



## *From the Pastor's Perspective*

### *Being a Disciple AND Making Disciples*

*"Jesus said, 'Come, follow me, and I'll show you how to fish for people.'" -Matt. 4:19*

Discipleship is what being a Christian looks like. Being a Christian is not just accepting a set of beliefs about God. It's not just holding certain religious truths. When Jesus called people, He didn't just call them to believe a certain way. He called them to follow Him. He called them to be His disciples. That's the key difference.

*Disciples follow.* Being a Christian means that we are disciples of Jesus. The first Christians in the Bible were called "followers of The Way." Christianity, from the beginning, was a way of life. It was behaviors as well as beliefs.

*Disciples grow.* Disciples don't stay the same. As we follow Jesus, as we walk in His way, His way changes us. The Holy Spirit is at work in our lives to remove those beliefs, attitudes and behaviors that are not godlike. The Holy Spirit pours into us so that the fruit of the spirit pours out of us. We can be a Christian in our beliefs, worship and service. But to grow requires that we authentically engage God, others, and ourselves—applying our faith to our lived, daily lives. This we do best in small groups. We will be starting our next grow group session in February. Be sure to sign up for one!

### Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

January 2	5:30 pm Shared Meal (pot luck) 6:15 pm Family Feud Game Night 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
January 3	12:00 pm Sarah Circle
January 4	7:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study
January 5	9:00 am United Methodist Men
January 6	EPIPHANY HOLY COMMUNION 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship
January 9	10:00 am Birchwood Worship Services 5:30 pm Shared Meal (pancakes) 6:15 pm ECHO/Confirmation/Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
January 10	1:00 pm UMW Exec. Board Meeting 6:30 pm AMT Meeting
January 11	7:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study

## Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

*Disciples make disciples.* When Jesus called people to be His disciples, He said, "Follow me, and I will show you how to fish for others." Do you see the two parts of discipleship? One is following Jesus as a disciple. Yet, equally important is the second part: making more disciples. We can lose this crucial second part. We can make our Christian faith just about what we believe and do. But Jesus calls His disciples to make more disciples. Its what disciples do! You cannot be a true disciple of Jesus if you are not making more disciples. That's why Jesus gave the Great Commandment ("love God totally" Matt. 22:37) AND the Great Commission ("Go into all the world and make disciples" Matt. 28:16).

*Disciples make disciples who make disciples.* This means, then, that our goal is not just to win people for Jesus. It's not to get people to convert to the Christian faith. It is to make disciple-making disciples. This radically changes what we do as Christians. This radically changes what we do as a church! This means we have to mentor other disciples. We invest in others in order to shape and form them into disciple-making disciples.

Our church has re-written our mission statement to really highlight the central calling of discipleship. Our church's mission is: "Forest Hills is Christ-centered, with a focus on making disciples who love God and others, grow in Christ, and serve our wider communities." The biblical call is not just to be a disciple, but to make disciples! When we only do the first, we become spiritual consumers. Yet God has called us to join His mission. Living a life of mission is the life of a disciple.

Our Sunday message series this winter is going to help us focus on this priority of discipleship. The series is called, "Disciples make . . ." Each week we'll take a closer look at a fundamental component of dynamic discipleship: 1. Disciples, 2. Jesus #1, 3. The Holy Spirit Their Guide, 4. Growth Happen, 5. God Talk, 6. Stands, 7. Friends, and 8. A Difference. We'll also offer a couple of grow groups in February that will dovetail with these themes. Finally, A book I would recommend to help you is *10 Qualities that Move You from a Believer to a Disciple*, by Dennis Rouse.

As we start the new year, it's a good time to make a resolution to be the disciple that Jesus calls you to be. That means following Him and making more disciples. The first steps include beginning habits of spiritual growth and to begin to build relationships with people who are not disciples. It's time to leave the past in the past. Begin the new year with a new plan. Be a disciple AND make disciples.

