



From the *Pastor's Perspective*



"Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you...for it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you." -Leviticus 25:10-12

Fifty years ago there were people in the growing community of Forest Lake who felt that God had a plan for a new church community. So, the little band of excited people set out on an adventure that only God saw clearly and that only God could make happen.

Forest Hills (first "Methodist," then "United Methodist") Church was incorporated on Sunday, Dec. 10, 1967 with 32 charter members. Over the next five decades, the church grew, and our identity and purpose were forged. We are anchored in a personal and passionate love-relationship with Jesus, a reliance on the grace of God, and the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit. Our message of hope is biblically grounded. Our faith is lived and expressed together by reaching out to others in acts service and in sharing of faith. We value inter-generational relationships and being a small church that includes and values each unique person as God's precious child.

Last year we encapsulated this spiritual identity and purpose in our motto: "Love. Grow. Serve." This is who we are. This is who we've become. And this is who we are called to continue to be in the next 50 years!

On Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017 we will gather to celebrate our church's 50th anniversary. Our celebration is "50-Year Jubilee: Remember. Renew. Rejoice!" We are celebrating by declaring

Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

December 2	9am United Methodist Men
December 3	Communion Sunday
December 4	5:30pm UMW Christmas Party 7pm SPR Meeting
December 6	5:30pm M&M (Pot Luck) Activity—Christmas Gift Game Night
December 7	12pm Sarah Circle
December 9	5:45pm Adult Fellowship
December 10	ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!
December 13	11:30am Romeos and Juliets 5:30pm M&M (Pancakes by the Men) Activity— Christmas Cookie night
December 14	1pm United Methodist Women 6:30pm AMT Meeting
December 15	5pm Unload Community Care truck
December 16	6am Community Care Set-up 8am Community Care

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Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

Jubilee! It will be a year of restoration and intentional reconnecting to God: a time to pause and invest in our relationships with God and each other, and to hear God's calling to our purpose and mission for the 50 years ahead!

The day will be a great celebration that you will not want to miss!

Sunday, Dec. 10:

9 a.m. Continental breakfast and a time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones!

10 a.m. Jubilee worship! Pastor David and Andrew will lead; Rev. Cindy Gregorson will preach; and Julie (Graham) Berninghaus will provide special music. Other surprises, too, including the blowing of the shofar to announce the Jubilee!

11:30 a.m. "50-Year-Ago Potluck" We will move into our fellowship hall for a potluck with food typical 50 years ago. For recipe ideas, the Forest Hills UMC cookbook is now available on the church website. Bring your favorite food from the 60s!

12:00 a.m. Anniversary Celebration! We'll be looking back and looking forward. Special recognitions, greetings, and a video documenting the legacy that Forest Hills continues into the future.

1:00 p.m. Anniversary cake and fellowship.

We will also have available a display from our church archives, an anniversary souvenir booklet, and a 50th anniversary Christmas ornament. If you can't attend, but would like any of these items reserved for you, simply let the office know.

Fifty years from now, there will be people in the growing community of Forest Lake who feel that God has a plan for Forest Hills Church. They will remember this Jubilee as a milestone that launched this church into the community in a new way, a way that made a difference in their lives. So, on Dec. 10, 2017 we gather as a band of excited people to set out on an adventure that only God sees clearly and that only God can make happen.

50-Year Jubilee: Remember. Renew. Rejoice!

Pastor David

Worship's Word

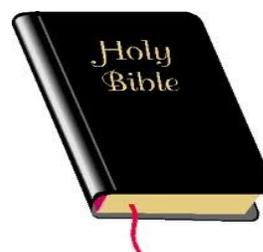
Jesus is King!

It is something that Forest Hills has proclaimed for 50 years!

Jesus is King!

It is something we will proclaim for 50 more!

December 17	HYMN SING 11:15am Youth Group Christmas Party 6:30pm Lifeline
December 18	10am Monday Morning Groups Christmas Party
December 19	10am Rebecca Circle
December 20	5:30pm M&M (Nancy's Christmas Meal) Activity—Christmas Carol Game Night
December 24	CHRISTMAS EVE 10am Worship 4:30pm Worship 11:30pm Worship
December 25	CHRISTMAS DAY Church Office Closed
December 27	No M&M tonight
December 28	11a-4p Youth Day at Church



In our land of democracy and free elections, the idea of a king is actually quite repugnant to us. After all, we fought a revolutionary war to forge our own way and stake our own claim. Americans have inherited a worldview of rugged individualism and standing for what we think is right. We prefer not to answer to others.

King Jesus then poses a dilemma for us. We are unfamiliar with the concept of being ruled by anyone other than ourselves. What does it mean to honor a king? We have presidents, and surely respect is not always afforded to them. As Christians, we are citizens of a heavenly kingdom. We are not of this world. Recognizing Jesus as King is a huge part of our identity in this life.

