



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

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June Newsletter

Forest Hills EFC Calendar

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Harvest Time Sale @ Forest Hills	2 Pastor's Study Day Harvest Time Sale @ Forest Hills	3 Harvest Time Sale @ Forest Hills 8:00 am Men Pray
4 Lord's Supper 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	5 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm CE MTG	6	7 6:30 pm Bible Study	8	9 Pastor's Study Day	10 Tim & Sarah's Wedding Day 8:00 am Men Pray
11 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	12 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	13 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	14 6:30 pm Bible Study	15 Gingerwood Meeting 5:15pm	16 Pastor's Study Day	17 8:00 am Men Pray
18 Father's Day 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	19 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	20 7:00 pm Council MTG	21 6:30 pm Bible Study	22	23 Pastor's Study Day	24 8:00 am Men Pray
25 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	26 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	27	28 6:30 pm Bible Study	29 12:00 pm Goldenagers	30 Pastor's Study Day	



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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.

- June 3 Charlotte Reynolds
- June 5 Jack Bouma
- June 8 Tami Hardin
- June 11 Mallory Leathers
- June 16 Sarah Hood
- June 20 Thelma Ladenberger
- June 26 Lauren Sayler

Church Picnic
July 22nd

Professions of Faith
Concert
August 12th 2 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

Life Dished Up Rotten Cherries Now what?

By Betty Burnell

Life is often times confusing, upsetting and frustrating. You see, God's plan rarely lines up with what I want. I want comfort. I want prosperity. I want security. I want health. I want a perfect mate & family. I want peace & harmony. I want safety. I want order. And the list goes on ... Isaiah 55:8-9 says "For my (God's) thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. It goes on to say that **God's ways and thoughts are HIGHER** than ours. So, we don't always understand because we do not have the mind of GOD. So, when life dishes up rotten cherries, do I start looking at God as if He has failed me? Is my/your stance ... I will follow you Jesus, only if life is easy? Be honest ... Is it? Job 2:10 says "...Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?"

I have to admit ... I have been here ... I love Jesus and all the grand things He has to offer! But when life starts going south, it makes it harder to follow. I start thinking I would have done things different than God on many many occasions ... but how egotistical and foolish to think that finite little me could trump God's awesome foreknowledge and marvelous plan. So as hard as it is, I swallow my pride and ask forgiveness and come back to Jesus feet ... begging for His grace! That is the only place to find solace in a world where many of my dreams have been crushed. We are in this world of sin and yuck ... and I don't know about you but I'd rather be in God's hand and deal with the disappointments of life than out of His hand dealing with them. And the best part of all: God promises that life of comfort, prosperity, security, health, where perfection and harmony are constant companions forever... but death is necessary to receive these elements in their perfect form. Praise God! Life the way it was originally intended is still possible. Even here on earth we see glimpses of these wonderful gifts, but just think someday we will experience this 100% forever in heaven!

But while I still live this earthly life, I will continue to say thy will not mine" Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Why ... because God's thoughts are HIGHER than mine. Always have been, always will be ... so I continue to TRUST HIM! He knows what HE'S doing even when all the circumstances and evidences make us question!

Making Connections Between Culture and Faith

The challenge that lies before the Church in our days is recognizing the shift taking place in our culture and understanding how that connects to our faith. I personally had one of those moments not too long ago, which when I finally saw it clearly, helped make sense of the connections between cultural shift and a parallel shift we are experiencing in the Church.

Here is what became clear in my mind, and let me try to explain to you why I am concerned about it. This may only reveal my insanity or slowness of mind, but the thought occurred to me:

We have become a people who believe we should have laws only to curb or restrict other people.

Implied in this statement is the underlying truth:

I believe I should not have any rules or restrictions applied to my life.

Which when translated into today's language is:

I am free to do as I please. Or, I have the right to do whatever I want.

A recent survey by Lifeway Research confirms this idea. They found that "Personal Independence" or personal freedom is the most treasured value in the United States.

Here is where the problem comes in for us as a nation. When 330 million people each do what they want, exerting their rights and freedoms, eventually opposing viewpoints and actions are going to come into conflict. Imagine what that means if we expand it to the more than 7 billion people living on our planet?

Having differing opinions and conflicting actions is not new, but how we deal with those conflicts is changing. Where we used to have civil discussions and debates, now we shout over the voices of our opponents. Where we used to listen to the views of our opponents and use logic and reason to counter those arguments in a civil manner, now we yell, push, shove and threaten those who do not share our views. We do not even have the courtesy to listen to our opponents before we get up and walk out or start a fight.

I am trying to figure out how the people who insist on their rights being protected are the very same people who trample on the very same rights of others. For example, we as Americans insist on protecting the Constitutional right to free speech, but as soon as someone with whom we disagree begins to speak, we shout them down, walk out or begin to riot. We have lost a fundamental sense that the rights of one individual must also be conferred on all other individuals. If we are going to fight for the rights of one, then we must fight for the rights of all equally. But we seem to have lost this perspective. Author, Michael

Connelly's hard nose detective Harry Bosch has a great saying, "Everyone counts or nobody counts."

Here is where all of this intersects with the Church and Faith.

As American Christians, all too often we are Americans first and Christians second. We want to apply the current cultural standards to the Biblical standards that have not changed in 2000 years. The result is treating the Bible more like a buffet than going to a friend's house for dinner. When we go to the buffet, it is our prerogative to pick and choose what we want to eat, but when we go to a friend's house we should eat whatever is served to us without complaining or asking for something else. When we treat the Bible like a buffet, then we pick and choose what is palatable to us, and we just pass on the rest. But the Bible is not a buffet! God has given us His Word in its entirety to reveal Himself to us and to instruct us in the right way to live. There is not one verse in the Bible that is optional.

God does not offer the luxury to pick and choose what to believe. He is who He is, and He is not going to change to make us more comfortable with who He is. This requires us to approach the Bible with humility and a willingness to bend to what God tells us about Himself. The goal of all honest study must be to understand what He is saying about Himself, not to make Him fit our expectations and desires.

There are many cultural issues as well as deep issues of our faith on which we are seeing a shift in the Church because we are infected with this spirit of independence and freedom to do and think as we please. While I affirm the Constitution grants this right to every American, the Bible does not grant this right to every individual. God calls us to conform to Him and His teaching.

What we believe about the nature and character of God, how He works and what He expects of us has a dramatic effect on what we believe about the origin of life on Earth. What we believe about God's role in creation affects how we view issues of our humanity, life and death, gender and sexuality. What we believe about God affects whether we live following His directions and plans or we live trying to prove something to Him and winning His favor. What we believe about God makes a dramatic difference about what we believe happens after we die – does everyone go to heaven or is there really a judgment of every human being according to God's absolute standards?

This all starts with the question, will we humbly come to Him and His Word to learn from Him or will we try to bend Him to our desires?

**In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch**

Contacting Pastor Mitch

Call or Text

(815) 391-3133

Email: mitch@mitchss.com

Blog: IHGG.NET