

The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH, SEPTEMBER 2016

From the *Pastor's Perspective*

Healthy Church Initiative

What does it mean to be a healthy church? What does a healthy church look like?

According to the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, it means increasing vitality in reaching new people, growing in love of God and neighbor and healing a broken world.

The local church of the 21st century looks differently than the local church of the 20th century. How churches lived out their mission a generation ago does not necessarily intersect the needs of the current culture. We know this intuitively, but we struggle to change our practices.

We at Forest Hills have worked hard at changing how we live out God's calling in our world. We have learned how to share our faith (Unbinding the Gospel), worked at transforming our worship (using the mosaic model), focused on families with children and youth in our own communities (our two Action Statements), gone through initiatives of training in hospitality and welcome (wear your name tags, sit by someone new), reframed the church's identity as being on a mission to others (mission, not maintenance; purpose, not preference), updated our building (both the capital campaign and now the lobby), and most recently pursued spiritual growth (join a small group). We've been working hard!

What are the next steps?

Our church's leadership has felt the need to get an outside perspective on how we can continue to develop our church to engage the surrounding neighborhoods in the current culture. We have applied for the Annual Conference's Healthy Church Initiative (HCI). It's a program offered by Annual Conference staff and consultants who help us assess our strengths, purpose, identity, and next steps.

I am so excited to share that we have been awarded the HCI! This means that our Conference leadership has selected our church over many other churches because the Conference believes that FHUC is a dynamic congregation that is living missionally, has a bright future, and has great potential. Or, as the award letter put it, "We invite a select number of churches that we believe have the zest, grit and heart of this missional opportunity. You are one of those we see with those attributes." The HCI is described as "an intentional strategic process to come alongside congregations that are ready to boldly move into the future for which God is calling them." Churches that have utilized this process "have a renewed focus and have started new ministries that are enabling them to reach new people and better connect with their communities."

"The Healthy Church Initiative is an intensive process which involves attending learning sessions for the clergy and key congregational leaders, completing a self-study, engaging an outside consultation, and working with a coach to implement the recommendations." It's a three-year process. The first year, starting this fall, will be

Church Events

Sep 1	12 pm Sarah Circle
Sep 3	9 am United Methodist Men
Sep 5	Labor Day - Office Closed
Sep 6	6:30 pm LLMT Meeting
Sep 8	1 pm UMW Exec. Board Mtg 6 pm SPRT Meeting
Sep 10	10 am Breakfast Club 6 pm Adult Fellowship
Sep 11	KICKOFF SUNDAY 10 am MOMS Club
Sep 12	6:30 pm Finance Meeting 10 am Birchwood Service
Sep 14	6 pm Awana 6 am Community Care Set-up
Sep 17	7 am Community Care 9 am Big Waters District Day
Sep 19	6:30 pm Trustees Meeting
Sep 20	10 am Rebecca Circle 11:30 am Romeos/ Juliet's
Sep 21	6 pm Awana 6:30 pm W.O.W 10 am Healthy Church Initiative Retreat (HCI)
Sep 24	10 am Breakfast Club 3:30 pm MLT Meeting
Sep 25	11:45 am Community Care Team Meeting
Sep 26	Rummage Sale Set-up 26,27,28th
Sep 29	8 am Rummage Sale
Sep 30	8 am Rummage Sale 10 am MOMS Club

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Pastor's Perspective *(continued)*

a year of assessment, both by our leadership internally and by outside consultants. We will then put together a number of prescriptions, which will be brought to a specially-called Church Conference. If adopted, the second year will be a year of implementation. The consultants will work closely with church leadership during this year. The third year is a year of continued follow-up, and the consultants continue to help the congregation keep on track of the prescriptions.

This is a serious and committed process. It requires the prayerful support of the entire congregation, the day-to-day work of the church leadership, the ongoing support and guidance of the consultants, and, most importantly, the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

A handful of leaders attended the HCI orientation with Bishop Ough in Savage this past week. We are bringing back to our congregation what this means for our church and the next steps.

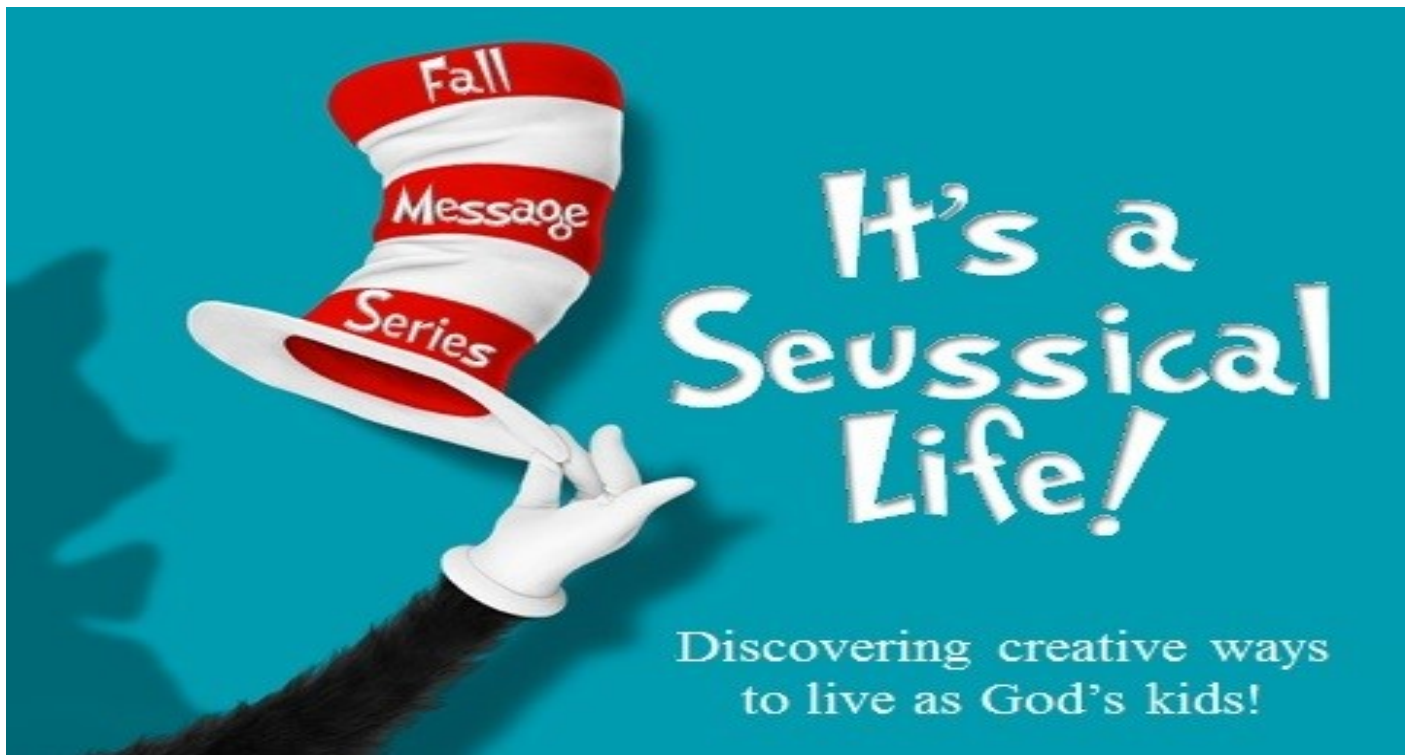
Our first workshop, church leaders and all people interested, is Saturday, September 24 from 10 a.m. - 3:30 a.m. Please consider attending!

I believe this is exactly what we need as a church to help discern what it means for us to be a vital congregation serving God in our own ministry context. It will help us to stay focused on God's leading and living into the people God has called us to be. I join our bishop, sharing, "I pray you will embrace this opportunity to re-vision your congregation's future!"

Hang on...it's going to be a fantastic adventure!

Pastor David

New Sermon Series Starting September



It can be hard to talk about the most important issues of life. Dr. Seuss' stories, however, give us a way to talk about them in fun and engaging ways. This fall we're using some of Dr. Seuss' most beloved stories as a new approach for understanding how the Bible teaches us to live for God in our everyday lives. What may seem at first to be nonsensical (nonseussical?) actually can help unlock what is essential. Come Sundays this fall for cats in hats, Grinches, Snitches, Sneetches, and other creachas as we explore how we can live Seussically for God!

