



The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH, MAY 2016

From the *Pastor's Perspective*

General Conference!

Jesus prayed, "I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:20-21

We are part of something big! Forest Hills is part of a church denomination that links arms around the entire planet. We are a United Methodist congregation, and the United Methodist Church is one of the few truly global Christian churches. We have United Methodist Christian brothers and sisters in nearly every country on earth!

We are connected on a local level (together at Forest Hills United Methodist Church), conference level (we are part of the Minnesota Annual Conference), and global level (the General Conference of the United Methodist Church).

One of the great miracles of our denomination is our commitment to get along. This is difficult for a few people who are similar in many ways (think of your own family). Just imagine how amazing this unity is among a denomination of millions of people from every culture and language (our United Methodist family). We are different in so many ways, but we are strongly united around our love for Jesus, our Wesleyan spiritual heritage, and our commitment to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

continued on page 2

Church Events

May 5	12:00 p.m. Sarah Circle
May 7	9:00 a.m. United Methodist Men
May 8	Mother's Day
May 9	6:30 p.m. Finance Meeting
May 12	10:00 a.m. Community Care Meeting 1:00 p.m. UMW Board Meeting
May 13	7:30 p.m. Unexpected Company Concert
May 14	6:00 p.m. Adult Fellowship
May 15	10:00 a.m. Hymn Sing
May 16	6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting
May 15	6:30 p.m. Bible Journaling Class
May 17	10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle
May 18	11:30 a.m. ROMEOs/JULIETs 6:30 p.m. W.O.W.
May 19	6:30 p.m. MLT Meeting
May 21	8:00 a.m. Community Care
May 25	6:00 p.m. Awana Award Ceremony
May 28	5:30 p.m. Kickball Tournament/Picnic
May 30	Memorial Day

Pastor's Perspective (continued)

It is at the General Conference level that the United Methodist beliefs, organizational structures, and way of life are all established. Delegates from each Annual Conference on earth gather once every four years to set the policies, vision, and governing rules of the United Methodist Church. It is the General Conference that adopts The United Methodist Book of Discipline, which governs all United Methodist congregations and structures. This book contains the definitive United Methodist Articles of Faith, historical Statements, bylaws, organizational structures, and social principles. An online copy of the current United Methodist Book of Discipline can be found [here](#).

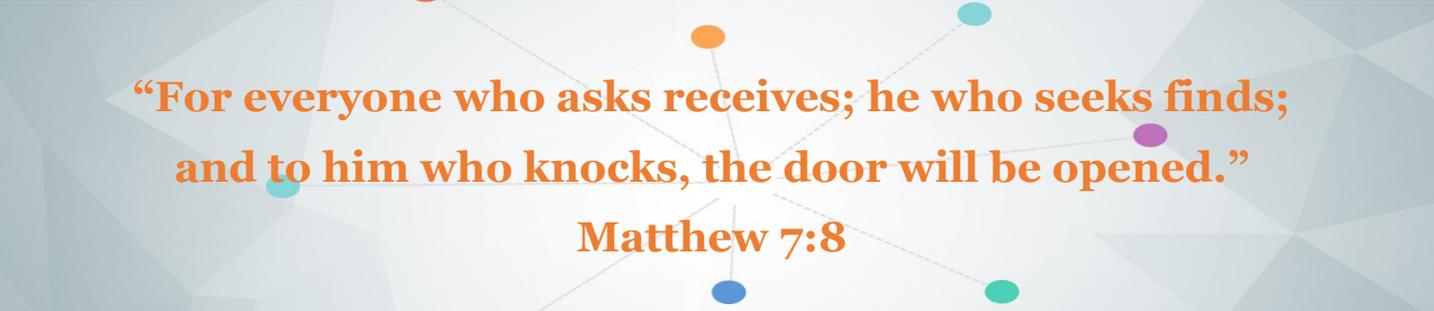
General Conference will soon be held in Portland, Oregon, on May 10-20, 2016. What an exciting time! Headlines will be made...be watching the news. Better yet, follow General Conference more closely. The website www.GC2016.UMC.org will show live streaming video of General Conference, as well as all the updates, reports and news articles. You can also participate through your prayers, getting to know our MN delegates, join in the worship, and keeping up with the legislation. This link will get you connected: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/every-united-methodist-can-be-part-of-general-conference-2016>.

A special treat is that our very own MN bishop, Bruce Ough, is currently serving as the president of the College of Bishops, and he will convene General Conference!

As United Methodists, we certainly don't agree on everything. This will be true at General Conference, too. I'm sure the cultural "hot topics" will receive the majority of the media attention. Even so, the United Methodist Church's strength comes not from everyone thinking alike, but from our commitment to "be one" together. John Wesley, the founder of the United Methodist Church, coined the phrase, "agree to disagree," referring to how Christians don't have to all think alike on non-essential issues of faith. That is a defining hallmark of our unity. We don't all think alike (Hillary Clinton and George W. Bush are both United Methodists!). Yet we are united by Jesus' command to "love one another."

No matter who you are, you probably won't like everything that happens at General Conference. Yet we remain committed to love one another, to agree to disagree on non-essential issues of faith, and "be one" just as Jesus prayed we would be (John 17:20). Even though this doesn't always happen among Christians, let's commit to living this way at least in our own lives. That's a great way to be a United Methodist!

Pastor David



**“For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds;
and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”**

Matthew 7:8

Staffing Changes

Andrew and Amelia Buschena are resigning their staff positions at Forest Hills effective June 15th. The Bishop and our conference leadership is planning on appointing them to joint pastoral ministry in another church setting in July. Once their appointment is finalized, we will be able to share more information.

