



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

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# August Newsletter

# Forest Hills EFC Calendar

# August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Study Break	<b>2</b> Study Break	<b>3</b> Study Break 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>4</b> Greg S. Pulpit Fill NO Sunday School Lord's Supper Study Break 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>5</b> Pastor's Study Day Study Break 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm CE MTG	<b>6</b> Study Break	<b>7</b> Study Break	<b>8</b> Study Break	<b>9</b> Study Break	<b>10</b> Study Break 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>11</b> Greg S. Pulpit Fill NO Sunday School Study Break 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>12</b> Pastor's Study Day Study Break 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>13</b> 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>17</b> Memorial Service Anderson Family 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>18</b> 9:00 am Sunday School Resumes 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>19</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>20</b> 7:00 pm Council MTG	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>24</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>25</b> Eric & Katie N. 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>26</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 12:00 pm Goldenagers	<b>30</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>31</b> 8:00 am Men Pray



**August  
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.

- August 1 John Pagani
- August 2 Ian Leathers
- August 8 Larry Driggs
- August 9 Adrian Dickson
- August 10 Phil Kloster
- August 14 Katelyn Meyerdirk
- August 18 Haley Meyerdirk  
Katie Neubauer
- August 19 Greg Sandberg
- August 21 Billie Simms
- August 22 Carol Dickson  
Conner Swenson
- August 23 Diane Newman
- August 24 Carolyn Hunt
- August 30 Julianna Lownsdale

**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

*August Events:*



**August 4 - National Friendship Day**

*A man of too many friends comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. - Proverbs 18:24*



**August 10 - Professions of Faith Concert**

Please join us for an uplifting time of music at 2 pm with fellowship and refreshments after the concert.



**August 18 - Sunday School Resumes**

We will resume Sunday School at 9 am after our break for the summer.



**August 21 - Senior Citizens Day**

*A gray head is a crown of glory; It is found in the way of righteousness. - Proverbs 16:31*

**AUGUST GOLDENAGERS**

Please join us at noon for lunch at The Stockholm Inn on Thursday, August 29th for good food and fellowship.

**UPCOMING IN SEPTEMBER:**

AWANA and Adult Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 11 at 6:30 pm.

## Why do you go to Church?

How often have you asked this question: “Why do I go to church?” I would not be surprised to receive a different answer from just about every person asked. I would expect to hear people say things like: fellowship, teaching, worship. But I also would not be surprised to hear answers like: I grew up going to church, my family goes to church, I like the pastor, to please my spouse or parents, I want to please God, for social connections.

The common element to just about every answer is the underlying motive that people find something personally fulfilling or pleasing in going to church. To boil it down even more is people find there is some personal advantage or benefit from going to church. It is my deep personal desire and hope that you find being part of the local church a real benefit to you.

The challenge is we are living in a time and place where everyone asks “What’s in it for me?” Often this is the only question that we ask. This is where we need to think not only about why we go to church, but why to do we attend our particular church. While there are exceptions, I believe the majority of people are choosing their particular church based on their personal preference for style, time, length, size, location and a host of other criteria. Ultimately, they base their choice on personal preferences and feelings.

Let me suggest a different way of thinking about church.

### Each of us needs the Body of Christ

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; <sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> 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.

The writer of Hebrews encourages participation in the local church as a means of strengthening our walk with Christ. There will be easier days and harder days in our walk with Christ. The local gathering of believers is there to help us “hold fast” to our confession. Each of us will have days where we will be assaulted by life and temptations, and we need each other. We participate in the Body of Christ to be strengthened.

But do not miss the other side of this important passage. We participate in the Body of Christ to help strengthen our brothers and sisters as well. The purpose of the church is mutual encouragement. Some days we need to be encouraged, but there are also days where others need our encouragement. How would it change our church if we began to understand that we are part of this particular local body not just for what we get but also what we have to contribute to our church family?

In his book, *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby makes the profound statement that the local church needs every single person who attends. Whether you come with a need to be filled or come to fill the need, each person is a necessary part of the church. What would happen if people coming to church only had needs and nothing to contribute?

The truth is that each of us experiences both sides of this coin. Some days we encourage and other days the Holy Spirit prompts us to be the encourager. We constantly move back and forth between the two. There is no person who does not experience both sides of this, including the pastor.

Hebrews gives three key ideas to start with:

### 1. “Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds”

Participating in the life of the church is meant for us to stimulate one another. It does not say that we should amuse one another or entertain one another, but to stimulate one another. There is a holy activity and stirring within the congregation. It is at times be the one stirring, as well as other times being stirred. We can all identify with the times when we needed someone else to lovingly encourage us to engage in the lives of others. In the same way, we need to be engaged in prompting others to action as well. Whether a moment of action or inaction, we need each other.

### 2. “Not forsaking our own assembling together”

There is an ongoing need to be together as the Body of Christ. This certainly includes worshiping together on Sunday, but it also includes a host of other ways we build relationships with one another – having a meal, a cup of coffee, Bible study, hospital visit, a call, a card, a note, a text, an email or any other intentional connection with our brothers and sisters in Christ. All of this is done to cultivate our interdependence, so we minister to each other in good and more difficult circumstances.

### 3. “Encouraging one another”

Our culture is pulling us apart more and more. This is why we need each other more and more. It is also why we need to be more intentional about ministering to one another. Whether we feel the need today, there will come a day where we will need the ministry of others, just as they will need our ministry. In all of this, the goal is to encourage one another to walk with the Lord. This becomes all the more necessary as Christianity becomes more and more out of fashion in our culture.

In His Grip & Grace  
Pastor Mitch