

The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH, NOVEMBER 2016

From the *Pastor's Perspective*

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." -Colossians 3:17

The Thanksgiving holiday was set late in the autumn in honor of when the Pilgrim celebrated the first Thanksgiving. By coincidence, then, it falls right before the preparations for Christmas. Or perhaps it is no coincidence?

Normally we think of Thanksgiving as a time when we stop to appreciate the harvest—that has grown all season long but now as harvested—we are blessed to enjoy. We also expand Thanksgiving as a time to stop and take a look at our lives and intentionally give God thanks for all the blessings He has given us throughout the year. In both senses, Thanksgiving is a time of looking back and being appreciative. Yet Thanksgiving falls on the last weekend before the beginning of Advent (Advent is the time of preparation for Christmas). Perhaps Thanksgiving could also be a time of looking forward, celebrating the gift of Christmas.

Thanksgiving can also be a time of intentional gratitude that our God chose to come as a person, was born at Christmas; lived among us teaching, healing and ministering; suffered humiliation and torture; died and was buried; was raised from the dead; ascended back to heaven; and then sent the blessing of the Holy Spirit to be God among us.

All the other blessings for which we are grateful are actually linked to this supreme gift. The gift of Christ demonstrates most fully God's loving and caring heart. The very nature of our God is a nature of giving of Himself so that we may be blessed. That giving to us is received in the harvest and in every other daily blessings. But most importantly, that giving to us is received in the gift of Jesus and the gift of salvation that He earned for us by His faithful earthly life.

This Thanksgiving, I invite you to look back and notice just how God has continued to bless you. "Count your many blessings, name them one by one" as they old hymn goes. It will give you a better sense of God's giving and loving nature. But then also look forward. Look forward into the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Look forward to the blessing we receive because of Jesus in our lives and the salvation we now enjoy. On Thanksgiving, give thanks for the greatest gift of all.

One last note: it seems that for once the annoying commercialism in which we live is actually a blessing. Stores have had Christmas decorations up for at least a month already. In the month ahead, there will be aisles of Thanksgiving decorations alongside Christmas decorations. What a wonderful reminder during Thanksgiving to look ahead and give thanks for Jesus!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor David

Monthly Church Events

* For weekly events see the calendar

Nov 3	12:00 pm Sarah Circle
Nov 5	9 am United Methodist Men
Nov 6	Time Change Fall Back 12 pm History Of the Holy Land Seminar 7 pm Youth Mega Rally
Nov 8	ELECTION DAY
Nov 9	10 AM Birchwood Service
Nov 10	1 pm UMW 6 pm SPRT Meeting
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 12	10 am Breakfast Club 5:30 pm Sleep-Out 5:45 pm Adult Fellowship
Nov 13	11:30 am Annual Church Conference 2 pm Vendor Fair
Nov 14	6:30 pm Finance Meeting
Nov 15	10 am Rebecca Circle
Nov 16	11:30 am Romeos & Juliets
Nov 17	6:30 pm MLT Meeting
Nov 19	6 am Community Care Set- Up 8 am Community Care
Nov 20	6 pm Bible Journaling W/Cassi
Nov 21	6:30 pm Trustees Meeting
Nov 24	Thanksgiving— Office Closed
Nov 25	OFFICE CLOSED
Nov 26	10 am Breakfast Club
Nov 30	6:30 pm W.O.W

Worship's Word

I believe in truth. I believe that we can discern amongst all of the theories, ideas and worldviews available to us actual truth that arises over the rest. I believe in truth because I believe it has been revealed to us by the Creator of all things. I believe in Jesus Christ, who is the Truth (John 14:6).

I love truth. I love to seek truth, to know it and to do my best to live it. Truth is powerful. It can be a soothing balm to a restless heart, or can be a weighted bludgeon. We are in charge of how we employ the truth we possess.

The wonderful thing about knowing the truth is that we can be emboldened to proclaim it. Yes, being a Christian requires a step of faith, but our faith is not blind or foolish. We have been given good reason to believe in the words of Scripture and to embrace Jesus as our Savoir. Once we take the step of faith, God proves himself in spades. We become transformed, we become reborn, the old has gone and the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17)! The truth of our faith is proven, not by clever arguments, but by the demonstration of life change and the experience of saving grace.

This coming month we will unveil a new song that boldly proclaims the Truth that we know.

“Chain Breaker” speaks of the way in which Christ enacts transformation:

“If you’ve got pain, He’s a pain taker,
If you feel lost, He’s a way maker
If you need freedom or saving, He’s a prison-shaking Savoir
If you got chains, He’s a chain breaker.”

The bridge goes on:

“If you believe it, if you receive it
If you can feel it, somebody testify!”

