

The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH, MARCH 2016

From the *Pastor's Perspective*

It's More Like Falling in Love!

This Lent, we're staying close to Jesus. We're watching, we're listening, and we're traveling with Him. You see, as we prepare for Easter, we think of Jesus as our Savior, dying on the cross, saving us from our sin and giving us new life. But Jesus is not just someone who did all this. He is someone we have a personal relationship with. It's a love-relationship, Jesus' love for us, and our love for Him. The disciples lived with Him, walked with Him, ate with Him. And they fell in love with Him. And like them, we want to fall in love with Jesus, too. So, we are going to spend time with Him, watching Him, traveling with Him, being near Him. Our relationship with Jesus is more like falling in love!

Christian artist Jason Gray has released a song by this name that tries to express this deeper connection of how our faith in Jesus is a love-relationship. Part of the lyrics go:

*I need more than A truth to believe
I need a truth that lives Moves and breathes
To sweep me off my feet, it's gotta be
More like falling in love Than something to believe in
More like losing my heart Than giving my allegiance
Caught up, called out Come take a look at me now
It's like I'm falling, oh It's like I'm falling in love*

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, said that salvation is an ongoing, love-relationship with Jesus. Salvation, then, is not something you "achieve" or "have." It's not a belief that you agree to. It's a personal relationship with Jesus. Doesn't that affect how you understand salvation? Remember, the same Jesus who said "Believe in me" also said "follow me."

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- Mar 1** 6:30 p.m. Capital Fund Drive Meeting
- Mar 2** 6:00 p.m. Celebration Choir Starts
- Mar 3** 12:00 p.m. Sarah Circle
- Mar 4** Confirmation Retreat
- Mar 5** Confirmation Retreat
9:00 a.m. United Methodist Men
- Mar 7** 6:30 p.m. LLMT Meeting
- Mar 8** 6:30 p.m. Festival Meeting
- Mar 10** 1:00 p.m. United Methodist Women
5:15 p.m. Lobby Design Meeting
- Mar 12** 6:00 p.m. Adult Fellowship
- Mar 13** Daylight Savings Time begins
11:30 a.m. Worship Meeting
- Mar 14** 7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting
- Mar 15** 10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle
- Mar 16** 11:30 a.m. ROMEOS/JULIETS
- Mar 17** 6:30 p.m. MLT Meeting
- Mar 19** 7:00 a.m. Community Care
- Mar 21** 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting
- Mar 24** Maundy Thursday
6:00 p.m. Seder Meal
Easter
7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
- Mar 27** 8:00 a.m. Easter Story Tours start
10:15 a.m. Worship Service
6:30 p.m. Bible Journaling Class

Pastor's Perspective (continued)

Faith is a trust in the person of God. Put another way, faith as belief knows that “Jesus died and rose again.” Faith as trust knows that “Jesus died and rose again for me.”

Think about other significant relationships in your life, perhaps your spouse or your dearest friend. What makes that relationship special? How would you describe it? What makes it a relationship? Then, consider, how is your relationship with Jesus like that relationship?

Why do you love Jesus? What does it mean for you that you love Jesus? How does that affect your life? How does that affect what you do every day?

Lent is a time of reconnecting with Jesus. It's a time to work on that primary relationship. Perhaps you need to “give something up for Lent” in order to allow your relationship to grow. What would that be? Perhaps you need to spend more time with Jesus, in prayer, in reading the Bible, in listening to Christian radio.

Don't miss our special events as we get closer to Easter, either. Each Sunday we'll hear a story from the Gospels that may cause us to fall more in love with Jesus. Then, on the Thursday before Easter, we're having a Seder Meal at church from 6-8:00 p.m. A Seder meal is the Jewish Passover meal that Jesus ate with His disciples (The Last Supper), and where He instituted Holy Communion. Don't miss it! Saturday is the Prayer Vigil. Sign up in the lobby. Then, Easter Sunday, all at the church:

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service

8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Hunt for Easter (for all ages!)

10:15 a.m. Easter Worship

Don't miss these events, and experience the full meaning of Easter. It's more like falling in love! Happy Easter!

Kid's Korner

In our current sermon series, “More Like Falling in Love”, we are trying to walk closely with Jesus through the Gospels in order to better understand his perspective. The more we relate to Jesus in this way, the more we can realize our love for him. As Forest Hills takes this journey together, I wanted to share one way in which you can tangibly live out your commitment to Christ in the midst of our community.

