

The Edge

October 2015

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FOREST HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

From the *Pastor's Perspective*

"...the whole earth is filled with the glory of the Lord." -Psalm 72:19

Have you seen them? It's starting! There is a hint of color coming on the trees. I'm writing this article on the first day of autumn. Soon there will be so many different hues of so many warm colors: green, brown, yellow, red, purple, rust, burgundy, orange, and every shade in between. Every tree is different, and every leaf on the same tree is also different. There is a beauty there that no person could ever create, and no person can ever fully take in.

Have you ever wondered why trees go through such a miracle of color change? Have you ever considered why it is that when the trees and shrubs get ready for the coming of winter, their time of change is marked by such blazing beauty? Why don't they just turn from green to brown and drop off? There is no benefit to the tree to first go through a display of vivid colors. Nor is there any practical benefit to anything else.

But there is a reason; there is a purpose. It is because God simply loves it, and enjoys it. Even the transition from green to brown cannot be dull and boring for an artistic and creative Creator. Even that must burst forth in beauty, and evidence the Creator's touch. For the Scripture says, "The whole earth

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Church Events

Oct 1	10:30 a.m.—Book Club 12:00 p.m.—Sarah Circle
Oct 3	9:00 a.m.—UMM
Oct 4	World Communion Sunday
Oct 5	6:30 p.m.—LLMT Meeting
Oct 7	11:45 a.m.—Eat. Pray. Love.
Oct 8	1:00 p.m.—UMW 6:30 p.m.—SPRT Meeting
Oct 9	5:00 p.m.—UMM Spaghetti Dinner
Oct 10	6:00 p.m.—Adult Fellowship
Oct 14	11:30 a.m.—ROMEOS
Oct 15	6:30 p.m.—MLT Meeting
Oct 17	7:00 a.m.—Community Care
Oct 18	10:00 a.m.—Hymn Sing
Oct 19	6:30 p.m.—Trustees Meeting 7:00 p.m.—Finance Meeting
Oct 20	7:00 p.m.—Rebecca Circle
Oct 28	11:45 a.m.—Eat. Pray. Love.
Oct 31	9:00 a.m.—Highway Cleanup 9:00 a.m.—UMW Craft Show/ Luncheon

Pastor's Perspective (continued)

is full of His glory" (Isaiah 6:3), and "the land was radiant with His glory" (Ezekiel 43:2). God loves beauty, and He works it into everything He does. There is the changing of colors for the purpose of God's enjoyment of them.

But I think that God also puts a message in the changing colors as well—a message of hope and comfort to His creation. Remember the story of Noah and the ark? At the end, God gives a promise to never flood the whole earth again. And He marks that promise with a sign of wonderful color – the rainbow.

Autumn marks the coming of winter. It is the transition from the growing season to the dormant season, from summer to winter, from heat to cold, from light to darkness. It is such a time of death or mere survival, with a feeling of imminent doom.

But woven into this gloomy transition, God threads the beauty of His promises. He makes the transition itself to burst forth in colorful beauty in a way that proclaims the hope of His promises, even as winter approaches. God uses the time of preparation, the time of getting ready to hold on, the time of "battening down the hatches," to remind us that we need not lose

hope in the coming of winter.

There is a lesson here for us. We all have those times in life that are winters: times of hardship, times of testing, times when we just try to hold on and survive through it. We have those times when life itself seems dormant and cold and darkness seem to prevail. But the dazzling beauty of the changing colors are a reminder of God's steadfast hope and assurance during the winters of life. So we need not fear the winter. We need not fear the cold. God gives a burst of beauty – even as winter approaches – to remind us that it will not last forever; that there will be a spring to follow, and a time of new life.

God does that, you know. He gives us the encouragement of His promises, even when the future looks dreary. He calls to our attention the promises He gives to sustain us, to strengthen us, to bring about new life. So, as we transition into autumn, may the colors remind you to give thanks for how God has blessed you, and how God sustains you throughout the "winters" of life. Hold on to the promises of new life, a new start, a spring to come.

Happy Autumn!

Pastor David

UPCOMING EVENTS

UMM Spaghetti Dinner

The United Methodist Men will be having their annual Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, October 9th from 5-7:00 p.m. \$7 for Adults and \$4 for Kids ages 6-10 (5 and under are free). Tickets are on sale now!

Adult Fellowship

Adult Fellowship will be meeting on Saturday, October 10th at 6:00 p.m. at Rudy's Redeye Grill in White Bear Lake. There's a sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact Sherry Robinson at 651-270-6547 for more info.

Weekend Spiritual Retreat

We would like to extend the invitation for people to consider the weekend spiritual retreat called "Walk to Emmaus." It is hosted at Koronis Ministries, near Paynesville, MN. The men's weekend is October 15-18 and the women's weekend is October 29-November 1. Anyone interested in attending should talk to Chris and Teresa Gruber or David and Teresa Werner. The cost of the retreat is covered for those interested in attending.

Church Membership Directory

There's still time to get your photo taken for the Membership Directory. We have openings available for October 4 and October 11th. Call the church office to reserve your spot!

Kid's Korner

The fact that Halloween is coming is already old news. Stores have been pushing their candy and ghastly decorations for weeks now. By the time the 31st actually rolls around, we are already weary of all the hype. But fear not! There is now a reason to partake in the festivities, a purpose behind the madness, a cause that you can get behind: TRUNK OR TREAT!

