



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

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September Newsletter

Forest Hills EFC Calendar

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lord's Supper 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	2 Pastor's Study Day	3 Pastor Teaches AM	4	5	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 8:00 am Men Pray
8 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	9 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	10 Pastor Teaches AM 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	11 6:30 pm AWANA Starts 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study	12	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 8:00 am Men Pray 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
15 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	16 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	17 Pastor Teaches AM 7:00 pm Council MTG	18 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study	19	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 8:00 am Men Pray
22 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	23 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	24 Pastor Teaches AM	25 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study	26 12:00 pm Goldenagers	27 Pastor's Day Off	28 8:00 am Men Pray 10:00 am Secret Pal Reveal/Drawing
29 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	30 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study					



**September
2019**

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

WWW.FHEFC.ORG

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**Birthdays
This Month**

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

- Sept. 4 Florence Sandberg
- Sept. 8 David Beard
 Cindy Zills
- Sept. 15 Kim Rice
- Sept. 17 Grace Smith
- Sept. 22 Velma Clark
 Greyson Clow
- Sept. 26 Sarah Thode
- Sept. 28 Caroline Swanson

SEPTEMBER GOLDENAGERS

Please join us at noon for lunch at The Stockholm Inn on Thursday, September 26th 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 17th of the month

September Events:



September 2 - Labor Day

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.. - Colossians 3:23



September 11

AWANA and the Adult Bible Study will resume at 6:30 pm.



September 14 - Men's Prayer Breakfast

The men are having their next breakfast at 8 am in the small fellowship area of the church.



September 23 - 1st Day of Autumn

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. - Matthew 9:37

Phil & Judy Kloster's new address:
7880 E. 126th Street South, Apt. #415, Bixby, OK 74008

UPCOMING IN OCTOBER:

Missions Month and White Christmas Offering for our missionaries.

On Christian Idols

In 1991, R.E.M. released their very popular single "Losing My Religion," which Michael Stipe, the lyricist, claimed was not so much about religion but doubt, obsession and unrequited love. It won lots of awards and acclaim. He went on to say at an MTV Unplugged concert, the song was about the relationship between him and his audience. He said to the audience, "This song is about you."

He was admitting his dependence on and disillusionment with his fans. It seems he came to understand the co-dependent relationship between celebrities and their fans. Celebrities are nothing without their fans, fans are nothing without their favorite celebrity. The problem is so many celebrities complain about the burdens and difficulties that come with their celebrity status. Fans adore and demand more and more. Celebrities lose their privacy and ability to live as normal people. Finally, celebrities like everyone other normal person do something to tarnish their reputation, and the fans fall into despair.

What does this have to do with Christianity?

There are Christian celebrities just like there are secular ones. In fact, many celebrities claim to be Christians in some form or other. Not only are there Christian Celebrities in music, movies and tv, there are certainly celebrity pastors, worship leaders and church gurus. In the past few months there has been lots of turmoil surrounding a few of these men.

Joshua Harris, author of *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* and other best sellers, former mega church pastor (in his early 20's), had a string of startling revelations: He separated from his wife, announced he was leaving the Christian faith altogether and apologized at length to the LGBTQ+ community. Only days later he posted pictures on social media of his participation in a LGBTQ+ parade.

It was interesting to see how the Christian community reacted to his seeming radical shift. Many were sad, some were hurt, and quite a few were very angry. All let him know how they felt on social media, which is a major part of this phenomenon of celebrities and influencers in our culture today. Prominent leaders also responded across the full spectrum giving their two cents worth on the situation.

Shortly thereafter, Hillsong United worship leader, Marty Sampson, posted on social media that he was "genuinely losing his faith," but he also said this transformation did not bother him. This created a mini-crisis, because he is one of the principle song writers and leaders of Hillsong, which is one of the most influential worship music groups in recent years.

Does it matter if one of the people writing and singing some of your favorite worship songs is now wandering from the faith?

Here's a couple of my initial reactions and questions:

How much is our faith rattled by these men walking away from their/our faith and traditions? Will you stop singing Marty Sampson's songs? Will you re-evaluate your parenting and dating/courtship views because of Joshua Harris?

I would like to humbly suggest it is time for Christians to put away their idols.

We have, like many other generations and cultures, elevated people and traditions to places that we should not have. Paul confronted this in 1 Corinthians 1, where he had to defend his ministry against those who preferred Apollos or Peter over him. He was careful to remind his readers that in the end God is the One who is most important, and His servants are just that, servants.

It is healthy to take advantage of the many resources available to us through technology, such as listening to many of the very good preachers who are on Youtube and other media sites. But we should also take care that we are not simply picking the person who is saying only what we want to hear. This was Paul's warning to Timothy:

"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths." 2 Timothy 4:2-4

There is good cause to maintain a careful eye on our own lives as well as one another, not for the sake of passing judgment, but to hold one another accountable in love. This is why Jesus exhorts us to remove the log from our own eye before trying to remove the speck from our brother's eye (see Matthew 7). But there is a need to remove the log and the speck.

For good reasons, God commanded us to have no other gods before Him, as well as a prohibition against creating idols (see Exodus 20). We are just as susceptible today to idolatry as any other generation, in fact, we have enshrined idolatry in our culture and the Church. Can you see it in the emphasis on self-esteem, prosperity and creating an atmosphere that appeals primarily to the non-believer?

Perhaps what is needed is for us to take a look in the mirror and ask how we have contributed to the creation and maintenance of these Christian Idols?

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch