



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

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# October Newsletter

# Forest Hills EFC Calendar

# October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Pastor Teaches AM	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm AWANA & Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>5</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>6</b> Lord's Supper White Christmas Overview 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>7</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm CE MTG	<b>8</b> Pastor Teaches AM 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm AWANA & Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>12</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>13</b> Dave & Angie Ziel Potluck 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>14</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>15</b> Pastor Teaches AM 7:00 pm Council MTG	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm AWANA & Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>19</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>20</b> Jane Block Mission Moment 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>21</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>22</b> Pastor Teaches AM	<b>23</b> 6:30 pm AWANA & Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>26</b> 8:00 am Men Pray
<b>27</b> Charmel Jacobs Rescue Mission 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	<b>28</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	<b>29</b> Pastor Teaches AM	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm AWANA & Bible Study	<b>31</b> 12:00 pm Goldenagers		



**October  
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.

- Oct. 1 Layla Swenson
- Oct. 4 Jean Alfredson
- Oct. 6 Brandon Leathers
- Oct. 13 Kylie Swenson
- Oct. 15 Nathan Reynolds
- Oct. 16 Dale Anderson
- Oct. 25 Randy Newman
- Oct. 30 Marilyn Miller
- Oct. 31 Scott Lownsdale

**OCTOBER GOLDENAGERS**

Please join us at noon for lunch at The Stockholm Inn on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> 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

*October Events:*



**October is Mission Month**

We will learn about our missionaries and collecting our White Christmas offering for the missionaries we support throughout the year.



**October 9 – National Stop Bullying Day**

This annual designation is designed to bring awareness of the need to stand up against and put an end to bullying.



**October 14 – Columbus Day**

Columbus Day is a U.S. holiday that commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the Americas in 1492. For many, the holiday is a way of both honoring Columbus' achievements and celebrating Italian-American heritage.



**October 26 – Card Making**

This will be between 1–4 pm. Please come anytime. It is for the workers at Cor Marie as a thank you. You may bring your card making scissors if you have them.

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

**UPCOMING IN NOVEMBER:**

Veteran's Day & Thanksgiving

## What Would Jesus Clear Out of Our Temple?

*"And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. <sup>13</sup> And He said to them, "It is written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER'; but you are making it a ROBBERS' DEN." "* Matthew 21:12-13

As I have been preaching through Matthew, I have not been able to shake this question, "What would Jesus clear out of our temple?" Now there are the obvious multitude of things in our personal lives, and our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. But what happens in Matthew 21 seems to be something much more specific. Jesus meets multitudes of broken people with compassion and patience, but when He comes to the Temple, it is one of the few times we get a glimpse of Jesus as the Judge of the Universe.

### What was the purpose of the Temple?

The Temple was intended to be a physical location where people could come to be in the presence of God. They would bring their sacrifices and make offerings to atone for their sins. It was also a place where people could come to pray to God and worship Him. 2 Samuel 7 tells us about David's desire to build a house for the Lord to be the symbol of God's presence in Israel. 1 Kings 5-8 details the building of the Temple and dedication by Solomon.

One of the most remarkable things about the building of the Temple was the reverence with which Solomon conducted the project. *"The house, while it was being built, was built of stone prepared at the quarry, and there was neither hammer nor axe nor any iron tool heard in the house while it was being built."* (1 Kings 6:7) Even the construction site was one of reverence, which was a remarkable precursor to its purpose as a place of reverence and prayer to the Lord.

In Solomon's prayer of dedication he says, *"Listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; hear in heaven Your dwelling place; hear and forgive."* (1 Kings 8:30) The Temple was to be a physical location representing God's presence among Israel. It was to be the place people could come to physically draw near to God. It was meant to be a place of prayer and confession/sacrifice.

### Why was Jesus so angry?

The place dedicated to drawing near to God had been hijacked by the religious leaders for their own material gain. It had become a place of commerce and noise. The clinking and clanging of money being changed, for a modest fee. The bleating of sheep, conveniently provided for purchase to obtain the forgiveness of sins. The cooing of doves for sale to those who could not afford a lamb. All these sent the message God's

favor and forgiveness were a commodity to be purchased and exchanged. At the heart of all this clamor, was the personal enrichment of the priests, while very little genuine prayer and worship took place. So Jesus drives the commotion and commerce out of the Temple declaring, "My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a robbers den."

### Is history repeating itself?

I have in mind the selling in indulgences for the building of cathedrals, which was one of the sparks for the Reformation. And I ask, are we doing the same in the Church today? We insist on having a style of worship customized to our personal preferences. We have celebrity preachers and teachers selling their books and marketing their merchandise. We have latte bars and cafes. We cling to our Traditions and Programs. We seek to create worship experiences. But are we really worshipping the King of Kings, or are we worshipping ourselves? Are we simply repeating the patterns of the past?

I have echoing in my mind the words of Jesus to the woman at the well, where He implies the destruction of the Temple. *"Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. <sup>24</sup> "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." "* (John 4:21-24)

In 586 B.C. God sent Nebuchadnezzar and in A.D. 70, God sent the armies of Rome, to destroy Jerusalem and the Temple to remove the corrupted worship taking place there. Is it possible He has repeated and will repeat again this pattern of purifying our worship of Him by actively removing those places where His name is used for personal gain rather than genuine worship?

### Consider these things carefully

My goal is to challenge us to carefully consider what we are "doing in the name of the Lord." Are we promoting the Gospel and holding up Jesus Christ or are we simply promoting ourselves and pacifying our consciences? I am personally conscious of how the greatest danger for me as a pastor is to become like the priests of Jesus' day or like the Pharisees in their smug judgmental self-righteousness. It is very easy to use our religion to control others while enriching ourselves, but this is not consistent with a wholehearted pursuit of the Kingdom of God. Will you pray with me (and for me), and ask the Lord to purify our hearts and motives, as He gives us a genuine hunger and thirst for His Kingdom and His righteousness?

In His Grip & Grace  
Pastor Mitch