Sharing testimonies of the goodness of God is the perfect way to spur one another onward toward love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24). We are all much better off knowing and seeing how God is at work within our church.

Do you have a testimony of how God is moving in your life? What chains has he broken? Don’t stay silent. Contact me and let’s share your story with our church family. Let’s proclaim truth. Somebody testify!

For the King,
-Andrew



Scott's Script

Hello,

Growing up, I have always been fascinated by eyes. In all honesty, I was probably biased on the matter because my dad is an eye doctor, but regardless, there is something incredible about our sight, and the way it affects us. Eyes have a way of keeping us on the right path as well as the ability to lead us astray.

When I started driver's education in preparation to get my permit, my driving instructor told me to keep my eyes on the road. In school, we are all told to not let our eyes wander to other's papers. I also think of the story of Peter stepping out of the boat onto the water in Matthew 14. Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water. He successfully walked on the water! What a miracle! But then he saw the winds and became afraid. Peter looked away from Jesus and looked towards the wind.

I don't know about you, but I face this issue so often. When the busyness and chaos of life come, there are times that my eyes drift away from Jesus. I begin to focus on my to-do lists and everything else. It is at times like this that I think about the hymn, *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*, and how it can guide us well in life.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.

I write this as a reminder to myself but also to us all. With Jesus as the focus, everything is seen through him which gives us the perspective of the Kingdom of God. What a gift of sight that is!

Grace and Peace,

Scott Van Daalen

Events and Info

Adult Fellowship

Will be November 12th at 5:45 pm.
Sign up sheet will be located in the

Romeo's and Juliet's

Will be November 16th at 11:30 a.m. More details to come;
Watch for updates on locations.

"History of The Holy Land" Seminar

Next class dates are Nov. 6th, Dec. 4th, Jan 8th and Feb. 12th,

Youth Mega - Rally

November 6th from 6-8 pm @ Bethel University - Benson Hall

Mega-Rally is a powerful youth event featuring some of the most dynamic Christian speakers and performers around. Geared to encourage, challenge, and entertain junior and

senior high students, Mega-Rally is a great opportunity to invite friends to a high-energy, Christ-centered experience.

We will meet at Bethel for this event. If interested, talk to Scott before October 27! The event costs \$5.

Sleep-Out

November 12 and 13
Hosanna Lutheran Sat. 5:30 pm - Sunday 9:00 am

Concerned church members are sleeping outside to increase awareness of suburban homelessness and to raise funds to help local families without stable housing. Youth build a cardboard "city" and sleep on the lawn of Hosanna Lutheran. There are games, activities, and a warm fire throughout the night.

"History of The Holy Land" Seminar

Join Pastor David on a learning journey tracing the history of the lands of the Bible from creation through today. We'll use maps, time lines, and archaeological findings to trace the events, people and stories of the Bible, as well as unpack the historical account after the Bible. Six 2-hour sessions, starting October 2nd at noon (Bring a bag lunch). Free @ Forest Hills Church, everyone is welcome! *Future Dates: Nov 6, Dec 4, Jan 8, and Feb 12*

Kid's Korner

"It's mine!"

"I want it now!"

"Give it to me!"

Kids are selfish. They are mean creatures looking out for themselves and their own desires. They only care about fairness when they are the victims...and they are always the victims. From birth, we are the center of our own universe. We live only to receive what we want. As we grow we begin to learn to see that others matter too. We employ empathy and understand the importance of kindness. There are some among us who never quite grow up, but we also learn to deal with difficult people.

I am a firm believer that any good will we might have to offer this world originates from a place of gratitude. The be grateful is to be truly free. So many anxieties and pressures are put upon us because we do not stop to be thankful for what we have. We worry when things are good, we scramble when we have plenty, we turn green with envy when we know we couldn't possibly do with more.

Yes, this is a typical Thanksgiving article, but let it also serve as a reminder: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1). When we have the love of God, we have all that we need. It might be argued that if it came down to it, you cannot eat the love of God. Maybe so, but the body of Christ, the church, takes care of its members. Felt needs are met as gratitude overflows.

Help the kids in your life understand gratitude. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Give them less stuff! Saying "no" does not mean you do not love them.
- If they are always grumbling about food, allow them to help in the kitchen. If they prepare the meal, they are more likely to eat it.
- Be okay with a certain amount of struggle. Overcoming challenges leads to resiliency.
- Serve together. Volunteer and get them involved. When kids get a chance to focus on other people, they begin to see their own place in the world. Check the calendar for upcoming events!
- Engage them in your faith. Talk about the important questions of life. Help them think through the big picture stuff. If they can see God in their everyday lives, and better understand his love, they can begin to live with grateful hearts.

For the King!
-Andrew

I Am Thankful For...

