

The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH, AUGUST 2016

From the *Pastor's Perspective*

Worship Plus Two

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

I am starting to harvest the fruit out of my garden: beans, cucumbers, zucchini, tomatoes. Soon it will be the season for sweet corn! I can't wait!

I have the sense that God feels the same way...about us! Each of us are plants growing in God's garden. But as plants, we have a purpose. It's not just to grow big and beautiful, although that is important. God does want us to grow up into healthy, sturdy, and mature people of faith. But the point is not for us to just have a great personal relationship with God. God also intends for us to bear fruit. God wants us as His plants in His garden to produce fruit!

Fruit is something that others enjoy. The fruit God seeks is the ways we share His blessings with others: the way we use our lives to bless God's other children. The Bible talks about it in terms of spiritual fruit, or fruit of the [Holy] Spirit. God is excited about the harvest of our fruit so that the blessing is shared.

This year at church we're talking a lot about growing spiritually. For us, that means each of us as individual plants growing closer to God personally. That also means each of us growing closer with one another in God's family so we can be the diverse and full garden God intends. But it also means that we all grow into our calling to bear fruit of blessing, touching others for God. We have pathways this summer to help us grow into fruit-bearers. One is the summer spiritual disciplines, available on our [church web site here](#). Another is the summer message series on David: Man of Passion and Destiny. We are taking a closer look at David to see how we can also be people after God's own heart. There are the blogs available on our church web site, too. Then there are all the opportunities of service, including the Blue Grass Festival, Community Care, VBS, and the August Wednesday evening picnics. Further, we are launching small groups this fall as well. Be sure to get into one!

One way that we've starting talking about growing spiritual is for each of us to commit to "Worship Plus Two." We grow well as Christians with a W+2 cadence. That means each week or two, engage in three acts. Worship. At

Church Events

Aug 2	6 p.m. Backyard BBQ
Aug 4	12 p.m. Sara Circle
Aug 6	9 a.m. United Methodist Men
Aug 7	12 p.m. Sarah Circle
Aug 8	10 a.m. MOMS Club
Aug 10	6 p.m. Backyard BBQ
Aug 11	11 a.m. United Methodist Women
Aug 12	7 p.m. YPA Performance
	10 a.m. Breakfast Club
Aug 13	3 p.m. YPA Performance
	5:45 p.m. Adult Fellowship
	7 p.m. YPA Performance
Aug 14	7 p.m. YPA Performance
Aug 16	10 a.m. Rebecca Circle
	11:30 a.m. Romeos & Juliet's
Aug 17	6 p.m. Backyard BBQ
	6:30 p.m. W.O.W
Aug 20	7 a.m. Community Care
Aug 24	6 p.m. Backyard BBQ
Aug 25	10 a.m. MOMS Club
Aug 31	6p.m. Backyard BBQ

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Pastor's Perspective (continued)

tend corporate worship. There is no substitute for this. We engage God not as individuals, but as a community.

“Plus two.” This means doing two additional activities. One is to do something that intentionally helps you grow personally closer to God (one for you). Attend a small group. Engage in personal devotions. Go to a Christian concert. Attend an online conference.

The other is to do something that intentionally helps someone else (one for someone else). Serve in some way. There are tons of opportunities available through our church. You can also do this on your own: volunteer an afternoon somewhere, mentor a student, go pick up trash along the road. Worship Plus Two. One for God, one for you, one for someone else. Love, Grow, Serve. That’s our church’s motto! It’s the cadence that leads to spiritual growth.

Next time you get excited about fresh garden produce, think about how God gets excited about the fruit of His people. Let’s commit to “W+2,” and producing good fruit!

Happy Summer!
Pastor David

Backyard BBQ

Join us Wed. Aug. 3rd at 6:00pm for the first of our weekly backyard BBQ's! We will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs, hearing live music and meeting our neighbors. There is something for everyone so invite your friends and family to make our backyard theirs!

Job Posting: Director of Youth and Visual Media

Forest Hills United Methodist Church (FHUMC) in Forest Lake (a northern suburb of the Twin Cities) is seeking to hire a half-time Director of Youth and Visual Media. FHUMC is a Bible-based United Methodist congregation worshipping about 110 on Sundays in one worship service.

The position will have primary responsibility in two areas: the youth ministry (one-quarter time), social and video media and outreach (one-quarter time). The youth ministry area (10 hours a week) will provide spiritual formation contexts for the youth of our community. This includes a weekly youth group, outreach events, community-building events, mission opportunities, and youth-led fund raisers. We currently have six active senior-high youth, as well as eight junior-high youth. This position is also an outreach position, and this person is encouraged to engage families with youth in our wider community.

