

# The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH  
JUNE 2018

## From the Pastor's Perspective

### Dreambox

*"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."*

*Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:17*

The miracle of Pentecost is that God poured out His Holy Spirit on His people. We have God's Spirit within us! Not only is that a personal blessing to our own spirits, it also is how God touches others through His Spirit in us. The people in the streets of Jerusalem that first Pentecost each heard the Good News of Jesus in their own language. God was sharing His dream with all people! Peter figured this out quickly, and when he got up to address the crowd (preach), he quoted from the prophet Joel. Joel had foretold that one day, in the last days (meaning the days after the coming of the Messiah), God would pour out His Spirit on ALL people (not just a select few). Joel foretold that God's people will prophesy (share God's words), see visions (see God's plans), and dream dreams.

God has a dream for our church! During this Jubilee year, we have committed to pause and listen. We want to sit with Jesus and hear His dreams for us. This summer we are intentionally dreaming a new dream (hearing God's dream) for our church!

I want to encourage all of us to engage in some practices that will help our young folks to see visions and our older folks to dream dreams.

- Pray daily for our church's dream. Set a time every day to pray. Use the Lenten CROSS prayer as a guide.

### Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

June 3	Communion 11:15 am Pot luck after worship
June 6	Youth Group night at church
June 14	1:00pm United Methodist Women Board Meeting 6:30pm AMT Meeting
June 17	Father's Day Hymn Sing 6:30pm Lifeline
June 21	6:30pm AMT Meeting
June 24- July 1st	Red Rock Camp—Lake Koronis
June 24	Peter Milloy preaching
June 30	10:00 am Kelsey Sarver Wedding

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## Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

- Pray weekly for our church's dream. Sign up for our weekly prayer prompts that come as text messages to your phone. Each week you'll get a Bible verse and prayer prompt.
- Pray monthly for our church's dream. Lifeline (the third Sunday of the month, at 6:30 p.m.) is a special time that we gather as a church to worship, pray, and dream together.
- Use the daily devotionals provided during the "Turning 21 with Wesley" message series. It continues the pattern of daily devotions.
- Commit to a small group on prayer this summer. Starting in July, we will have a message series on prayer to help us connect to God as we dream. We will offer small groups with it as well. I know summer is a busy and chaotic time, but if you can, be part of a small group (even if just for some of the weeks).
- Pray for the Action Ministry Team as they engage in a time of discernment with extra meetings and a summer dreaming retreat. Share with them what you are hearing God say to you!
- Meet with whatever church teams you are a part of sometime this summer. AMT is asking all groups, ministries, and teams to meet and discuss together what God is calling each of our current ministries and teams to be and do in the future. AMT will be providing a conversation guide for your group.

Then, upload (place) what you hear the Holy Spirit saying to you about our church in the Dreambox (notice the wordplay on Dropbox?). We want to be dreaming *together* as a church. That means all of us, the young, the old, the sons, the daughters. Together we dream a new dream for our church. So, please fill out a Dreamcard and put it in the Dreambox. Dreamcards will be available ALL SUMMER in the church lobby, in Sunday bulletins, in the church office, on the church website, and in the weekly emails. We want to collect all of our dreaming, because we believe that when they are all put together, we will discern the dream that God has for our church.

O God, please again pour out your Holy Spirit. Pour it out on the people of Forest Hills Church. We desire to dream the dream you are dreaming for Forest Hills! Let your sons and daughters here prophesy, the young folks here see visions, and your older folks dream dreams. Amen!

Pastor David



## June Message Series

Our June Message Series is "Turning 21 with Wesley: 21 Questions for becoming Mature Christians" John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, asked the small group of Methodists at Oxford 21 different questions in order to help them grow toward spiritual maturity. Through weekly sermons and daily reflection questions, we're going to explore how we can develop the spiritual habits, practices and actions that can lead to a thriving and mature Christian life. If you want to dig deeper, consider reading *The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith*, by Chris Folmsbee, Abingdon Press, March 2017.



## Daily Devotions for June

One of our goals for our Jubilee year is to grow in our passionate spirituality. To help us do this, last fall we started including a “Church at Home” insert each Sunday to help individuals and families continue to grow from the Sunday message all week. Then, in January we offered a church-wide small group experience as we met with Jesus “At the Prayer Rail.” During Lent we proclaimed, “I give up!” as we surrendered to God what was keeping us away from Him. Then, for our Spring message series and small group experience, we read a book together of daily devotions on 1 John that helped us see God’s holy love. Can you see how these resources are being offered to help us grow spiritually as a church?

