



**September
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.

- September 4 Florence Sandberg
- September 8 David Beard
Cyndi Zills
- September 15 Kim Rice
- September 17 Grace Smith
- September 22 Velma Clark
- September 26 Sarah Thode
- September 28 Caroline Swanson

Family Night Resumes Wednesday September 13th



**AWANA Clubs 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
3 years old thru High School**

Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Contacting Pastor Mitch

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

No Matter What Friendship by Betty Burnell

With my cancer, one day I was a balloon being inflated beyond what you ever thought possible. It literally feels like your belly could explode. The next day you are deflating with flatulence expelling and squeaking out any way any chance it can get. And sometimes the gut calms and others it becomes your worst enemy. You learn to swallow your pride as you place these oversized diapers on the body instead of normal 100 percent cotton totally comfortable underwear and you pray that you make it to the restrooms in time.

At any given second your body can succumb to the worst embarrassment ever or carry you through to safety. No one can ever get this until their body has betrayed them in this fashion.

The beauty of it all is that even when 99 percent of your conversation goes to poop, your friends stay steady and true hanging on your every word to see how they can pray for you and how they might help you in these times of dismay.

This must be what the verse meant in Proverbs 18:24 said "... a true friend sticks closer than a brother." Whether life turns wonderful or to a pile of poo ... true friends are there! Always listening, praying, helping and encouraging. And yes at times laughing so hard you could roll on the floor! Just like our Savior, if the subject matter is important to you, it is important to them. And they stay faithful through the thick and thin.

Friends like these do not come easy so when you find them. KEEP THEM! They are a blessing and gift from above! And I gotta say, you guys have done great hanging in there with all my deplorable details which I try to splash out in more pleasing ways so you don't get too grossed out. Thanks for being awesome and understanding and encouraging and engaging and JUST PLAIN WONDERFUL.

God Bless you all! Each and every one! Cannot even tell you in words how much each of you mean to me!

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning

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

Wednesdays

- 6:30 AWANA Clubs
- 6:30 Adult Bible Study

AWANA will be starting again on
September 13th. Watch for more details.

The Gospel, Race & Repentance

It is interesting to see how many times the events of life and what we have been studying in God's Word come to an intersection. What makes this particular intersection even more interesting is the number of roads leading into it.

1. Preaching on Galatians 3:25-29

²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise. Galatians 3:25-29

As I have underlined in the above passage, we are reminded one of the results of the Gospel is a unifying force under the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. Not one of us will enter heaven because of any good thing we have done, and not one of us can claim to deserve the grace and mercy of the Gospel. When we think of all the categories creating controversy and anxiety in our world, for many of them (not all) the side we take will not get us into heaven or keep us out. Only faith in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection for our sins will open the door of salvation for us. Race, ethnicity, socioeconomic position, and gender are irrelevant to the question: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

It is harder for us to see how sin also has an equalizing force, but in God's eyes we are all equally sinners. None of us can claim to be less sinful than anyone else. In the same way, no one is going to Hell because of the many categories and views that divide us. Each and every person who spends eternity in Hell will be there because they have sinned against a Holy and Righteous God. Race, ethnicity, socioeconomic position, and gender do not include us or exclude us from the righteous judgment of God.

2. Reading on Study Break: *The Doctrine of Repentance* by Thomas Watson

This is one of the books I have been reading over Study Break. It is an excellent examination and explanation of repentance. Thomas Watson lived in the 1600's and is considered one of the great Puritan writers of that era. This is a surprisingly easy read for a theology book, and I

highly recommend the audible.com audio version of this book if you struggle with reading books like this. It may be the similarity the way the author writes to my own style of thinking, teaching and preaching.

This is a wonderful exposition on the Theology of Repentance as a turning from sin and turning to God in all things. He also has a number of other excellent writings worthy of your consideration.

3. Phil Kloster preached on Acts 3

Without any collusion between Phil and myself, he preached an excellent sermon on repentance from Acts 3 on August 13th. I have put the audio from his sermon up on our website www.fhefc.org. This was not an accident or coincidence. Instead it demonstrates how God works in many hearts and minds to speak to His people.

4. Charlottesville and many other events

We are sadly watching the crumbling of our culture as we watch various groups grow in hatred and the violent expression of opposing viewpoints. Jesus made it very clear that anyone who harbors hatred in his heart or even speaks words of hatred and anger is guilty of murder in God's eyes.

²¹ "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Matthew 5:21-22

Certainly those who act in violence and hatred are guilty, but did you catch Jesus' words about being angry or calling names or categorizing others in a pejorative way?

It raises the age-old question: What am I harboring in my heart? How have I talked to my brother, sister, mother, father, children, wife, boss, enemy...? Repentance is something each of us needs to continually seek!

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch

Forest Hills EFC Calendar

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pastor Teaches AM Pastor's Study Day	2 8:00 am Men Pray
3 Lord's Supper 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	4 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm CE MTG	5 Pastor Teaches AM	6 6:30 pm AWANA Leaders Meeting 6:30 pm Bible Study	7	8 Pastor Teaches AM Pastor's Study Day	9 8:00 am Men Pray 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
10 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	11 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	12 Pastor Teaches AM 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	13 AWANA Begins 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Bible Study	14 11:30 am Elders MTG @ John's Restaurant	15 Pastor Teaches AM Pastor's Study Day 4:00 pm Brooke Sievert - Fellowship Hall -	16 8:00 am Men Pray
17 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	18 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	19 Pastor Teaches AM	20 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Bible Study	21 7:00 pm Council MTG	22 Pastor Teaches AM Pastor's Study Day	23 8:00 am Men Pray
24 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	25 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	26 Pastor Teaches AM	27 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Bible Study	28 12:00 pm Goldenagers	29 Pastor Teaches AM Pastor's Study Day	30 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am Men Pray



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Awana CLUBS



AWANA Clubs 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
3 years old thru High School

Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

September Newsletter