The social and video media area of this position (10 hours per week) will help our church continue to grow in our engagement with the wider community through varied media, including social media and producing videos to be used in worship and various other forms of communication. Again, this is an outreach position and will include offering leadership for our bluegrass festival and monthly food distribution ministries.

Those seeking to open a discussion about this ministry position are invited to send a resume and letter of interest to Rev. David Werner at pastordavidwerner@gmail.com, or call at 651-464-5249

Events and Info

Romeo's and Juliet's

Will be August 17th at 11:30 a.m. More details to come; Watch for for updates on locations.

Adult Fellowship

Will be meeting on August 13th at 5:45 p.m. in Dresser, WI at "The Village Pizzeria". Sign up sheet is located in the Narthex. Please Sign up by August 10th. Reservations will be made, please Contact Rozeanne for any further information (651)433-5296

United Methodist Day at the Twins: August 23rd, 7:10 p.m. at Target Field, Minneapolis.

Join other United Methodists for an evening of Big-League actions and fun as the Twins play the Detroit Tigers. Bishop Bruce Ough will throw out the honorary first pitch before the game and will lead the 7th inning stretch.

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

Worship's Word

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:13-14

In the Gospel of John chapter 4 Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman. Culturally, the two are enemies. Morally, the woman is not up to par. Theologically, she is confused. But even given all the strikes against her, Jesus sits and talks with her. He asks her for a drink, but he offers so much more.

In this month of August, Forest Hills will once again host Wednesday night neighborhood BBQ's. There will be burgers and lawn games and live music. There will be fellowship amongst our church family, but our greatest hope is that there will also be present those who are culturally different, morally inadequate and theologically confused. Our hope is that as we host these events, people will come and enjoy the food we have to offer, but that their presence will allow us the opportunity to sit and talk with them. The goal is not chit-chat or even the chance to make a new acquaintance. The goal is to bring people to Christ. The goal is to offer them the Living Water that quenches their eternal thirst.

We should note a few things about Jesus' conversation with this woman: First Jesus is well aware that he has something to offer. He doesn't shy away from the fact that he is in possession of something that will fulfill this woman's deepest desires. Secondly, he points out her sin. He does not shame her or send her on a guilt trip, but he does not avoid confrontation. He acknowledges her shortcomings so that she can be called out of them.

As the Church, the body of Christ, this is our role in the world. We are the ones who offer eternal life to those who languish without it. We are the ones who stand on the truth and call others into a full way of life. We have something to offer each and every person on this earth! But we begin with a burger.

These picnics are not for us. They are for those in need of the love of Christ, those who are stuck drinking regular water over and over again. I encourage you to invite your neighbors, your acquaintances, your family and friends as we offer food, fun and a chance to meet with and be changed by Jesus Christ.

Kid's Korner



Forest Hills Church embarks on another round of VBS this year! This Aug. 8-12 from 9-noon our church building will be transformed into a Surf Shack paradise! Palm trees, waves, board shorts and a talking crab are all part of the fun! And fun is all part of the point.

It is always helpful to stop and ask "Why?" Why do we do what we do? Why go through all the effort and hard work of putting on a VBS? This is an important question to tackle for any ministry.

My answer begins with Jesus.

Jesus was the greatest most influential teacher to ever live. Sure, he was God and that could not have hurt, but there are many lessons to learn when it comes to how Jesus proclaimed his message. One of his most effective strategies for getting his point across was to employ the use of parables. A parable is really just a story, but it is a story that carries the weight of divine truth. A parable speaks directly to the lives of people. Farmers, fields, families and everyday life are what Jesus' parables are made of and, still to this day, they provide the perfect context to deliver God's word. A parable is also memorable. It sticks in the listener's mind much longer than general platitudes.

VBS is important because it does the same thing. We will be taking the truth of God's word and putting it into language and themes kids can understand. Kids are interested in games, science projects, puppetry and crafts. Put it all together with a great team of volunteers and you get a week of memorable stories that speak directly to kids. Yes, it is a lot of work, but if we are better able to convey the Gospel through our efforts, then we had better get cracking...or, in this case, surfing!

Help us introduce the Gospel to kids in our area!

Invite your friends, family, neighbors and anyone else who has children
to the Surf Shack this summer!

August 8-12 from 9-noon

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

Matthew 7:8