</b>



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# May Newsletter