Events and Info

Adult Fellowship

Will be meeting at The Rustic Inn September 10th at 5:45 pm.

31035 Forest Blvd, Stacy, MN 55079
(651) 462-4234

Please sign up in the lobby by September 7th

Romeo's and Juliet's

Will be September 21st at 11:30 a.m. More details to come; Watch for updates on locations.

Healthy Church Initiative

Forest Hills has been accepted into the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) initiative! Everyone is invited to the orientation retreat on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at our church. Most importantly, we are asking everyone to cover this whole process in prayer.

Fall Rummage Sale

Set-up will be September 26th—28th

The sale will be September 29th—30th.

More information to come; watch for it in your weekly emails, bulletins, and website.

Joyce Meyer Conference

October 27-29, 2016

Minneapolis Convention Center
SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 27, 7:00 PM

Friday, October 28, 10:00 AM

Friday, October 28, 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 29, 10:00 AM

Admission is free.

A Day With Bishop Ough

Big Waters District: Change The World Day

Saturday September 17, 2016

@ Coon Rapids United Methodist Church

For more information and to register go to <https://mnumc-reg.brtapp.com/BigWatersDay>

Worship's Word

“Be still and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”
The LORD Almighty is with us;
The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46: 10-11

The end of summer often means the beginning of the grind. Our family is already inundated with school meetings and teacher introductions, gathering supplies and making sure everyone's schedules jive. With five kids now and three in school, my wife and I feel like we will be running for the rest of our lives.

Being busy is part of our culture. We don't feel productive if we are not moving or accomplishing some task. When we do have a moment to stop and rest, we usually fill it with television or Facebook or some sort of electronic device. More and more people are dependent on their phones, but not to make calls or communicate, but rather to waste time on silly games or to peep in on other's lives via social media.

We are all guilty of misusing our time. Sometimes it is perfectly acceptable to give your brain a break, but at other times, we ought to stop and take a moment to focus on God. The Psalm tells us to be still, pause, and acknowledge God's presence in your day. If we can manage to take hold of these “God moments” over the course of our day, we would possess a better overall outlook. Our minds would be in tune with where the Spirit may lead us and we could assess our daily challenges with a more heaven minded viewpoint.

Life moves fast and sometimes we can't control the speed. But stopping off now and then to utter a quick prayer of thanks can just what our hearts need. Worship is not about how we feel on Sunday mornings, it is about how our faith survives in the grind.

For the King,

-Andrew

Kid's Korner

Kickoff Sunday: Sept. 11th

We are gearing up for another school year! Sunday September 11th marks our Kickoff Sunday! We are diving into the fun and silliness as we take a Biblical look at the wonders and works of Dr. Seuss in our fall series "It's a Seussical Life"! What can we actually learn from these crazy creatures and fun rhymes? Can God use Dr. Seuss to impact our faith? Invite your friends and anyone you might know with kids! Here are a few things to remember:

Wear a crazy hat! (If you don't, one will be provided for you!)

Information on all of our upcoming programs will be available for your perusal.

Stay after the service for a heaping helping of green eggs and ham!

We have games and a movie for the kids!

Come on, enjoy the fun!

We'll have so much, it'll weigh a ton

Bring all your friends and their kids as well

We have games and food (it's not a hard sell)

So don't stay at home saying, "What's the use..."

Enjoy the day at Forest Hills with Dr. Seuss!



Starting September 14th
Register online:
www.foresthillsumc.net

What is AWANA?

AWANA is an international curriculum for kids that focuses on the Bible. Each week in AWANA kids will work on memorizing God's Word, play fun group

games and hear a message that applies to their lives.

Students will receive a handbook that they will progress through as well as personalized attention from teachers who care about developing faith in the lives of kids.

We have something for all ages! AWANA begins in preschool and runs all the way through 6th grade.

Our Wednesday nights begin at 5:30pm with dinner for the whole family. Kids then go to their classrooms where they dive into their handbooks and work on learning their verse for the week. They will then enjoy some friendly competition with their teams. Finally, in assembly time, they will learn new songs and hear Biblical teaching. We are all done by 7:30pm!

5:30 Dinner – Cubbies: Preschool – Sparks: K-2 – T&T: 3-6