



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

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January Newsletter

Forest Hills Evangelical Free Church

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NO AWANA & Bible Study New Year's Day	2	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
5 Lord's Supper 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	6 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	7 Pastor Teaches AM	8 6:30 pm AWANA & Bible Study	9	10 Pastor's Day Off	11 10:00 am Ladies Event Brainstorming
12 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	13 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	14 Pastor Teaches AM 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	15 6:30 pm AWANA & Bible Study	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship 8:00 pm Sanctity of Human Life	20 Pastor's Study Day Martin Luther King Jr. Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	21 Pastor Teaches AM 7:00 pm Council MTG	22 6:30 pm AWANA & Bible Study	23	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
26 Siebers Missions M. 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	27 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	28 Pastor Teaches AM	29 6:30 pm AWANA & Bible Study	30 12:00 pm Goldenagers	31 Pastor's Day Off	



**January
2020**

**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.

- January 2 Salli Jacobsen
- January 3 Bonnie Hart
 Madyson Mullin
- January 4 Jack Simpson
- January 6 Bela Leathers
 Courtney Reynolds
- January 9 Maryellen Bollweg
- January 15 Judy Dray
- January 16 Frank Locascio
- January 20 Martha Hussong
 Kayla Robeniol
- January 21 Pat Simpson
- January 31 Eric Neubauer



2020



January 9th is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Blessed are the peacekeepers,
for they shall be called the
children of God. -Matthew 5:9

January 24th is National Compliment Day

January 20th is Martin Luther King Jr Day

Celebrated for his Civil
Rights leadership, he is
celebrated every 3rd Monday
in January.

LADIES BRAINSTORMING & PLANNING

There will be a ladies
brainstorming session to plan
out the New Year on Saturday,
January 11 at 10 am. See Judy
Dray with questions.

OFFERING ENVELOPES
2020 Offering Envelopes are still
available in the church office.
See Wendy Boehme.

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

In The Last Days And The New Year

“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.” 2 Timothy 3:1-6

With the new year and a new decade, it is fitting to make it a time for reflection, consideration and resolution.

Reflection on 2019

This year has been like the classic book, A Tale of Two Cities. “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” Whether it was the best of times or the worst of times depends on who you ask, and then it depends on what specific circumstances you are asking about.

Economically, things have been going along extremely well for those who have money invested in the stock market and those who have been seeking employment. But there are those who complain about the growing inequalities of our economic system. The “Haves” are prospering, but the “Have Nots” do not have as much as the “Haves.” This has caused an increasing discontent and frustration among a significant portion of our population.

Politically, things are much like the economics of the day. At least half the country thinks the President and his supports are doing a great job, but the other half is increasingly irate about the very same things. Things are so divisive, half of the nation is overjoyed at the impeachment of President Trump, while the other half is outraged. Meanwhile little is being accomplished in Washington D.C., which causes half the people to complain about the “do nothing congress,” while the other half gives thanks nothing worse is being forced upon the nation. We are deeply divided!

Spiritually, there is just as wide a divergence. The willingness of the both the Roman Catholic Church and Evangelical Churches to finally admit the problems with abuse in our midst is both great progress and a terrible reality. The testimonies of God’s generous faithfulness are many, and the failures of faithlessness among religious leaders have been too many to list here. While there have been very hopeful signs among celebrities who have come to believe and honor the Lord, we have to wait into the new year to see if these young believers will continue to walk the narrow way or be seduced by the many temptations of pride and greed.

Consideration of 2020

Many questions remain as to what the New Year will bring. The sad truth is this next year will be much like the last. Details will vary, but there are sure to be some triumphs and joys, while

there are just as sure to be numerous disappointments along the way. How long can our Economy continue without any corrections or recessions? Can there be anything other than growing chaos and discord in a year with a Presidential Impeachment and Election? Perhaps, The Lord will answer our prayers for the rise of leaders with integrity and godly wisdom. Spiritually, The Kingdom of God will advance, but it’s progress will not come in the ways we would design or even pray. It will be the seeming defeats for the Church that will become the opportunities to repent and demonstrate the truth of the Gospel.

The Old Saying will be fulfilled, “The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same.”

Resolution for 2020

Assuming I am correct in my evaluations and prognostications, how should we approach the new year? My encouragement is the same as Paul gave to Timothy in his second letter.

“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:12-17

The hope I have for the New Year comes not from anything any human being is going to do but the continued promises of God’s Word. There will be no world changing or saving innovations this year, but there will be numerous believers who live according to what they have learned in The Scriptures. The Lord will work through the humble dependent faith of His people, directed and empowered by His grace. This year will be the ongoing story of how the seeming defeat of God’s people will be the ultimate victory of the Kingdom of God. It will be in our loving the Lord with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength, loving our neighbors as ourselves, faithful ministry to the least of these, and loving our enemies that God will draw believers and non-believers ever closer to Himself.

This is how things will be in the Last Days, and He will continue to be our Great Hope. May your Master find you faithfully following, serving and loving should this be the year of His return.

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch