

The Edge



Monthly Newsletter of Forest Hills Church | *December 2015*

Church Events

- Dec 1 6:30 p.m. Small Group Meeting
- Dec 5 9:00 a.m. UMM
- Dec 7 5:30 p.m. UMW Christmas Party
- Dec 10 12:00 p.m. Sarah Circle
6:30 p.m. Caroling
- Dec 11 6:30 p.m. Caroling
10:00 a.m. Dress Rehearsal for
Christmas Celebration Service
- Dec 12 6:00 p.m. Adult Fellowship
- Dec 13 10:15 a.m. Christmas Celebra-
tion Service
11:30 a.m. ROMEOS
- Dec 16 12:00 p.m. JULIETS
- Dec 19 7:00 a.m. Community Care
- Dec 20 10:00 a.m. Hymn Sing
- Dec 21 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting
- Dec 22 5:30 p.m. Family Christmas
Night
- Dec 23 11:45 a.m. Eat. Pray. Love
11:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Ser-
vice
- Dec 24 Christmas Day—Office Closed

From the *Pastor's Perspective*

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." - Luke 2:10-12

Can you hear them? They're the voices of Christmas! I'm not talking about the songs on the radio or the words of the Christmas cards we receive. Listen closer. Push aside the call of the sales advertisements, the recipes for special foods, the plans being made for travel. They are there. They are speaking. They are telling us what Christmas is. But we cannot hear them unless we listen for them. Their voices are drowned out by the noise of the season. So we must listen for them.

There is the voice of the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:11-20, 26-29), speaking disclosure of God's plan beginning. It's a voice calling us to get ready.

There is the voice of Zechariah (Luke 1:5-20), speaking disbelief at what God is doing. It's a voice calling us to raise our voices of praise to God.

There is the voice of Elizabeth (Luke 1:21-25), speaking the lament of barrenness. It's a voice calling us to see the fullness God brings to emptiness.

There is the voice of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-67, 76-80), calling us to prepare. It's a voice calling us to change how we live as we prepare.

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Pastor's Perspective

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"I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." – Luke 2:10

There is the voice of Mary (Luke 1:26-38), the voice of wonder. It's a voice calling us to see the new baby born right among us.

There is the voice of Joseph (Matthew 1:16-25), the voice of reason. It a voice calling us to see the mission and purpose for which Jesus was born.

There are the voices of the angels (Luke 2:8-14), the voices of praise. They are voices calling us to raise our voices in giving glory to God.

There are the voices of the shepherds (Luke 2:8-17), the voices of declaration. They are voices urging us to share the wonderful news of Christmas with others.

There is the voice of Simeon (Luke 2:25-35) declaring the arrival of God's peace when he sees the baby Jesus. It is the voice of peace to all of us, and to our world.

There is the voice of Anna (Luke 2:36-38), lifting up thanksgiving for what God is doing. It is the voice calling us to see the very face of God.

There is the voice of King Herod (Matthew 2:1-8), the voice of deception. It is the voice declaring a new kingdom has been established on earth, one that changes everything.

There is the voices of the magi (Matthew 2:9-12), the voices of adoration. They call us to the only true response to Christmas: adoration. They call us to join in adoring Jesus as our new King and Savior.

Twelve voices of Christmas, heard below the clatter and noise of the season. We will be listening to them every Sunday. But you can hear them throughout the season if you are listening for them. They are the true voices of Christmas, and when we listen to them, not only do they transform our Christmas, our Christmas transforms us!

Let's listen this Christmas!

Pastor David

Kid's Korner

Family Christmas Night—December 22nd

Often Christmas is associated with decorated trees, uplifting carols and kids dressed up in bath robes acting out the Nativity story. These can all be wonderful aspects of the holiday season, but one factor we want to emphasize this year is family.

Families come in all shapes and sizes and are comprised of different people but all families are close to the heart of God. He is our heavenly Father who has seen fit to adopt us all into his family. This makes us all brothers and sisters who, in effect, live under one roof.

One of the hallmarks of Christmas time is gathering with family to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Come December 22nd Forest Hills Church will be presenting "Family Christmas Night". We want to be hospitable and warm to those who live in our community but may not yet know Christ. What if we could provide them with a home cooked Christmas dinner, some family activities, and a simple presentation of the Christmas story? What if we invited others to become a part of our family?

One thing is for sure; this undertaking will involve many hands and feet to help serve our community. As usual, we get to go to work! Join us in this effort to bring families into our holiday celebrations and ultimately bring them home into a saving relationship with Jesus.

We need people to help prepare food, to help serve food, to man activity tables and to deck the fellowship hall! To help get the word out, we will be assembling some teams to hit the streets armed with invitations and a few carols, so get those pipes warmed up!

Contact either Andrews to sign up and let's have a Christmas celebration with our community!

For the King,
Andrew Bonsell

Worship's Word

We have entered the season of Advent. The speed of it can feel like a bit of whiplash, it does to me at least. The season starts to creep up on us already in the beginning of November, decorations appearing here and there, Christmas music playing in stores and on the radio. For one or two days we celebrate Thanksgiving with our loved ones and as soon as this holiday is over we are in the season full swing. It is difficult in our culture that focuses on presents and Santa to have much of a sense of Advent, in fact for many people it is hard to know what the difference between Advent and Christmas is. In the Christian calendar, the season of Advent is a time of waiting, of expectation, and of preparation. As the days grow shorter and we experience more darkness in our physical lives, we also live in a sort of darkness in the life of the Church. One of the verses of O Come, O Come Emmanuel says: "O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer, our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel." In this season of Advent we pray for Christ to come into our lives and into our world, we pray that he comes into the darkness and spreads the light of his love. And as we pray for his coming we rejoice, we rejoice in the knowledge that he already has come, that he was born in a humble manger, that he lived, died, and rose for us. So as we worship in this Advent season, let's pay special attention to the anticipation and the expectation, and in those the ways that God is moving in us during this Advent.

Peace and Joy,
Andrew Buschena

Joyous News



Upcoming Events



Thank You Notes

From Marissa Duryee:

Dear FHUMC,

Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers, and for the wonderful gifts! College is going well, and I appreciate all that you do for me! I can't wait to come home and visit. Love, Marissa

From Micah Ison:

Hey Pastor D,

As I eat the last of the Halloween candy, I just wanted to thank you, as well as the rest of the church, for the care package and all the prayers. It's nice to know I'm still being thought of! Thank you again, Micah

From Colt Johnson:

Thank you everyone very much for the gift. The candy was great and the sling shot racket got some use! Colt Johnson



UNEXPECTED COMPANY CONCERT

Bruce and Gina Lindholm and Amanda Lucas would like to invite you to a lovely holiday concert put on by Unexpected Company, the local choral group from Chisago Lakes Community Education. Concerts are on **Friday, December 4th** at 7:30 p.m. at Wyoming UMC and **Sunday, December 6th** at 3:00 p.m. at Chisago Lakes High School. Please contact Amanda Lucas or Gina Lindholm regarding tickets!

UMW Christmas Party

You are invited to the United Methodist Women Christmas Party on **Monday, December 7th** at 5:30 p.m. at Key's Café in Forest Lake (1960 W. Broadway Avenue). Donations will be taken for Emma Norton Residence. There's a sign-up sheet in the lobby.

Christmas Caroling

Help us spread Christmas cheer this holiday season! We want to go out into our community to invite them to join us for our celebrations. Bring your singing voice and meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. on **Thursday, December 10th** and **Friday, December 11th**.

Adult Fellowship

Adult Fellowship will be meeting at The Bergerson's for a Christmas Party on **Saturday, December 12th** at 6:00 p.m. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. There's a sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact Sherry Robinson at 651-270-6547 for more info.

Family Christmas Night

Start the holiday break off right with Family Christmas Night on **Tuesday, December 22nd** at 5:30 p.m. at FHUMC. Dinner will be served, along with kids activities and the Christmas story.

Christmas Eve Service

Our Candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held on **Thursday, December 24th** at 11:30 p.m.