Every Thursday morning from 9:15-11:15 a.m. I have spent some time this school year volunteering in a 4th grade classroom. I help them review spelling words and learn some new math concepts. I have even recently been asked to spend a few minutes of my morning with a student who has had to move here from Texas and has been struggling since his parent's got divorced. My time at the school is short indeed and does not seem to make much of an impact in and of itself, but the cumulative effect can be powerful. Because I am there consistently every week, the kids expect me to be there and what's more, I have a chance to form relationships with them.

As a church, we ought to have some of our sights set on the schools in our community. It seems like a daunting task, but together we can bring Christ into the classrooms of Forest Lake Elementary. We can make it clear to the students and staff that there are people that care for their interests.

If you have any inclination to share with me in this work, please let me know. Your role within the school does not have to look exactly like mine (although it could). If we were all honest, most of us could probably give up two hours of our time in a week to be Light in our community schools. Please contact me today and we can talk through some details of what your ministry in a school might look like!

For the King! ~ Andrew Bonsell

Worship's Word

It's the beginning of March and we are starting to think about new things. A warm day here and there gives us a taste of spring and we start to remember what it is like to leave the house without bundling up first. Some of us get excited about starting the garden for the year, others can't wait until they can jog without a stocking hat. All of us I imagine are excited for newness, fresh growth, warmth, and light.

Our sermon series for Lent, *More Like Falling in Love*, is getting us excited for the newness, fresh growth, warmth, and light that comes to us at Easter. We're looking at stories from Jesus' life and discovering each week that our faith isn't just about thinking the right things or believing the right things, it's about falling more and more in love with the person of Jesus.

We hope that you can join us this Easter and for all of our Holy Week events. March 20th is Palm Sunday when we remember Jesus joyful entrance into Jerusalem. March 24th is Maundy Thursday and we will have a Seder meal, a special meal that incorporates and remembers both the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples, and the traditional Jewish Passover traditions. March 25th and 26th we will have a prayer vigil here at the church. And then on March 27th, Easter Sunday, we will have a joyous celebration for Easter. At 7:00 a.m. there will be a sunrise service for the early risers, a breakfast from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., a "Hunt for Jesus" with Andrew Bonsell, and finally our Easter service with the Celebration Choir and Orchestra at 10:15 a.m. It's going to be a great day! Hope to see you there and hope that our worship fills your life with newness, fresh growth, warmth, and light.

Joy and Peace ~ Andrew Buschena

Events and Info

Adult Fellowship

Adult Fellowship will be meeting on Saturday, March 12th at 6:00 p.m. at Vannelli's by the Lake. There's a sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact Rozanne Foster for more information.

Action Pack

On Sunday, March 13th Action Pack will host a meal delivery to people in the Forest Lake area who might appreciate a meal delivered to them. If you know of folks in the area who would appreciate receiving a meal, please pass along their contact information to the office. Then plan on taking a detour on the way home from worship that day to share some good food!

Bible Journaling Class

Cassi Betker will be teaching a Bible Journaling Class on the last Sunday of every month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. She will be covering the basics of bringing art and journaling to your Bible study. Come with a Journal Bible or a sketch book and a Bible. Bring any other paints, stickers, letters or other items you would like. She will also have some supplies for you to try out. Contact Cassi at cassi.betker@gmail.com for more info.

UMCOR Donations

Forest Hills donated 72 filled school bags, 101 empty school bags, 7 boxes of school supplies, 31 baby sweaters, 25 receiving blankets and 2 health kits this year. Thanks to everyone who donated and/or made items!

Lenten Spiritual Practices

Every Sunday this Lent Amelia Buschena will be introducing us to a new spiritual practice that we can take home with us and do throughout the week. These practices are a way for us to spend time with Jesus, get to know Him better, and fall love with Him all over again. If you aren't with us on a Sunday but would still like to experience and live into the practice from that week you can find them at the Welcome Center in the lobby throughout the week or by clicking the "Lenten Spiritual Practices" banner on our website homepage. The banners are our current happenings that rotate at the top of the homepage. We hope these practices bring you encouragement and renewal during our Lenten journey of falling in love with Jesus!

Calling All Singers!

If you love to sing come join our Celebration Choir! We'll start rehearsing for Easter on March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. Choir rehearsals will continue every Wednesday night in March until Easter. Contact Andrew Buschena for more information. Hope to see you there!