If Jesus is our King, then he is a good king. We are safe under his rule. Everything we need will be provided. Peace will be the order of the day.

If Jesus is our King, then we need to obey his commands. A good king establishes good decrees and those under his rule would be wise to follow them.

If Jesus is our King, then our victory is sealed. Sin and death will be no more. Suffering and pain will not even be a memory. In short: In Jesus, we win!

If Jesus is our King, then we prepare for his return! The awesome and glorious day is on its way and though no one knows the day or the hour, we live to share his message throughout the world. Time is short, and our voice is vital!

The reign of King Jesus is both now and yet not wholly fulfilled. But as we move into our 50th Jubilee, Forest Hills continues to proudly proclaim the truth of his supremacy! Together we sing to the King!

**“Come let us sing a song,
A song declaring we belong to Jesus,
He is all we need.
Lift up a heart of praise,
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus,
Sing to the King!”**

For the King,

Andrew



FOREST HILLS YOUTH



We are FORGED. The teens of Forest Hills have named their program Forged. This comes from the Bible Verse Proverbs 27:17.

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

Our goal as a youth group is to sharpen one another—in times of meeting, fellowship, or any other interaction. So, what does it mean to sharpen?

When a knife becomes dull it is less effective to carry out its purpose. As are we when we become "dull" in our faith. We need the fellowship and accountability of other believers to sharpen us. By surrounding ourselves with those who are wiser we become wise, with those who are compassionate we become more loving and when we surround ourselves with those who are hungry for the Word, we to hunger for the scripture.

Proverbs 27 also shows us we are in need of fellowship with one another. Man was not made to be alone. This was recognized by the early church ([Acts 2:42–47](#)), who “devoted themselves” to teaching, fellowship, communion, and prayer to sharpening one another.

The Body of Christ – that's us – should be encouraging one another. When we do this, we are like iron sharpening iron. Like a blade we are sharpened for a purpose, to become stronger in our faith and more focused on His call for our lives.

As the teens meet weekly, we will be working with one another to strengthen, encourage, sharpen one another for the glory of God and His kingdom.

Cassi

KID'S CORNER

Ugh...

It wasn't even Thanksgiving when I was strolling into Walmart and there by the entrance stood a large sandwich sign declaring (with urgency) that there were so-and-so many days left before Christmas. But this is what the sign really said: “Hurry! If you are not panicking yet, you should be! There are sales to be had and lists to cross off! Don't you

know you need to have all your ducks in a row? Christmas is no joke! It's big business! Start shopping now so you will still have time to shop later!"

Seriously...don't remind me. Do we really need the countdown sign? Doesn't everyone know where Christmas falls on the calendar?

The answer is yes...yes, we do. Of course people are aware that Dec. 25th denotes a holiday in which people are off from work, families gather and gifts are exchanged. However, if we are not careful, the meaning of it all can be easily lost. Wal-Mart may be on to something with their countdown signs...they know it reminds people. It helps them prepare. But we know the marketing team at Wal-Mart did not originate such an idea. A time of reminding and preparation is a Christian notion. While we do not post signs at our church entrance, we keep a countdown as well. It's called Advent.

Our message is vastly different however. What Advent is really saying is this: "Take some time...slow down. Take a look at who you are and what you spend time doing. Is there anything you'd like to change? Your Savior is near...he'll help you. He has come to save the entire world. Listen to his message. Celebrate your King."

Advent is a crucial time, if we pay attention to it. It is a time to repent of our sins, to quietly draw close to Jesus as we count down the days to his arrival as a baby born in Bethlehem.

Truthfully, we can't really fault Walmart. They exist as a business to make a profit. But we are the church. We provide meaning and sanity to a culture gone mad with consumption. We provide Advent. In our church services we count down the weeks until Christmas by lighting candles. Candles provide a very clear reminder that Jesus, the Light of the World, has come to save us from the darkness of sin. As the flame reminds us of this truth, our prayers prepare us for his coming.

A good way to remind and prepare ourselves and our families is to go through an Advent devotional together. There are many available and they are typically very inexpensive or even free online. Take advantage of Advent this year and find the cure to the common consumption!

Andrew

Events and Info

Annual UMW Christmas Party

December 4th at 5:30pm at Keys Café. Please bring an item to donate to Emma Norton Residence

Adult Fellowship

December 9th at 5:45 pm. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the lobby.

Romeo's and Juliet's

December 13th at 11:30 a.m. More details to come; watch for updates on locations.

Community Care

Saturday December 16th 8 am - 11 am
Truck unloading Friday, November 17th at 5pm

50th Anniversary Celebration

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration is on December 10th! We will have special worship activities, as well as a program and celebration pot luck! Please review the website for recipes from our cookbooks to make for the meal!

Lifeline Sunday December 17th 6:30 pm

Sometimes God can feel distant and it seems like we are alone. If you are weary and disconnected, come and seek God's presence. Lifeline is a simple gathering of prayer and praise. Come and be filled!