



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

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March Newsletter

2020 March

FHEFC Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lord's Supper St. David's Day 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Fellowship 10:25 AM Worship	2 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study	3 Pastor Teaches AM	4 6:30 PM AWANA & Bible Study	5	6 Pastor's Day Off	7
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 Missions Mtg 12:00 PM Diaconate Mtg	11 6:30 PM AWANA & Bible Study	12	13 Pastor's Day Off	14
15 Greg Sandberg Pulpit Fill 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 St. Patrick's Day 7:00 PM Council MTG	18 6:30 PM AWANA & Bible Study	19	20 Pastor's Day Off	21
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 & Bible Study	26 12:00 PM Goldenagers	27 Pastor's Day Off	28
29 One Body Collabrative 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Fellowship 10:25 AM Worship	30 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study	31 Pastor Teaches AM	Apr 1 AWANA AWARDS NIGHT	2	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
5 Lord's Supper Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Fellowship 10:25 AM Worship	6 Pastor's Study Day 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study	Notes				



**March
2020**

**Forest Hills EFC Messenger
5183 Pebble Creek Trail
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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.

- March 1 Wendy Boehme
Larissa Lownsdale
- March 3 Jon Leinbaugh
Lavon Rowell
- March 9 Betty Bouma
- March 13 Sandra Hanson
- March 16 Debbie Gangel
- March 18 Peggy Clow
- March 19 Becky Stubbs
- March 24 Kira Saylor
- March 26 Marie Lane
- March 29 David Tregay
- March 30 Emily Meyerdirk
Charles Vertin

March Events:



March 3rd
National Anthem Day.
The Star Spangled Banner was declared the national anthem on 3/3/1931 by President Herbert Hoover.



March 8th
Daylight Savings Time.
Begins at 2am. Make sure to turn your clocks ahead by one hour.



March 17th
St. Patrick's Day
This is celebrated on the anniversary of his death on 3/17/461. He is the patron saint of Ireland.



March 19th
1st day of Spring
'They waited for me as for the rain, and opened their mouth as for the spring rain'. - Job 29:23

MARCH GOLDENAGERS

Please join us at noon for lunch at The Stockholm Inn on Thursday, **March 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

What Form Does Your Suffering Take?

Suffering takes many forms, and all of us feel its touch in one way or another...

- Are you grieving for a loved one?
- Are you ill or caring for a loved one who is ill?
- Are you struggling with a physical infirmity?
- Are you or a loved one in the grip of addiction?
- Are you in the grip of despair because of a mental illness?
- Are you struggling at work?
- Are you experiencing the pain of broken relationships?

While a certain amount of our suffering is caused by our own choices and actions, there is much suffering simply because we live in a fallen world. The best and most humble people suffer along with the rest of us. There is a suffering that comes because God is at work in our lives. It is easy to point fingers at wrong doers, but there are many people seeking to live honorable and upright lives who suffer as well.

What are we to make of all this suffering?

I am often reminded how our understanding and perspective on suffering matters. Take for example Job and his wife, two married people who had very different views on his suffering.

"Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8 And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes. 9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips." Job 2:7-10

Job suffered because he was righteous and honored the Lord. Sadly his wife's response to Job's suffering was to curse God and die. Thankfully Job had a right perspective on his life and his suffering. He trusted God's sovereign hand in his life, whether seen as good or adversity. Read the book of Job to see how God was vindicated and Job was ultimately blessed.

The Apostle Paul also helps us have a broader understanding of God's purpose in our suffering.

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; 8 we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh." 2 Corinthians 4:7-11

For the believer, our trust in God's purpose for our lives leads to a demonstration of God's power in our lives. His sustaining grace in the face of affliction, persecution and despair show His excellence. We carry about in our bodies the suffering of Christ, which is greater than our own afflictions.

This truth is hard to hear in a day where our relative ease and luxury are as great as ever. We want the benefits of the Kingdom of Heaven, but we are loathe to face the struggle and suffering many of our brothers and sisters face on a daily basis. It raises the question of whether we have contemplated the seriousness of Christ's suffering on our behalf?

Another perspective on this comes from The Apostle Paul's own experience.

"Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me-- to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Paul grew in humility through his sufferings, which he counted as God's strength through His sustaining grace. It is the paradox of our Christian faith: "When I am weak, then I am strong."

J.R.R. Tolkien paints a realistic picture in *The Lord of the Rings* of the Christian's relationship to suffering through his humble hero, Frodo. Though the hero of the story, Frodo has many stumbles and close calls throughout his adventures. He bares the griefs and wounds of his failures and his victories. The wound from the Morgul Blade, early in the story, almost kills Frodo, and he bares its pain the rest of his life. The finger bitten off by Gollum serves as a constant reminder of how he nearly failed to destroy the Ring. While others enjoyed the benefits of his sufferings, he still bares the melancholy brought by his wounds, which were more than just physical. But it is specifically his unhealing wound which permits him to sail to Valinor to be consoled in the Undying Lands.

So our longing for the Undying Lands grows with our sufferings, and His power is made perfect in our weakness!

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch