



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

# May Newsletter

# Forest Hills Evangelical Free Church

# May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>4</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>5</b> <b>Lord's Supper</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>6</b> <b>Pastor's Study Day</b> 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm CE MTG	<b>7</b> <b>Pastor Teaches AM</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>11</b> <b>Men's Breakfast</b> <b>Lori Evans Piano Recital</b> 8:00 am Men Pray 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
<b>12</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>13</b> <b>Pastor's Study Day</b> 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>14</b> 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>18</b> <b>Hallstrom</b> <b>Homeschool</b> <b>Graduation</b> <b>Ceremony -- Use</b> <b>Sanctuary,</b> <b>Fellowship Hall &amp;</b> <b>Dining Area</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>19</b> <b>Annual Meeting</b> <b>Noon Meal &amp;</b> <b>Meeting</b> <b>Missions Moment - Reynolds</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>20</b> <b>Pastor's Study Day</b> 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm Council MTG	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>25</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>26</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>27</b> <b>Pastor's Study Day</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>30</b> 12:00 pm Goldenagers	<b>31</b> Pastor's Day Off	



**May  
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.

May 1	Joni Lownsdale
May 3	Mitch Saylor
May 5	Danny Lopez
May 9	Linnea Saylor
May 11	Fred Gangel
May 14	Tony Thode
May 19	Rick Dray
May 21	Kody Leathers
May 26	Nicci Leathers
May 28	Jack Allman

**MAY GOLDENAGERS**

Please join us at noon for lunch at The Stockholm Inn on Thursday, May 30 for good food and fellowship.

**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

## *May Events:*



**MEN'S  
PRAYER  
BREAKFAST**

**May 11 - Men's Breakfast**

*Please join us at 8 am at the church for breakfast. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer, but please come even if you don't sign-up.*



*Happy  
Mothers  
Day*

**May 12 - Mother's Day**

*Honor your father and mother which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. Ephesians 6:2-3*



*Memorial  
Day*

**May 27 - Memorial Day**

*Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. - John 15:13*

*We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 1 John 3:16*

**May 19 - Pot Luck Lunch & Church Annual Meeting**

We are having a pot luck lunch immediately following the church service. Chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, and green bean casserole will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass or dessert. Please pitch in to help clean up after lunch so we can start the annual meeting as soon as possible after the lunch.

**May 2nd is National Day of Prayer**

**May 7th is Teacher Appreciation Day**

**May 18th is National Armed Forces Day**

**Coming in June - Harvest Time Christian School Sale - 14th & 15th.**

# Whose Are You?

I have been grinding on the direction our culture has been progressing, if you want to call it progress. Is there a common thread that ties together some of the biggest issues we are wrestling with these days? Particularly, I have in mind abortion and the wide range of issues related to our sexuality, but its implications go throughout our lives.

## Let me give a few examples:

- 1) The prevailing justification for our attitudes and behaviors concerning our sexuality is, "It's my body, and I can do as I please with it, as long as it does not hurt someone."
- 2) A student this week answered the question, "Do you believe that a baby who's born alive during an abortion at Planned Parenthood should get care?" The answer given, "Because they're performing an abortion...So ... they've already determined that it's not a baby."
- 3) A student asked what I thought about getting a tattoo. I asked, "Why do you want to get a tattoo?" Her response, "It's my body and I can do what I want."

## What do all of these have in common?

It did not make any sense to me until a federal judge in 2017 suggested the connection between abortion and slavery. I am broadening this to all of these issues, and I am actively looking for others. The judge argued the justification for slavery was the same as the justification for abortion. Slave owners were convinced slaves were not human beings worthy of equal rights and treatment as free people. Women seeking an abortion argue for a right to do as they please with the tissue growing in their womb. A fetus is not a growing person, but the property of the mother.

This reasoning broadens into other areas. My sexuality is no one's business, because my body is my property, and I can do with it as I please. It can be as small as the reasoning, I can get a tattoo, because it is my body, and I can do as I please with it. In the LGBTQ+ world, it is the same reasoning, it is my body, and I can do as I please with it. What I eat, what I drink, what I watch, what I listen to, whether I exercise or not, how I style or color my hair, the clothes I wear and on and on and on.

## Expand this idea into the Realm of Christian Freedom

I hear similar arguments in relation to the liberties we have as Christians. Christians will rightly argue Jesus has set us free.

"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

There are many verses to quote about the freedom Jesus gives us in delivering us from slavery to sin. The question to ask in response to these verses is, does the freedom Christ gives an absolute and total freedom from all boundaries and limitations? Does the freedom we have in Jesus a Christ make us our own masters?

My answer to these questions is a resounding NO! Jesus sets us free bondage to sin and death, but Jesus does not set us free to be our own masters. Instead Jesus sets us free from sin by making us slaves to Him.

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." <sup>1</sup> Corinthians 6:19-20

"For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. <sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." Romans 6:14-18

The truth is no Christian man, woman or child is free to do whatever they please with their body, because they do not belong to themselves. If their sins have been forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ, then they do not belong to themselves but the God of Heaven. The blood of Christ is inseparable from the blessed slavery to a righteous, holy, gracious and merciful God. Christians have liberty and are free, but their freedom is to live under a benevolent king, Jesus Christ.

## Take the argument one step further

The insistence on being the owner and master of oneself is to stand against God's first two commandments:

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before Me. <sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments." Exodus 20:2-6

These commands include making yourself the monarch.

## The Question Remains

Whose are you?

In His Grip & Grace  
Pastor Mitch