



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

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June Newsletter

Forest Hills Evangelical Free Church

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 am Men Pray
2 Lord's Supper 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	3 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm CE MTG	4	5 6:30 pm Bible Study	6	7 Pastor's Day Off	8 8:00 am Men Pray
9 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	10 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	11 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	12 6:30 pm Bible Study	13	14 Harvest Time Sale Pastor's Day Off	15 Harvest Time Sale 8:00 am Men Pray
16 Father's Day 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	17 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	18 7:00 pm Council MTG	19 6:30 pm Bible Study	20	21 Pastor's Day Off	22 8:00 am Men Pray
23 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	24 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study Pastor Vacation	25	26 6:30 pm Bible Study	27 12:00 pm Goldenagers	28	29 8:00 am Men Pray
30 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship Pastor Vacation thru July 7 th						



**June
2019**

**Forest Hills EFC Messenger
5183 Pebble Creek Trail
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**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.

- June 3 Charlotte Reynolds
- June 11 Mallory Leathers
- June 16 Sarah Ulven
- June 20 Thelma Ladenberger
- June 26 Lauren Saylor

June Events:

14th & 15th

Harvest Time Christian School Sale At Forest Hills EFC

**Donations can be dropped off
Monday June 10th**



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 17th of the month

June 16

Father'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



JUNE GOLDENAGERS

Please join us at noon for lunch at The Stockholm Inn on Thursday, June 27th for good food and fellowship.

UPCOMING ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Please join us for food and fun at our annual picnic at Olsen Park on Saturday, July 27th from 11 - 3 pm.

Finding Firm Footing In A Shifting Culture

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." Hebrews 10:23-25

Have you ever asked yourself, why is the world changing so rapidly? Who shifted, me or them or both of us? One of our missionaries recently came to share with us about his ministry on college campuses, and I was struck by one of his observations about college ministry, which just so happened to be the same issue I raised in my annual report the same day. There is a shifting of culture taking place. The shift is moving us away from face-to-face relationships and replacing them with digital ones.

There are many examples of this, but I share one that typifies my experience. I constantly come across friends who I do not see on a regular basis, who assume I know everything going on in their lives, because they have been posting pictures and events on various social media sites. When I ask the typical "catch-up" questions, "How are you?", or "What's new in your life?", they look at me like I should know all these things; it has been posted! Then comes my confession, "I am not on social media much, and I don't even have a Facebook account." They look at me in horror, and I imagine them thinking, "How could he be so out of touch?" In shame, I hang my head, and I give the aw shucks look. The real problem is we never seem to really get to what's going on in their lives. They do not want to share what has already been posted. I am left with this feeling of anxiety, because all the tried and true small talk lead ins are now obsolete. This leaves me with the sense of loss, because there is not much sharing about what is going on in our lives, and it is this sharing that often leads to the deeper conversations I am really interested in.

We have lost, or at least are losing, the ability to relate to one another face to face. It is much easier to carry on a texting conversation than a real life one. I confess, it is much easier and more convenient to interact via text or other social media. But, this sort of convenience is seeping into the other times and places which are specifically designed for face to face, personal presence with others, such as worship services, Bible studies, prayer meetings and other fellowship times. While it is good to have times of personal worship and Bible study, there is also a need for regular times where the whole Body of Christ gathering together to worship and study the Bible together. I love that there are myriads of good teaching and other encouragements to our faith found on

the internet, but there still is a need to personally interact with our Church Family.

I was surprised to read an article about how we as Americans are more connected to one another, but we are also lonelier than ever. This is because connection and relationship are not the same thing. Taking in or passing on information is not the same as having a conversation with someone. So many of us know so much more about each other, but we do not truly know one another. I do want to be careful to balance this with the observation that digital means of communication can supplement and enhance a healthy relationship, but at some point, there needs to be regular analog contact at the foundation of any healthy relationship.

This is the place for the regular gathering of the Church Family to worship together. Sunday School, Worship Service, Bible Study, Prayer Meeting and AWANA. They become the common point of contact for the church family. Other gatherings and digital communication assist in building on the foundation of the analog relationships. Particularly Sunday Morning serves this purpose in the life of our church. While the focus of these family times is our great and glorious God, they are meant to be experienced in community. Our personal lives should focus on our relationship with God, and so should our corporate gatherings. But let's not miss God gave us each other to help us in this pursuit. We gather to build relationships with one another as part of growing in our relationship with God. The secret to a healthy Christian Life is we need both a healthy relationship with God, but we also need healthy relationships with other believers.

One of God's purposes and blessings in our lives is to give us other believers to live with, so we can encourage one another and help one another along the way. This means we must learn to use the digital connections as enhancements to our relationships and not as replacements for relationships.

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch