

The Edge

September 2015

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FOREST HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

From the *Pastor's Perspective*

"We who are powerful need to be patient with the weakness of those who don't have power, and not please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good in order to build them up." -Romans 15:1-2

Marvelous Myths: Marvel Superheroes and Everyday Faith

Heroes went super with Action Comics #1 in 1938. Until that time heroes were ordinary people who did extraordinary things (Dick Tracy, The Lone Ranger, Flash Gordon, etc.). Superman was the first superhero, a hero with super powers. Since then, a myriad of "supers" have come on the scene.

There are two main comic book "worlds." DC, or Detective Comics, introduced Superman, but also added Batman, Aquaman, WonderWoman, The Flash, The Justice League, etc. The other is Marvel Comics, whose superheroes include Spiderman, Captain America, the Hulk, the X-men and Thor.

I have always been a Marvel-man, myself, and I used to have quite an extensive comic book collection before I was married (my favorite superhero was Dr. Strange). I have really enjoyed the new genre of Marvel-world superhero movies: Spiderman, Captain America, Fantastic Four, Avengers, Thor, Iron Man, and most recently Ant Man (an excellent movie, I must say!).

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Church Events

Sept 5	9:00 a.m.—UMM
Sept 7	6:30 p.m.—LLMT Meeting
Sept 10	1:00 p.m.—UMW 6:30 p.m.—SPRT Meeting
Sept 12	6:00 p.m.—Adult Fellowship
Sept 13	9:00 a.m.—Superhero Sunday
Sept 14	7:00 p.m.—Finance Meeting
Sept 15	7:00 p.m.—Rebecca Circle
Sept 16	11:30 a.m.—ROMEOS 12:00 p.m.—JULIETS 5:30 p.m.—Community Dinner 6:00 p.m.—AWANA starts
Sept 17	6:00 p.m.— Youth Group starts 6:30 p.m.—MLT Meeting
Sept 19	7:00 a.m.— Community Care
Sept 20	9:00 a.m.—FPU Class Starts 10:00 a.m.—Hymn Sing
Sept 21	6:30 p.m.—Trustees Meeting
Sept 23	11:45 a.m.—Eat. Pray. Love.
Sept 24	8:00 a.m.—Fall Rummage Sale
Sept 25	8:00 a.m.—Fall Rummage Sale

Pastor's Perspective (continued)

The recent popularity of superheroes has got me thinking about how we who follow Jesus are called to live out heroic lives. We may not have super powers, like Superman or Spiderman, but we do have a special power, given within us, that makes us able to live differently and overcome impossible situations. This is the Holy Spirit living within us giving us God's power in our lives. We are ordinary people, but we have an extra-ordinary calling, and we are filled with the special power of the Holy Spirit to live it out. We are God's superheroes!

This fall, our worship series is going to be taking a look at a number of Marvel superheroes as a way to help us understand our own special calling as Christians to live heroic lives. Each Sunday we'll be taking a closer look at a different Marvel superhero or team and use that hero to better understand our own situations, and how we, too, are called to overcome our struggles and make the world a better place. We'll place each one in dialogue with the Bible to discover how we can live heroic lives for Jesus in our world.

We start with Superhero Sunday, September 13th, with the Fantastic Four. We'll explore how to relate to friends, strangers and enemies. It'll be a fun beginning for the series, with all kinds of kid-focused activities to launch our school year. I'll be wearing my Marvel T-shirt. Wear something superhero, or even a costume! Come for the fun. Come to grow in faith. Come to live a heroic life!

Pastor David

Church Membership Directory

It's been five years since our last picture directory was published and it's time for an update! Cassi Betker has volunteered to take family photos, with Sue Lavigne assisting. Photo appointments will be set up before and after Sunday service on September 20th, October 4th and October 11th. Call or email Laurie at the church office to set up your appointment (651-464-5249) or foreshills.office@gmail.com. If you'd like to order your photos, Cassi will have information available at your photo appointment. Call Carol Humphrey at 651-398-4306 if you need more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Superhero Sunday

Come early on Sunday, September 13th for Superhero Sunday. The fun starts at 9:00 a.m. with games, activities, bounce house and more. After service there will be a Superhero movie and lunch. Wear your Superhero t-shirt or costume!

Adult Fellowship

Adult Fellowship will be meeting on Saturday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m. at Dalles House in St. Croix Falls, WI. There's a sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact Sherry Robinson at 651-270-6547 for more info.

Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University

Class starts on Sunday, September 20th at 9:00 a.m. Register online at http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/class/1000455/atid/m_ln

Living With Change Workshop

We live in an ever changing universe. Our lives are characterized by patterns of change. This workshop will help you recognize patterns of transition in your life, so you can cope with change in a more productive way. As you explore some of the key moments in your life, and analyze your patterns of growth, you will become more accepting of your own personal history. Listening to others share their stories of transition and change lets you know you are not alone in this process, and often provides insights into God's role in bringing about change. Eight 90 minute sessions held bi-monthly from September into January led by Rev. Jim Roe. Dates and times to be determined by those who sign up.

First meeting on Sunday, September 23rd from 6-7:30 p.m. at the home of Jim Roe and Jan Morey (21125 Floral Bay Drive, Forest Lake). Anyone senior high age and older is welcome to sign up!

Worship's Word

Can you feel it? Can you feel the air changing, the temperature shifting, and the sky turning? That's right, as this past week has made us especially aware, fall is coming. I'm sure there are some who shudder at the thought and wish that summer lasted forever, but I have to admit the transition into fall is one of my favorite times of the year.

Growing up fall meant lots of new things. The start of the football season, going back to school, helping out with harvest, bringing the cows home from the pasture, and jumping into big piles of leaves. Now fall means different, but equally exciting, things. Going to an apple orchard, not having to go back to school for this first time in about 20 years, watching the trees change, transitioning into sweaters, and still the start of the football season. I also find that fall stirs up in me a sense of worship. The beauty of the changing season and, in a sense, watching the world dying. The beauty of this dying is that we know that it isn't the end, it's a perfect picture of the resurrection. We experience the cold and death of fall and winter, but we know that spring will come with life and vigor.

So if you are like me and can't wait until fall, I invite you to worship and see God in the beauty of the season. If you are among those who struggle to see beauty in this change of season, I invite you to take this time to reflect on this model of death and resurrection, how it reflects the life of Christ and how it reflects our own lives.

Grace and Peace,

Andrew Buschena
Director of Worship and Outreach

Kid's Korner

September is a huge month for everyone. Everything changes. From the weather, to our schedules, we begin to feel the careless freedom of summer melt away only to be replaced by grinding demands and calendar squares chock full of appointments. Here at church, things are a bit different. Yes, we launch into our school-year schedule, which is busy and full, but we are also excited to be able to minister to kids and families through AWANA and our youth group.

As these groups meet mid-week please keep them in your prayers. We do not promote or run programs just so we have something to do. Rather, we support and promote our people (in my case, our young people). It is crucial for any church to invest in its next generations. We need to develop Christians who are spiritually formed and ready to live the life of a disciple!

We plant seeds and we water them, but only God can make them grow. "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow" (1 Cor. 3:7). With this truth in mind, let us pray that God might grow our ministries at Forest Hills, both wider (into the community) and deeper (into spiritual formation).

Thank you all for your support. A program is only as good as it people and I believe that this church has proven its quality. Let's see that standard and raise it even higher as we enter another year of glorious ministry!

For the King,

Andrew Bonsell



AWANA starts
Wednesday, September 13th at 6:00 p.m.
Register online at
foresthillsumc.net/kids

Welcome Amelia

We are so excited to welcome Amelia Buschena to Forest Hills staff as the Director of Spiritual Growth. She brings great passion and abilities that we simply could not pass up!

When we hired Andrew, her husband, as our Director of Worship and Outreach starting the middle of July, our church's senior leadership saw an opportunity that we felt was God-presented. So, we moved quickly. We do not have room in our budget for an added staff position. Even so, we talked with her and heard her passion for spiritual formation and working with small groups. This aligns exactly with the vision and direction we see for Forest Hills. It was a "God thing!" We have been shifting our focus and priority as a church to how we are a community that helps people grow spiritually. We are called as a church to reach out into our wider community. We offer a way that leads to abundant life. The focus of our near future is to develop our paths for spiritual growth, particularly with small groups. Amelia fit this

new direction in a way we felt could only be God's doing.

Staff Parish Relations Team and the senior leadership of the church prayerfully discerned that we needed to step out in faith and create a new staff position for Amelia, Director of Spiritual Growth. She is serving very part time, 15 hours per week. She'll be serving in the Nurture Ministry Area, forming and organizing small group ministry. The position will be for this school year, and we are trusting that God will provide the funding for this position through the generosity of God's people at Forest Hills.

Take a look at her introductory article below, and then join me in praying for her in this new experimental role. We believe God has sent her to Forest Hills. May God bless her ministry among us and help us to work together to be the church God is calling us to be.

Pastor David

Spiritual Growth

Hello Forest Hill UMC,

My name is Amelia Buschena and I recently began working for your church as a part time Director of Spiritual Growth so I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you all a little bit more about myself. I grew up in Livonia, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, and have thankfully always loved the fall and the winter. I moved to Wichita, Kansas to attend Friends University for my undergraduate studies where I studied Religion and Philosophy. After taking a year off and nannying, I moved to New Jersey to attend Princeton Theological Seminary where I graduated this past May with a Master's of Divinity. In Seminary I met my amazing husband Andrew and we have been married for two years now. Andrew is originally from Minnesota and I have been assured that I'm going to love our new home in this great state.

If I'm being honest with myself, and all of you, I have probably felt a call to ministry since late high school, but I didn't begin to really embrace that call until sometime in college. Overall, I am passionate about God and people, but more precisely I am passionate about walking with

people on their journey, helping people to grow in their faith and their lived life as a disciple of Jesus, and reminding them as well as myself that they are loved by an amazing God. I find spiritual growth, spiritual direction, outreach, college students, and learning what makes people "tick" particularly fascinating.

Outside of ministry you are likely to find me playing board games, enjoying the great outdoors, doing artwork, playing tennis, sipping tea, or just having a good conversation with a friend. I love to try new things, eat new foods, and go off on adventures. My newest life adventures with Andrew include, raising a kitten we just got and named Amani (which is Swahili for "peace"), living in a new city, beginning new jobs, and setting up a new home together. Lots of NEW things!

I am excited to be on staff at Forest Hills and to be a part of the church. I can't wait to see where God leads us this next year as we explore spiritual growth together and learn more about growing in our faith and relationship with God. Happy almost fall Forest Hills!

Many blessings, Amelia