Pastor David

January 12	5:45 pm Adult Fellowship (Thai Bangkok)
January 13	WINTER SERIES BEGINS 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship
January 15	10:00 am Rebecca Circle
January 16	11:30 am Romeos and Juliets 5:30 pm Shared Meal (beef stew) 6:15 pm ECHO/Confirmation/ Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
January 18	7:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study 5:00 pm Unload Community Care Truck
January 19	6:00 am Community Care Set-up 8:00 am Community Care
January 20	HYMN SING 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship 6:30 pm Lifeline
January 23	5:30 pm Shared Meal (Nancy) 6:15 pm ECHO/Confirmation/ Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
January 25	7:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study
January 27	8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship
January 30	5:30 pm Shared Meal (Nancy) 6:15 pm ECHO/Confirmation/ Youth Group

# *Forest Hills Youth Group*

On Dec. 27th we had our teen fun day of Flapjacks and Flannels. We played a few games and threw some pancakes. The teens also spent part of the day building a log cabin with the kids from Christmas Camp. We are looking forward to more inter-generational fun on Jan 2nd with an all church Family Feud! We will then begin our series "One Gospel" a study through the book of Galatians, looking at the challenges that the church in Galatia faced surrounding legalism, and how Paul combated the issues by simply reminding the church that the gospel proclaimed by Jesus was all that they needed.

Cassi

## ***KID'S CORNER***



### Christmas Camp Recap

This year, in the days following Christmas, we hosted Christmas Camp. This was an all-day event (8 am-5:30 pm) in which we offered a safe place for kids while parents headed to work. This was no small undertaking. Keeping kids from getting bored over Christmas break is a tough job!

Throughout the day, we spent time playing different group games, learning new board games and making crafts with beads and paracord. We also ate lunch together and watched a movie in the afternoon.

We also took time to think through the story of Christmas and what it means. We talked about the fact that Jesus came to earth not only as a human, but as a human baby. We asked the question, "What good is a baby?" Sure, they can be cute and cuddly, but they can't do anything on their own. It is into this helpless state that Jesus came into our world. He demonstrated true humility. We continued to talk about humility as we thought about the angels coming to announce the coming of Jesus to shepherds. Here is King Jesus, laying in an animal trough coming to be visited by lowly, filthy shepherds. Jesus is certainly a humble King and right from the beginning, he shows that he came for the outcasts.

We certainly hoped for a better turn-out for this event, but the those who attended had a wonderful time. Many did not want to leave when their parents came to pick them up! We were also able to help a family who had a baby in the hospital. They needed a place for their four other children to be taken care of and we were able to provide. We were also able to make new connections to new families in our community.

As we think through this event for next year, we ask for your prayers as well as your time and energy. Many hands make for lighter work. A huge thank you to Sue LaVigne who helped plan out crafts and was a part of every minute of this event!

For the King,

Andrew

## *We've been busy.....*

During the last couple of months, we have been busy collecting and donating to various projects within the greater Church and our community:

- 156 cans of carrots to Family Pathways
- \$2088 for Hurricane Michael relief
- \$1507 from the Christmas offering (used to pay off deficit lunch accounts in the FLSD)
- \$550 in gifts to Emma Norton Residence from the United Methodist Women
- \$2217 for the Youth Group Mission Trip
- 16 Kids came to Christmas Camp
- Volunteering at St. Andrews Family Shelter during Christmas week

Thank you to everyone who contributed to these activities! Your time and generosity is greatly appreciated!



## *Walk to Emmaus*

Below are the dates for the Winter Walk to Emmaus:

Good Counsel (Mankato)  
Men January 17-20 2019  
Women January 24-27 2019

Main Street Church (North Branch)  
Men February 7-10 2019  
Women February 14-17 2019



Walk to Emmaus is a 3 day spiritual retreat that recharges and re-centers you spiritually. Talk to those who have attended from our church: David and Hellen Ash, David and Reese Werner, Steve and Cassi Betker, Chris and Teresa Gruber, Paulette Johnson, and Marilee Leonard. Everyone needs to go - perhaps this is your time!

If you are interested in more information, or need a sponsor, please talk to Teresa Gruber or Pastor David.

## *Dulac Missions Trip - February 25 to March 1st 2019*



Join our group as we go to Dulac, Louisiana for our yearly missions trip to help the Dulac Community Center, which provides a great deal of help to the community. This is a great way to give back, and experience missions work firsthand! Costs include a \$250 charge for room and board while there, as well as the cost of transportation (which includes a hotel room on the way there and back, and food while travelling). This will be our 26th year of making this trip. Please see Kay Bergerson for more details. There are also scholarships available. If you haven't been on a missions trip with the church yet, this is a great opportunity. We will also be collecting Relief Kits (Cleaning, School, and Hygiene), and the details for assembling kits are on the UMCOR web page at [www.UMCOR.org](http://www.UMCOR.org). If you are interested in a scholarship, please talk to Pastor David.