This month, we have another resource to offer. Our message series, “Turning 21 with Wesley: 21 Questions for becoming Mature Christians” is built around 21 questions that John Wesley posed to the early Methodists. For 21 days, we as a church are going to ask these same questions to help us grow into mature Christians. A daily devotional built around each of these questions is provided for our individual daily devotional time. It is available on our church web site at: <http://www.foresthillsumc.net/devotional/>

## Summer Potlucks

Our fellowship Wednesdays (M&M) have come to a close for the summer. Yet we still want to connect, build relationships, and get to know each other better. To do that, we are planning monthly potlucks after worship on the first Sunday of the month. The first will be this Sunday, June 3. We ask those who remember to bring a large dish to share, so we can then tell everyone to stay and eat even if they have not brought food. Plan to stay, and encourage others to stay as well. Let’s keep building community this summer!



## Small Groups

We have completed the second series of church-wide small groups. There was great participation (nearly 80 signed up or showed up). The feedback is coming in affirming the value of small groups for faith formation. Although not everyone connected with the book, many found its daily readings helpful. One person wrote, this small group experience gave me a “paradigm shift in the dwelling of the Holy Spirit and what that looks like.” Another wrote, “It just pushed me in a new way. [It was] very helpful to listen to others’ perspectives.” Still another wrote, “I had a rude awakening!”

We are hosting another small group series later this summer (six weeks, July 22 - Aug. 31). It will be on prayer and complement our summer message series on how to pray in a transformative way. This is important for our whole church as this summer we are engaging in church-wide prayer in order to “dream a new dream” that God has planned for our church’s future.

We will also host another small group series in the fall, starting in October.

## Annual Conference

This week, May 30 - June 1 is the Annual Conference of the United Methodists (UM) in MN. We are meeting at the Convention Center in St. Cloud. The conference is convened by our Bishop Bruce Ough, and will not only celebrate the ministry of UMs in MN this past year, but also set the vision for ministry for the year ahead. The Love Offering we have collected will also be given during this Conference. Andrew Bonsell is our church's official lay delegate. Pastor David, Pastor Dan, Amanda Lucas, Gina Lindholm, and Rebekah Werner will also attend at "lay equalization members."

It has been announced that a special General Conference of the world-wide UM Church will take place in St. Louis, MO, in February 2019. The General Conference is meeting to find a way forward for the whole UM Church on human sexuality. The current UM *Book of Discipline* states that "homosexuality is incompatible with the Christian lifestyle," forbids openly-practicing homosexual clergy, forbids homosexual marriages or unions to take place on UM property, and forbids UM clergy from performing or participating in homosexual marriages or unions. Each local UM church is asked to meet in order to discuss and pray about crafting a way forward in the months leading up to General Conference, as well as meet to debrief together by discussing and praying after General Conference had made it's decisions. For more information, see [<http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2019-special-session>]

## Red Rock Bible Camp

This year marks the 150th Anniversary of Red Rock Bible Camp! Our church is sending 30 people this year. It's held at Camp Koronis near Paynesville, MN, from June 24 - July 1. There is still time to register. Come for the week...come for a day...or come for the weekend! Friday through Sunday is the special "Homecoming Celebration," including messages by the internationally renowned Pastor Greg Speck and UM Bishop Bruce Ough, Christian comedian Daren Streblov, concert by Tim Lemmens, and a lot of inter-generational fun and activities. Talk to Cassi Betker or Pastor David, or [[click here: https://redrockcamp.org/](https://redrockcamp.org/)] for more information. Brochures are in the lobby by the clipboards. Scholarships available.

## Pastor Andrew!

It is with great joy that we announce that, after a long time of study, preparation, and assessment, the Bishop and Cabinet of the MN United Methodist Church, will be licensing Andrew as a local pastor, and, starting July 1, will appoint him full-time as "Associate Pastor" to Forest Hills Church. This announcement will be made officially at the Annual Conference session the first week of June. Forest Hills will celebrate his achievement on Sunday, July 8 with "Pastor Andrew" leading Holy Communion. Be sure to congratulate Andrew on becoming a pastor, and continue to affirm and pray for his ministry of pastoral leadership among us.



# Worship's Word



Worship is a strange word.

It is used as both a noun and a verb and can even be used to describe a type of service or team: I *worship* (verb) while I am leading *worship* (noun) on the *worship* (adjective) team. See what I mean? It can be a little convoluted. In spite of these uses, the most important is the first: I worship.

For the Christian, worship cannot be a choice. It is not just singing songs, it is not an emotional trip, it is not a production. Worship begins with your heart. To stand before God, praising Jesus Christ and opening yourself up to the working of the Holy Spirit is the what a worshipper is all about. In the service itself, staff do their best to say the right words, sing the right notes and minimize the things that might distract, but the heart of worship beats inside each of us and we are responsible for our own experience.

