

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

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# October Newsletter

# Forest Hills Evangelical Free Church

# October 2018

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday                      | Saturday                      |
|---|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
|   | <b>1 Pastor's Study Day</b><br>9:30 am Ladies Bible Study<br>1:30 pm Art Class - Dining Area<br>3:00 pm Lego League uses Fellowship Hall<br>7:00 pm CE MTG                         | <b>2 Pastor Teaches AM</b>  | <b>3</b><br>9:30 am Art Class - Dining Area<br>1:00 pm Art Class - Dining Area<br>6:30 pm AWANA<br>6:30 pm Bible Study                                  | <b>4 Pastor's Day Off</b>                          | <b>5</b>                    | <b>6</b><br>8:00 am Men Pray  |
| <b>7 Lord's Supper</b><br><b>White Christmas MM</b><br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:00 am Fellowship<br>10:25 am Worship | <b>8 Pastor's Study Day</b><br><b>Columbus Day (regional holiday)</b><br>9:30 am Ladies Bible Study<br>1:30 pm Art Class - Dining Area<br>3:00 pm Lego League uses Fellowship Hall | <b>9 Pastor Teaches AM</b><br>12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg<br>12:00 pm Missions Mtg | <b>10</b><br>9:30 am Art Class - Dining Area<br>1:00 pm Art Class - Dining Area<br>6:30 pm AWANA<br>6:30 pm Bible Study                                 | <b>11 Pastor's Day Off</b>                         | <b>12 Pastor Teaches AM</b> | <b>13</b><br>8:00 am Men Pray |
| <b>14 Dicksons MM</b><br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:00 am Fellowship<br>10:25 am Worship                               | <b>15 Pastor's Study Day</b><br>9:30 am Ladies Bible Study<br>1:30 pm Art Class - Dining Area<br>3:00 pm Lego League uses Fellowship Hall  | <b>16</b>   | <b>17</b><br>9:30 am Art Class - Dining Area<br>1:00 pm Art Class - Dining Area<br>6:30 pm AWANA<br>6:30 pm Bible Study                                 | <b>18 Pastor's Day Off</b><br>7:00 pm Council MTG  | <b>19 Pastor Teaches AM</b> | <b>20</b><br>8:00 am Men Pray |
| <b>21 Minchs SS &amp; Preach &amp; Potluck</b><br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:00 am Fellowship<br>10:25 am Worship      | <b>22 Pastor's Study Day</b><br>9:30 am Ladies Bible Study<br>1:30 pm Art Class - Dining Area<br>3:00 pm Lego League uses Fellowship Hall  | <b>23 Pastor Teaches AM</b>   | <b>24</b><br>9:30 am Art Class - Dining Area<br>1:00 pm Art Class - Dining Area<br>6:30 pm AWANA<br>6:30 pm Bible Study                                 | <b>25 Pastor's Day Off</b><br>12:00 pm Goldenagers | <b>26 Pastor Teaches AM</b> | <b>27</b><br>8:00 am Men Pray |
| <b>28 David Russell SS &amp; MM</b><br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:00 am Fellowship<br>10:25 am Worship                 | <b>29 Pastor's Study Day</b><br>9:30 am Ladies Bible Study<br>1:30 pm Art Class - Dining Area<br>3:00 pm Lego League uses Fellowship Hall  | <b>30 Pastor Teaches AM</b>   | <b>31 NO AWANA</b><br><b>Halloween</b><br>9:30 am Art Class - Dining Area<br>1:00 pm Art Class - Dining Area<br>6:30 pm Bible Study<br>6:30 pm NO AWANA |  |                             |                               |



**October  
2018**

**Forest Hills EFC Messenger  
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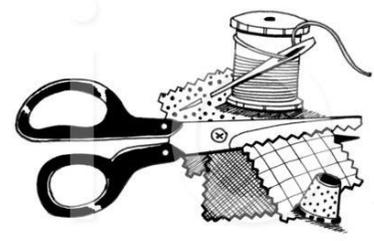
**WWW.FHEFC.ORG      Email: office@fhefc.org  
Office: 815-877-1919    Pastor: 815-391-3133**



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

- October 1      Layla Swenson
- October 4      Jean Alfredson
- October 6      Brandon Leathers
- October 13     Kylie Swenson
- October 15     Nathan Reynolds
- October 16     Dale Anderson
- October 25     Randy Newman
- October 30     Marilyn Miller
- October 31     Scott Lownsdale

## QUILTS FOR THE HOMELESS



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We are currently making quilts to be given to the homeless of Rockford. We will also be making quilts next year so we can use your donations anytime. We can use any sheets in like new condition or used blankets – any size, plus fabric suitable for quilting. Thread is also needed. Donations can be placed in the Carpenter's Place basket under the table in the hallway and all donations are greatly appreciated.

