



**August
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.

- August 1 John Pagani
- August 2 Ian Leathers
- August 8 Larry Driggs
- August 9 Adrian Dickson
- August 10 Phil Kloster
- August 14 Katelyn Meyerdirk
- August 18 Haley Meyerdirk
Katie Neubauer
- August 19 Greg Sandberg
- August 21 Billie Simms
- August 22 Carol Dickson
- August 23 Diane Newman
- August 24 Eli Evans
Carolyn Hunt
- August 30 Julianna Lownsdale

Be Glad NOT Sad

by Betty Burnell

Round 3 ... Cancer has three points so far. The gloves cancer wears are large and powerful and when they hit, you know it! It keeps coming back knocking me to the ground. But what I want folk to know is that cancer could take me into the ring and beat me until I die BUT I will still win! Jesus is victorious over death!: I Cor 15:55 "Where O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

So whether I live or die is not the point. To me, death is a gift ... that's why God made sure that the "tree of life" in the original Garden of Eden was unattainable for us. Gen 3: 22 That tree of life would have trapped us into a this earthly life of constant struggle with no relief FOREVER. What an awful thought! Jesus knew that living in this world that has fallen so far into sin and away from HIM would make us miserable FOREVER. But God, had a more loving plan for us. He sent Jesus to pay our penalty for sin, and deliver us safely to heaven to live forever the way we were intended to live ...in perfect harmony with HIM and each other. No sin, No strife, No pain, No sorrow, No struggles ever again. Rev. 21:4 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

So if this is the case, why is it so hard to let go of this life we know here on earth? Because I have struggled sometimes. It is the fear of the unknown. It is saying "goodbye" to all those we love and those who have loved us. What's hardest for me is watching my loved ones and friends with that look in their eye and the looming question that goes unspoken ... "How are we gonna live without you in our lives?" But honestly we don't live on without anyone ... they remain in our hearts and memories forever. So with that said, lets learn to rejoice tin he gift of death and remember that for those who love and believe in Jesus ... Death really isn't death at all ... John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me (Jesus) will LIVE, even though they die.;"

PRAISE GOD !!! Death is NOT the end ... It is a NEW beginning! So I'm begging you to make your relationship right with God by believing and accepting Jesus free gift of salvation so we can all be together someday in heaven and continue in perfect harmonious love and friendship.

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

AWANA will be starting again in September. Watch for more details.

Contacting Pastor Mitch

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

Professions of Faith

Concert

August 12th 2 p.m.

The Nature of Faith

Every person who believes the Gospel affirms the words of Ephesians 2:

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10

While we agree that we are saved by God's grace through faith, we are not so sure about the nature of faith. What is faith? Is it something we work up in ourselves? Does it magically appear out of nowhere? What part do we have in faith? What part does God have in bringing us to faith?

So What Is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6 says...

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the men of old gained approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. ... 6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is assurance of things hoped for..." Webster's 1828 Dictionary definition of assurance: "Firm persuasion; full confidence or trust; freedom from doubt; certain expectation; the utmost certainty." Notice assurance is not something we "work up", faith is someone persuading us. Who is persuading us or assuring us? God is persuading us and assuring us. Faith is God bringing us to the point of being fully persuaded that what He has promised will come true.

Hebrews 11:1 also says, "Faith is the conviction of things not seen." Webster's 1828 Dictionary definition of conviction: "The act of convincing, or compelling one to admit the truth of a charge." Again we see conviction is not something we do, but it is something someone is doing to us. Who is convincing us of the truth of the Gospel? God is the one who is speaking to us by His Word, His Son, His Holy Spirit, and He speaks to us through fellow believers. The key is conviction is not something we work up, but it is something we arrive at as God convinces us that He is telling us the truth even though we are not able to see it with our physical eyes. Faith is God compelling us to believe Him and all He promises

Faith is not something we create, but it is the natural response of those in whom God is at work. It is God's work in our hearts and minds. God does not ask us to create faith within ourselves; instead, He is actively persuading us of His truthfulness.

Faith Is Placed Not In A Fact Or Truth But In A Person

As we understand the nature of faith, sooner or later we must come to understand our faith is not in a promise or a truth, but our faith is placed in a person, Jesus Christ. Those who do not understand faith might suggest the Gospel is just a matter of indoctrination or a mantra repeated until we believe it. But this could not be farther from the truth. Faith is the conviction we have that God is speaking the truth when He confronts us with our sinfulness and promises mercy to those who place their trust in Jesus Christ. The Gospel is not a mantra or a magical incantation. It is an invitation to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ based on His promises to save us from the wrath of God towards our sins (Romans 3:10-26; 6:23) and He is preparing a place for us to live with Him for Eternity (John 14:1-6). Our faith is not in the words of the promise, but our faith is placed in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again to redeem us to Himself.

The necessity of faith comes in when we ask the question so many non-believers do: How do we know He is telling us the truth? God has spoken to us through His Son (Hebrews 1), and He has persuaded us all He says in His word is true (Hebrews 11:1).

This is exactly what Abraham experienced in Genesis 15.

2 Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." 4 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." 5 And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:2-6

God spoke to Abraham, promising He would give Abram a child from his own body. Abraham believed God was speaking the truth. He believed God could and would keep His word. Abraham had faith in God. God counted Abraham's belief/trust/faith as righteousness. Not that Abraham was righteous, but God credited Abraham's faith as righteousness. Abraham gets no credit for what God persuaded him to believe, but Abraham does receive an even greater gift, salvation.

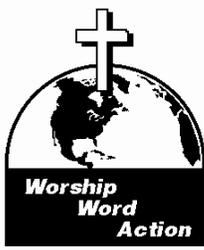
This shows us faith is not just believing the Gospel, faith is believing God is telling the truth, and faith is believing God will keep His promise to save us from ourselves and our sins. Faith is persuaded that God is a keeper of His promises.

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch

Forest Hills EFC Calendar

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:30 pm Bible Study	3	4 Pastor's Study Day	5 8:00 am Men Pray
6 Lord's Supper 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	7 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm CE MTG	8 Pastor's Study Break 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	9 Pastor's Study Break 6:30 pm Bible Study	10 Pastor's Study Break 11:30 am Elders MTG @ John's Restaurant	11 Pastor's Study Break Pastor's Study Day	12 Pastor's Study Break Professions of Faith Concert 2pm 8:00 am Men Pray
13 Pastor's Study Break Phil Kloster Pulpit Fill & Sunday School 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	14 Pastor's Study Break 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	15 Pastor's Study Break 7:00 pm Council MTG	16 Pastor's Study Break 6:30 pm Bible Study	17 Pastor's Study Break	18 Pastor's Study Break Pastor's Study Day	19 Pastor's Study Break 8:00 am Men Pray
20 Pastor's Study Break Pulpit Fill - Greg Sandberg Sunday School Eric & Katie Neubauer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	21 Pastor's Study Break 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	22	23 6:30 pm Bible Study	24	25 Pastor's Study Day	26 8:00 am Men Pray
27 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	28 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	29 5:00 pm One Body Collabrative	30 6:30 pm Bible Study	31 12:00 pm Goldenagers		



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

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROCKFORD, IL
PERMIT NO. 52

August Newsletter