

The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH
MARCH 2019

From the Pastor's Perspective

Thresholds

"Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in." -Psalm 24:7

The Bible is a collection of 66 different books: 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Each of the books tells its own stories, and each story has its own characters and setting. These stories span over 2,000 years of history.

Yet the Bible is also all one book, with one main story. It's the story of God's salvation for people. All the books and stories of the Old Testament demonstrate, foretell and point to the coming of God's "final answer" in the coming of the promised Messiah ("Christ" in Greek, and "Savior" in English). The New Testament's first four books tell the life story of the Messiah who has come. His name is Jesus, and His story on earth—and the story of salvation of the whole Bible—climaxes in Jesus' death on a cross and His resurrection from the dead. The rest of the New Testament tells how the first followers lived their lives of discipleship.

March 6th is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season called "Lent." It's the six weeks before Easter, and during this time we reflect on our human condition of sin and our need for a savior. We begin with a worship service on Ash Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

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Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

March 1-2	5:30 pm Confirmation Retreat
March 2	9:00 am United Methodist Men
March 3	HOLY COMMUNION 8:30 am Prayer 8:45 am Grow Group 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Grow Group
March 6	ASH WEDNESDAY 5:30 pm Shared Meal - Potluck 6:30 pm Worship Service
March 7	12:00 pm Sarah Circle
March 8	7:00 am Grow Group
March 9	5:45 pm Adult Fellowship
March 10	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 8:30 am Prayer 8:45 am Grow Group 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Grow Group 11:15 am Grow Group Host Evaluation Meeting

Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

This year during Lent we're going to retell the main story of the Bible, from the first book of the Bible to the last. We're calling this series "Thresholds: The story of the Bible, the Story of Salvation." When Adam and Eve first sinned in the Garden of Eden, they were expelled from the Garden and a guard was placed at its entrance (Genesis 4:7). Then, throughout the rest of the Old Testament, doors, entrances, and gates keep popping up in stories. (For example, great emphasis is placed on the door of Noah's Ark, the Passover doorframe, and the temple doorways.)

When Jesus is baptized, the heavens are "opened" (Mark 1:10). Jesus later proclaims, "I am the door!" (John 10:9). When Jesus dies, the temple doorway curtain is torn in two. When He is raised, the stone covering the tomb entrance is rolled away. Jesus calls His followers to enter the narrow gate (Matt. 7:13) and open their heart doors to let Him in (Rev. 3:20). The story of the Bible concludes with the pearly gates of heaven opened to all those who follow Jesus (Rev. 21:21).

The story of the Bible can be told in thresholds! And that's what we are going to do. Join us this Lent for a journey through the Bible. We'll cross the thresholds of the stories all along the way, and open the Door of Salvation. At Easter, Jesus will come out of the threshold of His tomb, and we will be invited to open our heart doors to invite Him to come in.

It begins when you come out the door of your home, open the car door to travel to the church, get out through the same car door, and cross the front door threshold of our church building, each Sunday morning. Get ready to rediscover the story of the Bible. Here we go, step on through!

General Conference Special Session

The special General Conference session of the global United Methodist Church met this past weekend from Friday evening through Tuesday. This special session called delegates from all over the world to St. Louis, MO, as the United Methodist Church's top governing body to find a way forward together on the complexities of human sexuality. The General Conference body defeated all proposals to change the current stance of the United Methodist Church as outlined in the official *United Methodist Book of Discipline*. The United Methodist Church will continue its official position that "homosexuality is incompatible

March 13	10:00 am Birchwood Worship Service - Everyone invited 11:30 am Romeos and Juliets 5:30 pm Shared Meal - Served by Youth Group 6:15 pm Grow Groups
March 14	1:00 pm UMW Meeting 6:30 pm AMT Meeting
March 15	7:00 am Grow Group 5:00 pm Unload Community Care Truck
March 16	6:00 am Community Care Set-up 8:00 am Community Care Distribution 9:30 am Discipleship Training
March 17	ST. PATRICK'S DAY 8:30 am Prayer 8:45 am Grow Group 9:45 am HYMN SING 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Grow Group 6:30 pm Lifeline
March 18	6:30 pm CMMT Meeting
March 19	10:00 am Rebecca Circle
March 20	5:30 pm Shared Meal - Pancakes 6:15 pm Grow Groups
March 22	7:00 am Grow Group
March 24	SPRING BREAK WEEK 8:30 am Prayer 8:45 am Grow Group 10:00 am Worship
March 27	NO WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL 6:15 pm Grow Groups meet as decided by each group
March 28	10:00 am Teen Bowling Activity
March 29	7:00 am Grow Group
March 29-30	5:00 pm AMT Retreat
March 31	8:30 am Prayer 8:45 am Grow Group 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Grow Group