We can worship with the largest choir or an off-key soloist; the most talented band or those who are just learning.

As worship leader, my job is to put together a team that will offer it's very best to God as we lead in worship. We seek to do this every week through Sanctify. As you may have noticed, we have lost two of our long-time musicians. Our bass player, Perry Ostlund, has become overstretched with a new schedule and Chris Murphy our guitarist has been experiencing pain from carpel tunnel in his hands. Please pray for them both as we ask God's blessing on them in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, Sanctify has tried to adapt to these changes. As we move into summer dreaming a new dream, we look to God to fill our ranks and bless us with leaders who have a heart for worship!

Though it might be a strange word, worship is the lifeblood of our walk with God. Pastor/author John Ortberg puts it this way: *"I need to worship because without it I can forget his [God's] calling and begin to live in a spirit of self-preoccupation. I need to worship because without it I lose a sense of wonder and gratitude and plod through life with blinders on. I need worship because my natural tendency is toward self-reliance and stubborn independence."*

Shout with joy to the Lord all the earth,  
Worship the Lord with gladness  
Come before him with joyful songs!

-Psalm 100:1-2



## AMT UPDATE

At our last Action Ministry Team meeting on May 10, we took care of some business.

- We welcomed Andrew as our new Licensed Local Pastor (LLP). We had asked the United Methodist Conference to appoint Andrew to Forest Hills. We are excited to welcome Andrew in this new capacity. He will still be performing the regular duties of his current position. There will be some extra pay involved which AMT and CMMT (Church Management Ministry Team) have approved.
- Our senior Pastor, David Werner, has requested a 3-month Sabbatical for the Summer of 2019. AMT Approved this. Pastor Dan Hair and Pastor Andrew Bonsell have agreed to take care of David's duties while he is gone. I believe we are still waiting for the United Methodist Conference to approve this, as well.
- A personal invitation was extended to AMT to attend our Lifeline Gathering the third Sunday evening of each month, as we enter the "dreaming and discerning" part of our Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) journey. We also personally invite all in our church family to attend Lifeline, as well.
- CMMT is looking for a new finance secretary. Talk to Chris or Teresa Gruber, if interested.

Next, we started digging into the HCI journey: *Dream a New Dream*

We talked about where we are now, additional meetings and possibly a retreat in early summer to help as we discern through God's leading in the direction our church is headed.

The team split up into smaller groups to tackle what we hope to see 5 years from now in our church. What will a new guest entering our church on Sunday or Wednesday encounter?

**Growing in Faith:** sharing faith stories, increased participation, financial giving, regular active prayer life, stronger relationships, anchored in biblical truth, active small groups, meeting people where they are.

**Christ's love is more visible in our community:** Who is our community? Locally, Bigger. Smiling faces-excited to worship, full church, church body intentionally involved in the community for an intentional purpose, the Great Commission-love your neighbor as yourself, serve with an open heart.

**Personal Relationships:** Using the language of God in casual conversation (giving credit to God out loud, sharing your story, God moments) Taking advantage of opportunities to join support groups/classes that facilitate our deepening relationship with God, and by reading our bulletin, talking to people at the welcome center, giving out welcome brochures, being passionate about spiritual development, deepening our personal relationships, adult baptism, public affirmations of faith, mature/seasoned Christians mentoring new believers/members, and having specific processes for all levels of believers (ABC's, Discipleship process).

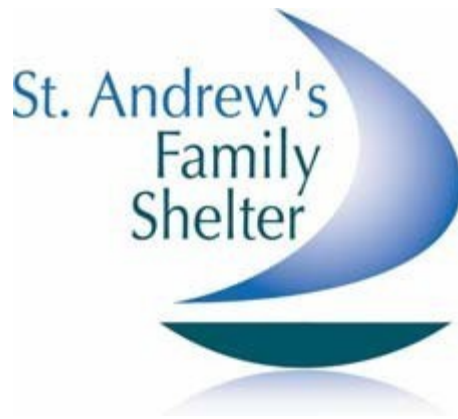
From here, we grow excited about new impossible ideas and dreams, then we will start paring those ideas down to what will work for our church. What are our strengths and resources?

This is what the AMT team members are looking forward to the most. Listening, discerning, opening our hearts and minds to God's plan for our church, now and in the future. This team of people believe that our church will move forward in a vibrant, revitalized way. Each of us is determined to open ourselves to God in new and deeper ways, so that...God may speak to us of His plans.

As a team, we ask each church family member to pray for us and this process going forward.