Spiritual Growth

I recently read a study that said you are a combination of the five people you spend the most time with. It discussed how you take on the attributes of these people by simply being present with them, both the good and the bad. The article got me thinking about my life and who I spend my time with, it also got me thinking about how I spend my time and wondering if that has impact on who I am as a person. For example, I LOVE the BBC television show Doctor Who! I could watch that show every-day if I let myself. The show captivates me, takes me on grand adventures, reminds me of the beauty in the human spirit, and it's just fun. I have watched the modern reboot episodes more than once now, and have begun watching the originals. And the worst for me is running out of new episodes and having to painstakingly wait months before a new series will air. The separation of this waiting is almost unbearable, to the point where I find Doctor Who novels and Comic books to read during the arduous gap. Let's just say I've got it bad for Doctor Who. This means that I spend time watching the show, picking things up from it, and letting it seep into a part of who I am; and we haven't even touched on the top five people I spend the most time with who undoubtedly impact me even more.

I think this article hits at a profound truth in regards to how we spend our time and who we spend it with. I also believe Jesus knew this truth, after all he surrounded himself with disciples in the hopes that they would "be" like Him. And this is what we are focusing on this Lenten season; what it means to be a disciple of Christ growing ever more like Him. In the same way that I long to watch a great episode of Doctor Who or spend an afternoon with some of my favorite people I wonder how often do I long to be with Jesus. Because it is through spending time with Jesus that we will begin to be most like Him. This lead me to ask myself, "Is Jesus one of the five people I spend the most time with?" I know for me the answer to this question often varies greatly throughout my life and I'm guessing the same can be said for most people. I know that spending time with Jesus is often not as easy as spending time with our favorite show or person but I also know from experience that spending time with Jesus also offers me the best of what Doctor who does, captivating me, taking me on grand adventures, reminding me of the beauty in the human spirit, having fun, and so much more than any activity or other person ever could. Making Jesus one of the top five people I spend the most time with gives me more than I could ever possibly imagine.

You might be wondering, "But where do I begin?" Or, "What does it look like to spend time with Jesus?" These are great questions! One way that I love to spend time with Jesus is through spiritual practices. These are small and simple practices that can be used during our day to day lives as a way of setting aside time specifically for Jesus. So here's my challenge to myself and to all of you; let's put Jesus in our top five this lent, and let's do so together as a church. Every week I will offer us a new spiritual practice during Sunday worship that you can take home and practices throughout the week. If you miss a Sunday hard copies can be found at the Welcome Center and digital copies are posted online at our website.

I pray that in our time with Jesus we would come to know and love Him. I also pray that as the article says He will become a part of us in such a way that we carry Him around in all that we do.

Grace and Peace,

Amelia Buschena

Easter Events

MAUNDY THURSDAY – MARCH 24TH

6:00 p.m. – Seder Meal

On Maundy Thursday we will be inviting Rabbi Ed Rothman to lead us in a Seder meal. A Seder meal is an experience that connects us with the Jewish heritage of our faith by incorporating traditional aspects of a Passover meal, and also helps us remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. This will be a powerful and unique experience that you won't want to miss!

EASTER SUNDAY – MARCH 27TH

7:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service

At our Easter Sunrise service we will remember Jesus resurrection in a similar way to the women and disciples at the tomb, early in the dawn of the morning. This will be a more intimate gathering, but powerful in its setting and message.

8-10:00 a.m. – Easter Breakfast

Come and enjoy breakfast while supporting missions at Forest Hills Church! Our youth invite you to join us Easter morning from 8-10 for a wonderful meal and the opportunity to donate to summer mission trips.

8-10:00 a.m. – The Hunt for Easter

Easter, like so many traditions, can lose it's luster after awhile. We see it coming months in advance, we make plans and preparations, we attend a church service. Yet somehow we are unable to capture the meaning and power of the most important event in history: the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Forest Hills wants to help you find meaning again with "The Hunt for Easter", a hands-on experience for the whole family! Walk with Jesus through various scenes from the Gospels and see the story in a new way.

10:15 a.m. – Easter Worship Service

At our main Easter service we will experience all of the joy and celebration that Jesus' resurrection deserves! Join with our Celebration Choir and Orchestra in singing praises to our Risen Savior. Hope to see you there!