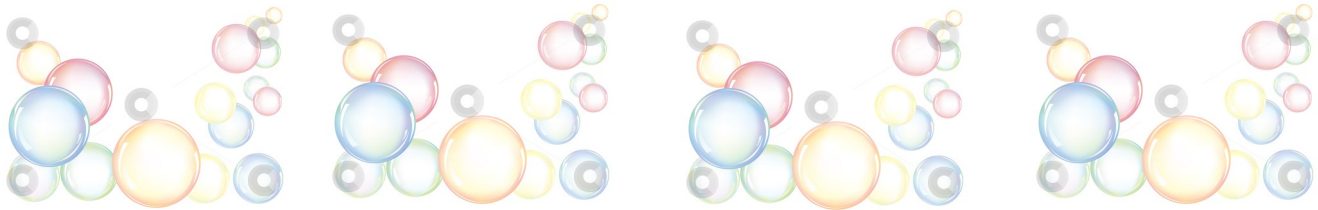
with Christian teaching," and forbid UM clergy from being in or performing same sex unions. This decision is difficult for many United Methodists, and we all seek God's healing and wholeness-making as we pray for God's Spirit to keep us united in the midst of different views and understandings. The United Methodist Church's still boldly proclaims that all people, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, are people of sacred worth and beloved children of God. You may access more information at www.umc.org/gc2019. Additionally, you may see the Bishop's response at <https://vimeo.com/320066203>.

Pastor David

March "Soap" Drive

March is generally a "food drive" month for Minnesota, including the postal food drive. However, we have been notified by Community Helping Hands that they are in desperate need of all different kinds of soaps. As a result, starting Sunday, March 3rd, we are going to do a "Soap Drive." We are asking people to bring in all difference types of soap. This includes dish soaps, hand soaps, bath soap/body wash, shampoos, and laundry soaps. In addition to this, we are going to add "cleaners" to the list. This would include bathroom, kitchen, floor, dust, and oven cleaners, as well as sponges, cloths, and other cleaning supplies!

Join us in helping to provide our neighbors with the items they are in most need of right now to brighten up their living spaces and prepare their homes for the Easter season! Its time for Spring Cleaning!



AMT UPDATE

Last month I talked about Forest Hills' Grounding Principles which are as follows:

- 1. People are finding a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (LOVE)**
- 2. People are growing in faith (GROW)**
- 3. Christ's love is more visible in our community (SERVE)**

AMT has created a "New Ministry Proposal Form" (attached here) to assist those coming forth with new ideas. The questions on the form are attended to get you thinking about how this mission, event or ministry fits in with our grounding principles. Once the idea is submitted, someone from the Action Ministry Team will contact you for further information and/or a meeting.

I understand the form seems stringent, however we feel as a team that we want to be clear about moving forward using our grounding principles of Love.Grow.Serve for each and every ministry. Please use this form to help you as you lay out the idea. The form is also on the website under Church Resources. Check it out at the following link: foresthillsumc.net/church_resources/new_idea_form.

AMT has also created a “Current Ministry Evaluation Form”. In the next couple of months, we plan to meet with each ministry to help provide accountability, support and guidance as each team evaluates their own ministry. We all need to let go of previous opinions in order to see the possibilities that God has for us. Making disciples that make disciples is our goal for God’s kingdom.

This process begins with prayer and God’s blessing. Think about what your favorite thing is about this ministry? What is going well? Every group can become a vital part of our church’s mission, going from good to great! And AMT truly wants to make that happen.

I find it exciting, as we dig out from our blankets of snow and discover new growth underneath. Our job is to fertilize that growth, tend the weeds, watch and pray as these seeds, that have germinated, spring forth. Will you watch and pray with me?

God is good, all the time!

