



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

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# August Newsletter

# Forest Hills EFC Calendar

# August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Lord's Supper 10:30 am Worship	<b>3</b> Pastor Study Break	<b>4</b> Pastor Study Break	<b>5</b> Pastor Study Break 2:00 pm Challenge Group uses Fellowship Hall	<b>6</b> Pastor Study Break	<b>7</b> Pastor Study Break	<b>8</b> Pastor Study Break
<b>9</b> Greg Sandberg - Pulpit Fill Pastor Study Break 10:30 am Worship	<b>10</b> Pastor Study Break	<b>11</b> Pastor Study Break 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	<b>12</b> Pastor Study Break	<b>13</b> Pastor Study Break	<b>14</b> Pastor Study Break	<b>15</b> Pastor Study Break
<b>16</b> Greg Sandberg - Pulpit Fill Pastor Study Break 10:30 am Worship	<b>17</b> Pastor's Study Day	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Council MTG	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>22</b> Drays Fellowship Hall
<b>23</b> 10:30 am Worship	<b>24</b> Pastor's Study Day	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>29</b> 1:00 pm Secret Pals
<b>30</b> 10:30 am Worship	<b>31</b> Pastor's Study Day					



**August  
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.

- Aug 1 John Pagani
- Aug 2 Ian Leathers
- Aug 8 Larry Driggs
- Aug 9 Adrian Dickson
- Aug 10 Phil Kloster
- Aug 14 Katelyn Meyerdirk
- Aug 18 Haley Meyerdirk  
Katie Neubauer
- Aug 19 Greg Sandberg
- Aug 21 Billie Simms
- Aug 22 Carol Dickson  
Conner Swenson
- Aug 23 Diane Newman
- Aug 24 Carolyn Hunt
- Aug 30 Julianna Lownsdale

### 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

## August Events:



**Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Communion Sunday**



**Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**

We will finally have our Secret Pal reveal and drawing at 1 pm. Please contact Judy Dray if you would like to join or if you have any questions - 815-997-3536.



### AWANA Update

We will not be having AWANA this fall. We will revisit this decision in December for after the first of the year.

### UPDATE: Pregnancy Care Center Baby Bottle Ministry

We raised \$310.00 for this ministry. Thank you.

### AUGUST GOLDENAGERS

Please join us at noon for lunch at The Stockholm Inn on Thursday, **August 27<sup>th</sup>** for good food and fellowship. Hopefully Covid-19 restriction easing will finally let us meet.



**August is Golf Month**  
Time to chase that little ball around the golf course. Good luck!



### Upcoming in September

The Tregay's will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a parade /gathering which will be held on Saturday, September 5 from 1 - 3:30 at their house. More details will be in the September newsletter.

Pastor will be on Study Break from August 3<sup>rd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. Greg Sandberg will be filling the pulpit.

## Wars and Rumors of Wars

*"And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. <sup>5</sup> "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. <sup>6</sup> "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. <sup>7</sup> "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. <sup>8</sup> "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs." (Matthew 24:4-8)*

"This is the way the world ends, not with a bang, but a whimper." – T.S. Elliot

I do not quote the words of T. S. Elliot to challenge or doubt the words of Jesus Christ, but to question whether we have understood the words of Jesus. Ever since I heard these words of Jesus for the first time, I have assumed the Church would engage in a titanic struggle with the enemies of the Cross. The pictures of battles and courageous believers beating back the forces of evil swirled through my head. But what if that picture is all wrong?

Consider the next several verses from Matthew 24:

*"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. <sup>10</sup> "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. <sup>12</sup> "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved." (Matthew 24:9-13)*

This passage paints a very different picture. This is a picture of people Falling Away, abandoning the Faith. It is a picture of infighting and betrayal. It is a picture of hate for one another. It is a warning against False Prophets and being misled. It is a sad picture of lawlessness like the days of the Judges, where everyone did what was right in their own eyes. It is a picture of love grown cold, indifferent to the plight of others.

The trouble with this description is not the violence but the indifference. The biggest problem is this is a description of those who claim to be followers of Christ. It would be one thing if this was describing the enemies outside the Church, but read it again. The danger for the Church does not come from outside but inside. It begins with love growing cold and indifferent, but it leads to hate and betrayal.

The next question that arises in my mind: What will be the catalyst for these things? Do we need a catalyst, or is this the natural momentum for our lives? Are we unwittingly falling prey to our old human nature in these days of anxiety and fear over

"The Virus"? In our efforts at self-preservation are we really undermining ourselves?

I want to put forward the idea that this is why we need not just Jesus, but the whole Body of Christ, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, to stand firm. As I have been preaching through the book of Hebrews over the past few months, I am struck by the repeated exhortations to do two things: 1) Hear God speak through Jesus; and 2) Hold Fast, Stand Firm, Enter His Rest by trusting the Promises of Jesus. These kinds of exhortations are given because we are such fickle people who are prone to wander and are easily discouraged. The more chaos and uncertainty and suffering press in on us, we need to remember what God has said to us: "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him! (Matthew 17:5)"

Listening is a good start, but it is not enough, if we are going to "endure to the end." Notice again what Jesus said in Matthew 24:13 " *"But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved."* There are two kinds of endurance, tolerating one another and hanging in together out of love. Jesus does not just tolerate us, He is enduringly patient, merciful and gracious to us. He is calling us to have the same kind of love for one another. We are being warned in many words and in many ways that we are going to need this Loving Endurance not just as individuals but as the Church. While we are saved on an individual basis by faith alone in grace alone, we are warned numerous times how hard it is to live life alone without the encouragement and endurance of fellow believers.

My confidence is found in the words of Jesus:

*"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." (Matthew 16:15-18)*

My confidence is not in how some interpret these verses to substantiate their superiority, but it is in the promise that those who truly believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God will prevail and receive the Crown of Life. As I have written before, it may look like a long defeat, but do not let the world or false prophets define what the Kingdom of God should look like. Instead, let us hold fast to our confession of Jesus Christ and rekindle our love for one another in these difficult and uncertain days.

In His Grip & Grace  
Pastor Mitch