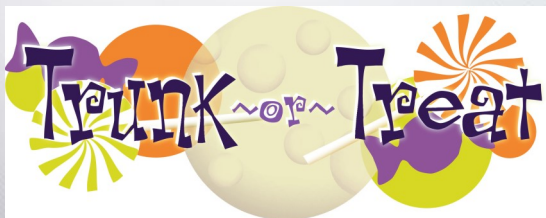
Many in our church have taken part in our annual candy give away. It is fun and it beats staying home having to repeatedly answer the door for little princesses and goblins. Trunk or Treat provides us as a church the chance to be present and relevant in the lives of the families who surround us. We want to be able to build bridges into our community, to meet people where they are. And it just so happens, people are dressing up and looking for candy. We want to be there to begin a relationship, to start a conversation, to share a smile and a treat.

Paul talked about being all things to all people so that, by all possible means, he might save some (1 Cor. 9:22). This is where our calling lies. This is where we begin to build bridges. When a family walks away from our event feeling glad they came, they will be more likely to come to the next event, more likely to join Awana, more likely to come on Sunday mornings, until finally they have come to know Jesus as their Savior and become a part of our family!

Maybe Halloween is not your thing (my hand is raised), or maybe you enjoy it, either way, we have an opportunity to become all things so that we might save some. Please make plans this Halloween to bring your car, some bags of candy, a costume and a smile and come serve in Truck or Treat 2015!

When: Sat. Oct. 31 from 5:30-7:30pm
Where: Forest Hills Church parking lot
Who: YOU and neighborhood families
Why: To build bridges

For the King, Andrew Bonsell



Worship's Word

Leviticus 23:9-11 - When you arrive in the land I will give you and you reap your first harvest, bring the first sheaf of the harvest to the priest on the day after the Sabbath. He shall wave it before the Lord in a gesture of offering, and it will be accepted by the Lord as your gift.

When the Israelites entered the Promised Land they were supposed to take the first fruits of their harvest, the first and best part of the fruits of their labors, and they were to give them up as an offering to the Lord. Did God need these offerings of grain and fruit? No, but the Israelites gave them as a recognition of who it was that was ultimately responsible for the blessings of the harvest.

As we enter the month of October we are entering the month of the harvest. Farmers will be busy in the fields and gardeners will be finishing gathering their produce. While we don't give God the first fruits of our harvest in the same way that the Israelites did, this season is the perfect time for us to reflect on what we do give to God. What are our first fruits? How can we offer them to God? I've heard this topic preached on before with the conclusion that we can offer our first fruits to God by offering God the first part of our day, by going to God first thing in the morning in prayer and bible study. This isn't a bad thing to do, but in my life I know that first thing in the morning is not when I'm at my best. For me, offering God the best of myself means striving toward a real relationship to God. Being in God's presence and communicating with God in all of the highs and all of the lows, even in those early mornings. As we all seek to lead lives of worship we ask God during this time to show us what it is we can offer. God, how can each of us better give the best of ourselves to you and your service every day?

Grace and Peace,

Andrew Buschena

Director of Worship and Outreach

Spiritual Growth

We all know the stress and busyness that occur in life amid transitionary moments. A move, a new job, the changing of the seasons, sending your kids to college, having new responsibilities, beginning school and so on, and so forth.

For me personally, I know it is during these times that I can never find time for the things that bring me life and joy. Time spent with God, or doing things I love in order to care for myself are often the first things to go when my life feels busy and stressful, and they are often the things I need the most.

With beginning my two new jobs this fall I realized the cycle of stress and not caring for myself had begun. I found myself one day having a few hours to kill in Forest Lake and my first thought was to continue to work on tasks or stew in my stress.

Then I remembered Jesus' words in Mark 11:28-29, "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

After reflecting on this decided I should try to remember what it looks like to live that verse out. For me, a favorite way of spending time with God and filling up my soul is to explore new areas and to be outside, and in my mind these things become a grand "adventure"! So, I decided to turn off my phone and get lost for a while. I began my adventure by enjoying the beautiful weather by the lakeshore. After some time on a bench, some people watching, and some noisy seagulls, I decided to drive around the lake. I found North Shore Drive, put on some good music, and crossed my fingers that it would take me all the way around Forest Lake. To my delight it not only made a lap around the lake but was quite beautiful.

After my adventure was over I felt more uplifted and ready to go, I had needed the time with God and self-care more than I had realized.

What for you makes your heart sing? How do you enjoy spending time with God? When was the last time you did something for yourself?

My challenge to you all today (and to myself again) would be to give those burdens over to Jesus, even for just a little while, and let him hold them while you fill your soul. Basically, you do you!! And among the busyness of the new season may our souls find some rest.

Grace and Peace,
Amelia Buschena

UMW FALL CRAFT SHOW

Come join the United Methodist Women on October 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for their annual Fall Craft Show and Luncheon! There will be wonderful hand-made crafts, homemade canned goods, tasty baked goods and our **FAMOUS** beef vegetable soup for lunch. In the morning, we will be serving our renowned caramel rolls...so come for a mid-morning snack, shop a bit, and stay for a hot lunch!

We are accepting donations of crafts, volunteer time and food items for the luncheon. Anyone can donate crafts for the sale and we thank you in advance! Sign-ups for volunteers will be up in early October.

All proceeds go to fund the UMW budget for the year which directly funds the various missions of our church as well as the nurse-

