

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

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# March Newsletter

# Forest Hills Evangelical Free Church

# March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Pastor Teaches AM	<b>2</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>3</b> Lord's Supper 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>4</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm CE MTG	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>7</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>8</b> Pastor Teaches AM	<b>9</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>10</b> Daylight Saving Time starts 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>11</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>12</b> Pastor Teaches AM 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>14</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>17</b> CEF MI@ions Moment St. Patrick's Day 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>18</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 1:30 pm Art Class - Dining Area	<b>19</b> Pastor Teaches AM	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>21</b> Pastor's Day Off 7:00 pm Council MTG	<b>22</b> Pastor Teaches AM	<b>23</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>24</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>25</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 1:30 pm Art Class - Dining Area	<b>26</b> Pastor Teaches AM	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>28</b> Pastor's Day Off 12:00 pm Goldenagers	<b>29</b> Pastor Teaches AM	<b>30</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>31</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship						



**March  
2019**

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

**WWW.FHEFC.ORG**

**Email: office@fhefc.org**

**Office: 815-877-1919 Pastor: 815-391-3133**



## **Birthdays This Month**

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

- March 1 Wendy Boehme  
Larissa Lownsdale
- March 3 Jon Leinbaugh  
Lavon Rowell
- March 9 Betty Bouma
- March 13 Sandra Hanson
- March 16 Debbie Gangel
- March 18 Peggy Clow
- March 19 Becky Stubbs
- March 24 Kira Saylor
- March 26 Marie Lane
- March 29 David Tregay
- March 30 Emily Meyerdirk

### **INFORMATION DEADLINES**

#### **Bulletin Announcements**

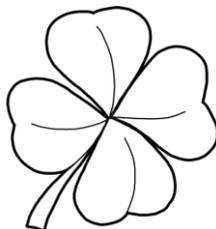
Deadline for announcements, please email us or call by 10 a.m. Wednesday

#### **Newsletter**

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

## *March Events:*

Remember to 'spring' forward at 2 am March 10, 2019 and change your clocks to 3 am.



**St. Patrick's Day is Sunday,  
March 17.**

**First day of Spring is Wednesday, March 20.**

*"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day He created Spring." - Bern Williams*

*"Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world." - Virgil Kraft*

### **MARCH GOLDEN AGERS**

Please join us at noon for lunch at The Stockholm Inn on Thursday, March 28 for good food and fellowship.

## Do Not Despise Little Things

We live in world that believes bigger is always better. Bigger, newer, better, faster, smarter, more expensive are the hallmarks of what we desire. If we do not desire it, then advertisers will help us discover unknown desires and need. Their most powerful phrase is "You deserve..." Afterall, why deny yourself what you deserve? Why would you not want what is bigger, newer, better, faster, smarter or more expensive? You deserve it!

The crisis for the Christian comes when we realize this attitude of "deserving" or entitlement is directly contrary to what the Scriptures teach us about God's economy.

*"The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup> but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt."*  
Deuteronomy 7:7-8

For the nation of Israel, God tells them He chose them not for their great number, but He chose them because they were the fewest of all the peoples. He chose them because He loved them. This may rob Israel of their bragging rights, but in their humility, God's love, mercy and grace are magnified. God reveals His glory in loving those who were least.

This truth is not an anomaly, occurring only once. Instead we find this idea of God's love for the least often repeated.

*"He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing. <sup>19</sup> "So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt."* Deuteronomy 10:18-19

This is not just an Old Testament exception. We find the same ideas reflected in James.

*"Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."* James 1:27

While we recognize the obvious needs of the widow, orphan and outcast, it is critically important to understand this is one of the fundamental ideas of the Gospel.

*"For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* Romans 5:6-8

It is not only the widows, orphan and outcasts who need the love, mercy and grace of God. From pride we try to make ourselves self-sufficient, but God confronts us with the humbling truth that each and everyone of us needs a savior. We are humbled to find out we are people who need more than a little help. Instead He reveals we are rebels against God; enemies of God. Each and every one of us of us has sinned against Him (Romans 3). This reveals a startling and humiliating truth, none of us deserves the love, mercy and grace God gives.

Then why does God save any of us? If we are not good enough or deserving of His love, why would He bother?

*"But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, <sup>5</sup> He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*  
Titus 3:4-7

Thank the Lord He does not operate on the basis of what is bigger, newer, better, faster, smarter or more expensive. He does not evaluate nor value us according to our culture's measures, but our value comes from His determination to love what is unlovely and unworthy.

This leads us to the payoff for this train of thought. If God does not measure the value of people or things the way our culture does, why would we as Christians use our culture's valuations? Perhaps it is time for us to search the Scriptures to discover a different valuation of what matters? This is what encourages me to value the seemingly little things, little tasks or little people. The World may discount them as insignificant or worthless, but God uses a different measure of value. He is calling us to give these things and these people His value. Do not despise little things or people!

In His Grip & Grace  
Pastor Mitch