



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

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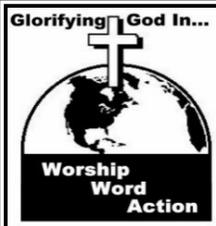
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July Newsletter

Forest Hills EFC Calendar

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Pastor on Vacation 8:00 am Men Pray
2 Lord's Supper Pastor on Vacation Phil Kloster Pulpit Fill & Sunday School 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	3 Pastor on Vacation 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm CE MTG	4 Pastor on Vacation Independence Day	5 Pastor on Vacation 6:30 pm Bible Study	6 Pastor on Vacation	7 Pastor on Vacation	8 Pastor on Vacation 8:00 am Men Pray
9 Pastor on Vacation Phil Kloster Pulpit Fill & Sunday School 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	10 Pastor on Vacation 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am 5-Day Club @ FHEFC	11 Pastor on Vacation 10:00 am 5-Day Club @ FHEFC 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	12 Pastor on Vacation 10:00 am 5-Day Club @ FHEFC 6:30 pm Bible Study	13 Pastor on Vacation 10:00 am 5-Day Club @ FHEFC 11:30 am Elders MTG @ John's Restaurant	14 Pastor's Study Day 10:00 am 5-Day Club @ FHEFC	15 8:00 am Men Pray
16 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	17 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	18 Council MTG 7 p.m.	19 6:30 pm Bible Study	20 7:00 pm Gingerwood uses Fellowship Hall	21 Pastor's Study Day Timber-lee Golf Outing @ Hawk's View	22 10 a.m. Church picnic - Olson Farm Park Swedish Heritage Shelter 8:00 am Men Pray
23 Meyerdirks -- Sunday School & Pulpit Fill 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	24 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	25	26 6:30 pm Bible Study	27 12:00 pm Goldenagers	28 Pastor's Study Day	29 8:00 am Men Pray
30 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	31 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study					



**July
2017**

Forest Hills EFC Messenger

5183 Pebble Creek Trail
Loves Park, IL 61111

WWW.FHEFC.ORG

Email: office@fhefc.org

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

- July 1 Lori Evans
- July 2 Don Swanson
- July 3 Julie Nyberg
- July 5 Alan Tatarsky
- July 7 Emmit Moore
- Charity Leathers
- July 13 Ethan Leathers
- July 15 Larry Feehan
- July 18 Dennis Neubauer
- July 20 Dave Alfredson
- July 28 Cris Lopez
- July 30 Tim Clow

Annual Church Picnic Saturday July 22nd

at

**Olson Farm Park
Swedish Heritage Shelter**



**Meet & Beverages provided
Bring a salad, fruit or dessert to share**

Picnic starts at 10 a.m – Lunch served at noon

Professions of Faith Concert

August 12th 2 p.m.

LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE by Betty Burnell

Remember the song we used to sing ... Love Love Love Love ... the gospel in a word is Love... Love your neighbor as your brother ... love love love.

I think we have forgotten that Jesus calls us to love. I see it in our society. When we wrong each other, we are so cold and distant and angry and ready to get revenge or withhold forgiveness. What ever happened to "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Matthew 7:12 How do you want to be treated when you've screwed up? Think about that and then extend that to others. I think we have forgotten the very basics of what makes the Christian gospel work. People respond to love and forgiveness. I'm not saying that we never address our sin. But let's address sin with the sole purpose of bringing healing to not only our relationship with God but our relationships to each other. And honestly, when someone does something wrong do we ever take into account if it's a one time oops or if it's a repetitive IM NOT GONNA CHANGE EVER deal. There is a difference. And how we deal with that difference is important. The depth and grievousness of the sin should not be the determining factor either as God holds the most awful sin we can think of to the same standard as the tiniest sin we can think of. His standard is completely HOLY.

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

My heart just cries when I see young couples today ... many caught up in a very destructive lifestyle but I truly believe that JESUS is still very capable of changing hearts of stone into hearts that melt. We are NOT throw away people. We all sin. That's why JESUS is so very important. And HIS example is one to be followed. He loves and forgives and loves again but always works towards a change that promotes peace with God first, then ourselves, and then that very peace flows out to others.

Why The Gospel Is Good News

Why is the Gospel “Good News”?

How would you respond to this question?

Many Christians would give a variety of answers. It causes me to wonder if people even know why the Gospel is “Good News”, and if they struggle to answer this question, do they even know what the Gospel is?

The Gospel is “Good News” because the literal meaning of Gospel is “Good News”, and the Gospel is “Good News” because it is the message from God to humanity how He has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to save those who have broken His perfect standards from His perfect justice. The challenge is the good news of the Gospel is not good news unless there is bad news as well. As with so many truths, the hardest part is the bad news comes at the beginning, but if you never hear there is bad news, the good news will never make any sense.

The Bad News: We have all violated God’s Perfect Standards

Throughout the Scriptures, God reveals Himself, and in particular, He makes His character known through the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20: (The Short Version)

1. You shall have no other gods before Me
2. You shall not make or worship any idols
3. You shall not take the name of God in vain
4. Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy
5. Honor your father and mother
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness
10. You shall not covet

Every person has violated each of these commandments. The perfect and just God must punish those who violate His perfect standards. This is the essence of Romans 3:23 “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” To sin is to violate God’s commands. The punishment sinners deserve is death. This is at the heart of Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death.” Each person who sins justly earns a death sentence.

This is very bad news! For God to fail in bringing justice would remove His right to proclaim Himself perfectly just. If every human being has broken God’s commandments, then every human being is condemned by the commandments of God.

The Good News: God is not only perfectly just, He is also perfectly merciful

Now that we have heard the Bad News, the Good News makes more sense. The perfectly just God is also perfectly merciful by forgiving those who look to Him for forgiveness. Knowing sinful people could not save themselves, God sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to live a perfect life, so He could die in place of those

who trust Jesus has become their substitute. This is the meaning of Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Jesus has become the substitute for those who trust in His death as well as believing He has become their substitute in rising from the dead. In Jesus, sinners die to self and sin and now they live to God by Jesus’ resurrection.

The Good News is not the Easy News

Here comes the challenge of the good news. What God accomplishes in the lives of believers by faith in Jesus Christ, should result in real changes. Real faith ought to produce real results. It works only in one direction though. Real results do not save believers, but they are the evidence of a changed heart and mind. This change of heart and mind is called repentance. If the change is real, the evidence of that change should be present. Where there is no evidence of change, then it should call into question whether the change of heart and mind were real.

Two evidences of real change are found in Romans 10:9-10 “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” Verbal testimony of belief in Jesus to others and a genuine belief that Jesus rose from the dead should be the first evidences of saving faith. To lack these first two signs of transformation is to fall short of salvation. To be clear we are not saved by confessing Jesus as Lord, but every saved person should gladly and verbally own Jesus as their savior. The person who is unwilling to verbally give allegiance to Jesus Christ is giving evidence they do not truly believe in Him.

Only The Beginning

While these are the essential elements of the Gospel, ultimately the evidence of true salvation in Jesus Christ is given by a continuing growth and maturing in understanding and faith. There are many things a person does not need to know to initially be saved, but if they are truly in a growing relationship with Jesus, then they should grow in knowledge of who Jesus is. They should also have evidences that are consistent with growing in their relationship with Jesus. As Jesus says in John 15:5, “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.”

How’s your fruit?

In His Grip & Grace Pastor Mitch

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