## *AMT UPDATE*

The hearing loop scheduled to be put in the sanctuary before Christmas has to be put on hold until the next Capital drive. Although funding is in place, the project requires us to replace the carpeting in the sanctuary.

The renovation of the Fellowship Hall is awaiting a contractor to bid on the project. We have significant funds in hand for this project, thanks to the bequest from the Bob Bullard estate.

Also, from our HCI Initiative, we are planning to freshen up the education wing with paint and window dressings over the next few months. Church Maintenance Management Team (CMMT) will be meeting in January to discuss the details.

Our church is joining with other United Methodist Churches across the State on a four part discipleship seminar offered February through May. Anyone interested in attending is welcome. The seminar will take place one Saturday morning per month.

Action Ministry Team (AMT) will be scheduling a leadership retreat sometime in the near future.

## Grow Groups!

After our Family Feud night tonight, we will start up ECHO for the kids, Confirmation, and Youth Group next week. ECHO will run for 6 weeks, and we will begin Grow Groups on February 13th. There are several choices, which are listed below. Be sure to sign up for one that interests you! More information will be coming soon regarding the details of each group.

### Sunday morning before worship:

Title: "Elijah, A Person Just Like Us"

Host: Rev. Dan Hair

Days: 11 sessions, Sundays, Feb. 3 - April 14

Time: 8:45- 9:45 a.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday Evening:

Title: "Epic of Eden"

Host: Vicky and Jason Keintz

Days: 12 sessions - Wednesdays Feb. 3-May 8

Time: 6:15-7:30 pm

Location: Education Wing Classroom

### Sunday morning after worship:

Title: Epic of Eden

Host: David Werner

Days: 12 sessions, Wednesdays, Feb. 3 - May 5

Time: From 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday Evening:

Title: Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus

Host: Reese Werner

Days: Wednesday - Feb. 13 - March 20

Time: 6:15-7:30 pm

Location: Education Wing Classroom

### Wednesday Evening:

Title: Lord of the Rings: A Film Bible Study

Host: Amanda Lucas

Days: 6 sessions, Wednesdays Feb. 13 - March 20

Time: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Education Wing Classroom

### Friday Morning:

Title: Why Worry?

Host: Brad Blocher

Days: Fridays, Feb. 1 - March 8

Time: 7:00 am

Location: Fellowship Hall



Happy Birthday to our January born! This month we celebrate the birthdays of the following individuals:

Brandon Yetter - January 17

Jim Letourneau - January 24

Rozanne Foster - January 21

Toby Leonard - January 25

Hellen Ash - January 21

Gloria Hair - January 30

To all of you! Have a wonderful birthday and a blessed year! If your birthday is missing, please call the office and let us know!

## ***Do you have a family member at Mayo and need a place to stay?***

Christ UMC in Rochester offers a hospitality house for those receiving care at Mayo Clinic. Please contact the church at 507-289-4019 or at [email@cumethodist.com](mailto:email@cumethodist.com). All that is needed is a pastor's recommendation and a free-will donation!

## ***Finance Secretary***

We have a service opportunity open for the position of Finance Secretary. This volunteer position is responsible for entering deposits in our finance application, ensuring member contributions are accurately recorded for reporting. This is an extremely flexible position, requiring about 5-10 hours per month. We use a church management software application that is web-based - you can enter information from home, or even while out of town. In addition to learning the software, this position requires a high degree of confidentiality. If interested, please talk to Teresa Gruber or Pastor David.

## ***Eyeglass Collection!***

Carol Humphrey is collecting used eyeglasses and cases for the Forest Lake Lions Club. If you have any old eyeglasses, or know someone that does, they can be brought to the church and put in the box on the shelf in the lobby. Carol will then make sure the Lions Club gets them!



## **Events and Info**

### **Birchwood Worship Services**

**Wednesday, January 9th at 10am**  
**Everyone is invited to attend!**

### **Adult Fellowship**

**Saturday, January 12th, 5:45pm** See  
**Rozanne Foster for more details!**

### **Romeos and Juliets**

**Romeos and Juliets meet on**  
**January 16th at 11:30 am.**

### **Community Care**

**5pm 1/18 - Unload Truck**  
**6am 1/19 - Set-up 8 am Distribution**

### **Lifeline Sunday January 20th at 6:30 pm**

**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.**