



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

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# April Newsletter

# Forest Hills EFC Calendar

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>With the uncertainties of these days, we have left our regularly scheduled events and meetings on the calendar in hopes we will be back to normal soon. We will abide by meeting restrictions for the time being, so please check our interactive calendar at <a href="http://www.FHEFC.org">www.FHEFC.org</a> to see if events are still taking place. As of publication of this calendar all in-person meetings have been canceled or postponed until restrictions are lifted.</p> <p>-- Pastor Mitch</p>			1	2	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
<p><b>5</b> Lord's Supper 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship</p>	<p><b>6</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p><b>7</b> Pastor Teaches AM</p>	8	<p><b>9</b> Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm</p>	<p><b>10</b> Pastor's Day Off  Good Friday</p>	11
<p><b>12</b> Resurrection Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship</p>	<p><b>13</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p><b>14</b> Pastor Teaches AM 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg</p>	15	16	<p><b>17</b> Pastor's Day Off</p>	18
<p><b>19</b> Timber-lee 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship</p>	<p><b>20</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p><b>21</b> Pastor Teaches AM 7:00 pm Council MTG</p>	22	23	<p><b>24</b> Pastor's Day Off</p>	25
<p><b>26</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship</p>	<p><b>27</b> Pastor's Study Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p><b>28</b> Pastor Teaches AM</p>	29	<p><b>30</b> 12:00 pm Goldenagers</p>		



**April  
2020**

**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.

April 2	Reanee Rowell
	Berthema Thomasson
April 7	Nena Robeniol
April 14	McKinley Mullin
April 18	Archie Reynolds
April 21	Matt Mullin
April 26	Arleen Hood

### **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

### **APRIL GOLDENAGERS**

Please join us at noon for lunch at The Stockholm Inn on Thursday, **April 30<sup>th</sup>** for good food and fellowship.

## April Events:



**April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Palm Sunday**

*".. took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and began to shout, 'Hosanna Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel.'" - John 12:13*

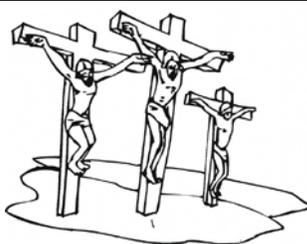


**April 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Maundy Thursday Service 7pm**

*"This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

**Luke 22:19**

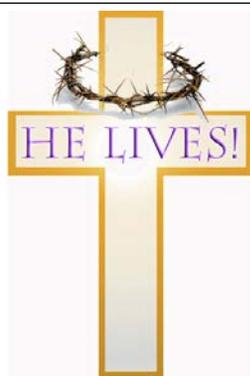


**April 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Good Friday**

*"...and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed." -*

**1 Peter 2:24**



**April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Resurrection Sunday!!**

*"And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again." -*

**Mark 8:31**

# Thinking Through Hard Times

As I write this, it is the end of the first week of “social distancing” for the sake of slowing down the Covid-19 virus. It is important to think through these times very carefully and cautiously. There are lots of good reasons for the guidelines set forth by the government as we face the uncertainties of these days. What strikes me are a few realities.

## 1) We Ought to Obey Those in Authority Over Us

Read Romans 13. There we find an admonition from the Apostle Paul to obey those whom God has put in authority over us. While there are varying opinions about how the various parts of government are handling this crisis, I do believe our leaders are doing their best to get a handle on this situation. We ought to follow their lead and honor their authority. I would like to suggest some qualifications to this.

## 2) The Government Is Operating on Assumptions

While doing their best, what is being done today is an experiment. I appreciate the honesty of men like Dr. Fauci when he admits there is so much we do not know about this virus. There are the typical safe practices which are being promoted, and I fully support those common sense precautions. But keep in mind, no one has any idea how long this will last.

## 3) Our Greatest Enemy Is Fear & Anxiety

At some point we are going to have to face the unknown. Much of the reaction of the Government and the average person has been based on fear and uncertainty. The crash in the Stock Market is about fear, and the Market hates uncertainty. The baffling part of our reaction is the hoarding of Toilet Paper. I have always cared about having good quality toilet paper in my house, but I never dreamt of buying months and months of toilet paper as a hedge against this virus. We are reacting in fear and letting uncertainty rule us with anxiety. The longer we stay locked up in our homes, the greater this fear and anxiety is going to grow.

## 4) Sooner or Later We Are Going to Have to Face Our Fears

While I am 100% supportive of the 15-day shutdown of activity in our country, there has to be a reasonable limit to how long we stay shut-in. At some point people are going to have to return to normal life, even if it means risking getting sick. The Government can send out checks, but if there is no place to spend the money, what good will stimulating the economy do. More than that is the simple need for people to have purpose in their lives. The purpose of the 15-day shut-down is to slow the spread of the virus, but it is time to wake up and realize we cannot completely stop the virus. Eventually, we will each have to risk stepping out of our homes and even having real social and physical contact with other people. Please take reasonable precautions, but do not be ruled by fear.

## 5) For The Church, At Some Point We Will Need to Remember Our Calling

If we are going to be the Body of Christ, then we need to be willing to take reasonable risks and make sacrifices. I feel this is why we are abiding by the 15-day shutdown, but there have to be limits on our isolation. At some point, we are going to have to begin to gather again in person, so we can encourage and strengthen one another in ways more important than our physical health. I am an introvert and homebody by nature, but I daily feel the call of Christ to minister to those around me. There are lots of things we can do via technology, but there will never be a replacement for handshakes, hugs and being face-to-face. We can pray over the phone and video, but there is no way to replace the personal touch of a hand on a shoulder while praying for the sick.

## 6) My Greatest Fear

Today, my greatest fear is loneliness and isolation pose a greater threat to each of us than getting sick from this virus. This does not mean I won't wash my hands and use hand sanitizer. I have been doing that for years to keep from taking colds, flus and other things home to my family or passing them on to you. It has not stopped me from visiting you in the hospital, even when I have to put on one of those hot sweaty gowns or masks. Trust me, I have had several squirts of hand sanitizer after a hospital visit, as well as a good hand washing at home. But the fear of germs and viruses cannot be allowed to keep us from being the hands and feet of Jesus to one another, and especially not the sick and dying.

## 7) A Modest Proposal – Please Pray And Think About This With Me

My current thought on this situation is as follows. I am willing to abide by the wishes of our national and state authorities until Resurrection Sunday. I hope we are worshiping together before then, but I feel there has to be a limit placed on how far we comply with this. Resurrection Sunday is April 12<sup>th</sup>, which will be an entire month since this isolation started, and if conditions have not improved by then, we will need to change our entire approach to this virus anyway. At the moment of writing this, I am proposing this as our limit as the Church, both local and corporately. It is a proposal, but I am asking you to pray and consider how we will respond to the growing needs both inside and outside the Body of Christ.

Please give me your feedback and let me know how I can be of service to you in these difficult days.

In His Grip & Grace  
Pastor Mitch  
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