Events and Info

Adult Fellowship

Adult Fellowship will be meeting on Saturday, May 14th at 6:00 p.m. at Mongolian BBQ in Stillwater (1490 W. Frontage Road). There's a sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact Rozanne Foster for more information.

Spring Rummage Sale

The Spring Rummage Sale took in \$1,300! Thanks to all who helped out with this. Proceeds from the sale are going towards the parsonage windows project.

Bluegrass Festival Fundraiser— Butter Braids

There's still a few Butter Braids available and they can be purchased for \$12 fro Hebrews Coffee Shop.

Plants for Sale

Ann Klinner will have tomato and pepper plants for sale the last weekend in May. Money raised will go towards purchasing flowers to plant at the church this summer.

Bible Journaling Class

Cassi Betker will be teaching a Bible Journaling Class on Sunday, May 15th 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. This will be the last class until next September.

Dementia Support Group

This group meets the third Saturday of every month at Cherrywood Pointe from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The group provides an opportunity to receive information about dementia, to share your concerns and questions, and to give and receive support with others who are facing the same issues. The leader of the group is Jim Roe, caregiver for 10 years, support group leader for 6 years and dementia awareness trainer. For more info contact Michelle Bernu at 651-464-2709.

Worship's Word

When I was growing up, May was always an exciting month. There were always a lot of different things happening during May. On the farm calves were being born, planting in the fields and the garden was happening, and I was on the alert for litters of kittens hidden away in the hay bales. In school we were wrapping things up for the year, going on our last field trips, and getting excited for summer vacation. Things aren't the same now as they were then, but I still get excited during this month. May is when I really start to feel like spring is here, and winter starts to fade to a distant memory.

When spring comes we have expectations, we have our thoughts of how it's going to go, but reality doesn't always line up with those expectations. We think about days that are warm, but not hot, gentle rain showers, and bursts of green as the grass grows and the trees bud. Many years that's exactly how it goes. But then you have the years when spring does not live up to your expectations. Those years when it seems to go straight from winter to summer, 30 degrees one day and 80 degrees the next. Or the spring when it just won't stop raining and instead of burst of green we have flooded roads and lawns to deal with. Or the spring that seems perfect, but then we have a blizzard in the middle of May.

In our sermon series Pastor David is talking about the open door. God opens doors in front of us, and when we go through those doors we always have expectations about what is going to be on the other side. Maybe it's the new job that you know will be perfect, or the relationship that you know is the one, or the school that's going to start you on the path to your lifelong career. Sometimes when we get on the other side of those doors we find things much like we expected them, 70 degrees and sunny. But often we find the unexpected, the blizzard that comes from nowhere. When our experiences aren't living up to our expectations, this is when we need to learn to trust. To trust that the one who opened the door in front of us will see us through it. Sometimes that means trusting that the God who redeemed that world can also redeem this situation. Sometimes it means trusting that the God who opened the door to where we are now will be faithful to open another door as well. In all things and at all times we need to remember that God didn't promise us that it would always be easy, but instead that God will always be faithful.

Many Blessings ~ Andrew Buschena

Spiritual Growth

We all know how the common saying goes, "April Showers...bring May flowers!" I for one have never been more aware of how true that statement is than this year. We spent most of April with very little water falling from the sky and equally as few buds forming on the trees or sprouting from the grounds. Then suddenly just over a week ago we got a full day of rain, which has since led to a couple of weeks of moisture. That first rain really stood out to me though. It was a good full rain, the kind that made the earth smell good and look refreshed. Then the very next day after this first rain I noticed that our neighborhood had come alive overnight new growth had sprouted everywhere and it was beautiful. The earth had soaked in the life giving water and had turned it into stunning new life.

Much like the trees and flowers our lives need living water to nourish us and soak us with the ability to grow, flourish and have new life. Jesus talks directly in John 4 about how he is this living water for us. In the narrative he comes to a well in the middle of the afternoon and finds a Samaritan woman alone and asks her for a drink of water from the well. The woman is surprised that Jesus, a Jewish man, would ask her, a Samaritan woman, for a drink. She makes her astonishment known and Jesus responds by speaking to her about a different kind of water than what is in the well. In John 4:13-14 Jesus says to the woman, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." Jesus is telling the woman that He is the water that gives new life. This is why for me it is important to have spiritual practices and ways of spending time with Jesus, so that I might be soaked by his living water and grown new buds.

So as we watch April showers bring about May flowers may we remember that Jesus is the true living water in our lives. And, may we keep ourselves close to the source of that water in the hopes that we will bloom and blossom overnight just as the earth is beginning to do around us.

Grace and Peace ~ Amelia Buschena

Kid's Korner

May is supposed to be budding with beautiful flowers due to the moisture received in April. May is supposed to render sunny days and cool breezes. I have faith that these suppositions will become reality which makes May the perfect time for kickball! Forest Hills will be hosting an afternoon filled with kicking, running, shouting, eating and getting to know our neighbors on Saturday, May 28th at 5:30 p.m.

We have a great opportunity to beat summer to the punch (or kick) by offering an event that will allow families to get to know us and spend time together. We have a kickball diamond, we have grills to cook and we have families to meet! This event is a church-wide effort and we need all the help we can get!

We need: umpires, grill cooks, playground supervisors, team captains and some people lined up just to shoot the breeze.

Join us for the first ever Forest Hills Invitational Kickball Tournament!

For the King ~ Andrew