In Christ always,

Marilee Leonard  
Lay Leader



Renovations at the St. Andrew's family shelter in Hugo continue to move along with the help of volunteers from a number of area churches. Renovation work is typically on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. If you would like to get involved with this project contact Debbie Larson at 651-762-9148 or [dlarson@saintandrews.org](mailto:dlarson@saintandrews.org).

The Community Resource Center at St. Andrew's is going to begin placing families in the shelter very soon. That is when we, as a church, will get the opportunity to put our hearts of hospitality to work as volunteers for the dinner and overnight shifts. For more information, contact Paulette Johnson. We will be seeking volunteers for 2 or 3 weeks of service throughout the upcoming school year. A sign-up sheet is located in the lobby.

There will be an **Opening Celebration on June 24th at 2:00 pm!** The work is almost complete, and at that time we will have the opportunity to tour the shelter, and see how things look. Our church is providing the linens and bath supplies for one of the 5 rooms, so it would be fun to see how that turns out! Everyone is welcome to attend this open house. The shelter is located at 14383 Forest Blvd. North in Hugo. There will also be a volunteer session on homelessness and the volunteer experience on **Monday, June 11th from 7-8pm** in the basement of St. John's Catholic Church (same site as the shelter). This is an opportunity for those who are interested in volunteering to explore and better understand the dynamics of homelessness. Its not mandatory, but rather designed to make the volunteering experience better for all involved, and educate anyone who wants to learn more about homelessness.



This marks my last newsletter of the school year and the end of my first school year as Director of Youth Ministries. I have been so blessed and honored to work with the teens of our church. May 20th we wrapped up our youth group weekly meetings for the school year. It was a time for fellowship and fun. We also took some time and helped Nancy with moving. I love the heart of service our teens have.

This summer we will meet once or twice a month to stay connected. Our first get together will be a family potluck on June 6th to start the summer off. We will be taking our summer to "dream a new dream" and plan how Forged will look in the future. I can't wait to see where God leads us.

For those teens planning to attend Red Rock Camp, June 24- July 1, let me know you are attending so I can mark you on our list. Every teen that attends receives \$100 off their registration from Forest Hills!! And parents if you want to come to we'd love to have you there, you receive \$75 off your registration. <https://www.campminnesota.org/>

Cassi

Director of Youth Ministries

# KID'S CORNER



This summer it is time to dream!

I know that sounds weird. Often, in our world, dreamers are looked down upon. Those who dream do not fit the mold, they don't make much practical sense, they think outside the given parameters. Dreamers can be written off as a lost cause.

Of course, it is not until they create the iPhone or invent the light bulb or break that world record that we applaud these unique thinkers. Every great achievement begins with a dream.

Dreaming is actually hard work.

It is hard because it takes time and the time invested in dreaming does not immediately pan out in results. It is easier to stay busy, to keep the tires spinning and to maintain what is already in place. Dreaming demands something new. It requires creativity and to create is the work of God.

The Psalms declare: "Be still and know that I am God." Knowledge of God requires experience with him. How do we experience God? Typically, the voice of God comes to us as a whisper. As Christians we need to be paying attention, living with our eyes and ears open. This is impossible to do if we remain stuck in the cycle of busywork and distraction.

God wants more for us! He wants more for you! Jesus sent out his disciples in pairs with the instruction to go and minister to the surrounding villages. After returning from their hard work, they gathered together to report to Jesus what they had accomplished. This is how Jesus responded: "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31).

How often do you go away with Jesus by yourself? How well do you know his voice? The truth is, we all could use more time in the presence of Jesus, one on one, face to face.

As staff, as leadership, as lay members, as a church overall, we are being asked dream. Find a quiet place and get some rest. Listen for his voice. Ask God for a new dream for our church.

Our typical kid's programming has been stopped for the past year. We have created some space, and we are now at the point of sitting with God and asking for his vision for our church and community. We are not looking to rehash old ministry plans or integrate some other churches' curriculum. We are going straight to the source and seeking guidance and direction from God himself. I invite you to join with us and dream a new dream!

For the King,

Andrew





# Events and Info

## Summer Potlucks

June 3rd  
July 1st  
August 5th  
September 2nd

## Summer Small Groups

We will begin a small group in line with our "Prayer" series on July 27th. Stay tuned for more details!

## Lifeline Sunday May 20th at 6:30 pm

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5.

We take these words of Jesus seriously. We depend upon him. Our connection to the vine cannot be ignored. Lifeline is a way for us to come together to be with God. There will be songs to sing and prayers to pray, but you can simply come to enjoy the presence of God. All are encouraged to attend because we need Jesus! Our church needs Jesus! Hang on tight to the lifeline.