Marilee Leonard

Appreciating the Sidekick

Winter has claimed its share of Wednesday nights this year. We have lost a couple of them already. This can be a hassle, as group leaders have to adjust so that the group can end on the correct date. But we all know that even though plans can be made, that doesn’t mean they are always seen through. Our kid’s grow group has a more relaxed flow to its structure. For this session, we are taking a look at the sidekick of the church: the hymnal.

If the Bible is the star, the Word of God, the Gospel, then the hymnal is the sidekick. The Hymnal helps tell the story of the Bible, but it uses music and poetry. Each week we are going to look at one specific hymn, understand what it means and look at what part of the Biblical story it is telling.

The hymnal affords us a great resource, and it’s not just for adults! Kids benefit from being able to apply God’s truth to a memorable melody! While I believe that many great new songs are being written every day, I think we also do well to stand with those that have persisted through the ages.

If you have kids in your life, don’t hesitate to share with them some of your favorite hymns. Tell them why you appreciate it and how it encourages you in your faith. Maybe even try signing it together!

I firmly believe that the people of God ought to be a singing people! We have so much to celebrate! Yet, I fear our culture has become one of optional rejoicing. We only sing if we feel like we are good enough or if the song is good enough. But worship springs from the heart! And out of the mouth flows what the heart is full of (Proverbs 8:13). So let’s praise the Lord with all our hearts AND with all our voice!

For the King,

Pastor Andrew

SAVE THE DATES!

March 6th - Ash Wednesday - Potluck followed by Service at 6:30 pm

March 16th - Discipleship Training April 13th - Discipleship Training followed by Spring De-clutter Day

March 31st - Reese Werner preaching April 21st - Easter Sunday

April 3rd - Game Night April 25-26th - Spring Rummage Sale

April 7-13th - St. Andrew's Family Shelter Volunteer Week May 4th - Spring Yard Clean-up

May 5th - Womens' Sunday - Rev. Karen Seavey preaching

Also, please remember that Tax Aide is using the church on Tuesday and Wednesdays until April 11th to complete taxes for seniors and low income individuals.

Forest Hills Youth Group

We will be ending February with a fun and fellowship day. Due to the weather we will be changing up our next series to have a few one-off messages before starting our Lent series "Upside Down Kingdom". God has a central purpose for His kingdom: to bring Himself glory. The question we have to ask is, what does God's glory for His kingdom have to do with me? We are called to reveal His glory through the way we live. When people look at our lives and the way we live, they should be able to see the glory of Jesus shining through us because we pursue Him, His glory, and His kingdom.

March 28th will be an outing day. We will be headed to Splitrocks for a day of bowling during spring break. This is a great time for the confirmation kids and the youth group to interact.

There is still time to sign up for the summer mission trip to Alaska! This trip is inter-generational so adults and teens are welcome. Also, the more people, the more excitement and work we can do in the Anchorage community. We have 6 teens and four adults already looking into coming with. The cost per person is around \$1400. This includes airfare, lodging, food and transportation. For more information talk to Cassi Betker.



For Sale!

The CMMT has made a decision to sell the old round tables and brown chairs to whomever might want them. Tables will be priced at \$15 each, and chairs at \$5 each. If you are interested, or know anybody else that might be, please see Mary and she will show you where they are. Please note that these items will also be advertised on the Facebook Garage Sale sites, so if you are interested, you might want to move quickly. We do not know what type of response we might get from Facebook. Any remaining tables and chairs will be sold in the Rummage Sale.



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

Vicky Keintz - March 5

Diane Geving - March 18

Dan Hair - March 9

Sue Dugdale - March 19

Patty Phillips - March 10

Lily Betker - March 25

Duane Dittberner - March 13

John Hendrickson - March 29

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!

Events and Info

Adult Fellowship

Saturday, March 9th, 5:45pm See
Rozanne Foster for more details!

Discipleship Training

Saturday, February 9th 9:30 am to noon

Birchwood Worship Service

Wednesday, March 13th at 10:00 am

Romeos and Juliets

Romeos and Juliets meet on
March 13th at 11:30 am.

Community Care

5pm 3/15 - Unload Truck

6am 3/16 - Set-up

8 am 3/16 - Distribution

Lifeline Sunday March 17th 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.

Youth Outing

Thursday, March 28th - Splitrocks
Restaurant and Bowling Alley