### INFORMATION DEADLINES

**Bulletin Announcements**  
Deadline for announcements, please email us or call by 10 a.m. Wednesday

**Newsletter**  
Deadline for the Newsletter, please email by 17<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### Roof-a-Thon at Camp Timber-lee!

Camp Timber-lee is hosting a work day to strip and re-roof Oak Ridge Village on Saturday, October 20, from 8am - 5pm. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks will be provided. Must be 18 or older. Contact Jessica at 262-642-7345, x-272 or jessical@timber-lee.com to sign up. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

### October is Missions Month

- Who's Coming!**
- 7<sup>th</sup> White Christmas Offering
  - 14<sup>th</sup> Adrian & Carol Dickson
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Andy & Audrey Minch & Potluck
  - 28<sup>th</sup> David Russell

## Social Justice and the Gospel

There is lots of talk these days in Evangelical circles about the place of "Social Justice" in the life of the Church. There is a growing divide within Evangelicalism about how important "Social Justice" is to the Gospel. One side is pressing for the Church to be more engaged in "Social Justice" causes, while others are warning "Social Justice" is distracting the Church from Gospel ministry. My reaction is equal parts of encouragement, because we are talking about these matters, and discouragement, because it highlights the struggle to find balance in the Christian life. All of us find it hard to avoid going to extremes on a whole host of issues, so I thought it would be worth considering the place of "Social Justice" in the life and priorities of the Church.

### **Defining "Social Justice"**

BusinessDictionary.com:

The fair and proper administration of laws conforming to the natural law that all persons, irrespective of ethnic origin, gender, possessions, race, religion, etc., are to be treated equally and without prejudice. See also civil rights.

National Association of Social Workers

"Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities."

There seems to be a clear agreement on the idea of fairness, equality and opportunity for every person.

### **What does the Bible say about "Social Justice"?**

"He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8

According to Micah 6:8, God is very concerned about justice. He makes justice one of three priorities for those who worship Him. God is very concerned about people being treated in a manner consistent with justice. But let us be very careful to remember justice is merciless, if applied in its pure and holy form. What would happen if each of us received true justice in every matter? What would happen if we dispensed true justice to everyone we meet? This highlights the danger of seeking justice in every matter. As people who constantly transgress God's holy perfect standards, as well as the agreed upon laws and standards of the society we live in, what does justice look like?

I would argue this is why a clear understanding of justice is necessary. This is also why justice alone cannot answer the problems of our society. There cannot be the kind of justice

we seek in "Social Justice" without both justice and mercy. This is why the Gospel message is one of both justice and mercy. This is also why we need the other two parts of Micah 6:8.

Micah adds to justice, kindness, which I would define as treating others with respect and courtesy without regard for their humanly defined status. As Christians we believe, there is basic innate value in every human being, because they are created in the image of God. When we fail to treat people with kindness, we transgress God's expectations.

Micah does not stop with justice and kindness. He adds, "to walk humbly with your God." In light of our failures "to do justice," and "to love kindness," What hope is there for us as individuals and as a society? Humility calls for us to acknowledge our failings before God, who is holy, righteous and perfectly just. If we are equal, we are equal in our failure before God's holiness, righteousness and justice. Who can hold their head high in light of this truth? In fact, this is the very point James makes in admonishing us to not show favoritism.

"8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well. 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all."

James 2:8-10

I would strongly argue, there is a real place for Christians to pursue justice, but it must be preceded and tempered by the Gospel or it cannot succeed. The truth is we do not want true justice without the tempering of God's mercy. This is why I would prefer not just treating each other equally as we deserve, but we would learn to treat one another with mercy and compassion, just as God has done through Jesus Christ.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"Social Justice" is needed, but it is meaningless without the justice established by Jesus' mercy in the Gospel. I also believe a strong Gospel ministry will make a real difference in the lives of those who transformed by God's mercy.

In His Grip & Grace  
Pastor Mitch