



From the Pastor's Perspective

For many, this time of year marks the beginning of a hope filled foray into the world of gardening. Seeds are planted with no other purpose than to produce fruit (or vegetables). No one endeavors to prepare soil and plant seeds unless there is a future crop in mind. The intermediary time then, is a struggle. Abundant amounts of water have to be provided, critters have to be warded off, and the most mundane and pervasive threat of all must be managed: weeds. A newly planted seed has a lot stacked against it. The gardener has his work cut out for him.

For a garden to be successful it must be tended to... constantly. We know this so well in fact that for those of us who do not plant gardens, the work involved is usually cited as our main deterrent! It's not that I dislike fresh produce, but I am not quite up for the investment that is needed to protect and nurture my plants.

A good garden requires work, but surely in the scheme of our lives, a vegetable garden in the backyard would probably not top our list of concerns. We only have so much time in the day. Only so much capacity to expend ourselves. This reality forces us to evaluate our priorities. What do we deem most important? Why? And how much of our limited resources are we going to invest into these things?

As Christians our list of priorities ought to be different than those found in our culture. Just as a professional gardener must give his plants first consideration, a Christian must dedicate time and energy toward spiritual development and

Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

June 1	9:00 am United Methodist Men
June 2	GRADUATION SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Lunch/Open House for Grads
June 6	10:30 am Grow group - Explore the Bible - Galatians Bible Study 12:00 pm Sarah Circle
June 7	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith
June 8	5:45 pm Adult Fellowship
June 9	8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor Dan Hair 11:30 am Grow group - Fruit of the Spirit - Deepening Life Together
June 12	11:30 am Romeos and Juliets 6:30 pm Youth Fun Night
June 13	10:30 am Grow group - Explore the Bible - Galatians Bible Study 6:30 pm AMT Meeting
June 14	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith 5:00 pm Unload Community Care Truck

Continued on page 2...

Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

growth. This alone might sound like a pretty good goal. Spiritual growth sounds like a great outcome, but it is not helpful to keep our terms vague. The Apostle Paul clarifies: "I say be guided by the Spirit and you won't carry out your selfish desires...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against things like this" (Galatians 5:16, 22-24).

This summer we turn our attention to the work of gardening by addressing the question: How can we cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and in the life of the church? Each week we will consider one of the fruits listed by Paul and take a close look at how the culture in which we live inhibits growth. Philip D. Kenneson's book *Life on the Vine: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Christian Community* provides a helpful framework for digging into this topic, so come to church ready to get your hands dirty!

"Life on the Vine" is a 10-week series which will cover most of the summer. A few Sundays will feature a guest preacher as well as a visit from the MN Adult and Teen Challenge Choir on July 21st. God's word guides us as we take on the challenge of being transformed into bearers of his fruit!

"My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and, in this way, prove that you are my disciples."

John 15:8

For the King,

Pastor Andrew

June 15	6:00 am Community Care Set-up 8:00 am Community Care Dist.
June 16	FATHER'S DAY 8:30 am Prayer 8:45 am HYMN SING 10:00 am Worship - Pastor Andrew 11:30 am Grow group - Fruit of the Spirit - Deepening Life Together 6:30 pm Lifeline
June 18	10:00 am Rebecca Circle
June 20	10:30 am Grow group - Explore the Bible - Galatians Bible Study
June 21	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith
June 23	8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor Peter Milloy 11:30 am Grow group - Fruit of the Spirit- Deepening Life Together LEAVE FOR RED ROCK CAMP!
June 28	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith
June 30	8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor Andrew 11:30 am Grow group - Fruit of the Spirit - Deepening Life Together

Pastor David on Renewal Leave This Summer!

Starting June 3, I will be on Renewal Leave until Labor Day! I will not be engaging in any pastoral duties at Forest Hills Church, and I will be attending worship elsewhere during this time.

Renewal leave of up to six months is offered to conference-appointed, full-time pastors who have served for at least six years. As pastors are "on call" 24/7, often work well above normal hours, and continually engage in high-stress situations and responsibilities, our Minnesota Annual Conference recommends a minimum of one month renewal leave every six years (in addition to vacation time) in order to alleviate pastoral burnout. It is a time to fall in love again with pastoral ministry, to receive a fresh approach to a pastor's current ministry context, and to recharge one's passion and zeal.

To be honest, I have never taken any renewal leave in my 24 years of pastoral ministry! My brother, a United Methodist pastor in Wisconsin, took a three-month Renewal Leave two years ago and was so blessed by it that he ordered me to take one, too! "Your church needs you to do it!" he said.

God has seemed to put all the pieces together to make this happen. Pastor Andrew was appointed full-time to our church last summer and will be able to provide the pastoral coverage during my absence. This is the summer before our daughter goes to college. I was approved by both the Conference and our local church's leadership for the leave. My wife's employer offered her an extended leave from her job for seven weeks so we could travel together! It will be a summer of education in European history and culture as a family. For more information on our plans this summer, see my most recent blog on our church's website.

Our Conference also provides some financial support to help cover the cost of additional staff that is brought on for pastoral coverage. Pastor Dan Hair and Steve Ruter will provide ministry assistance for Pastor Andrew each week. The Sundays that Andrew will be preaching, others will lead music worship. See the Sunday schedule list in this newsletter, on the church website, and each week in the worship bulletin. Although I believe that this time away will be a blessing to my future pastoral ministry at Forest Hills, I also trust that God will use it as a time of blessing for the church. I have full confidence in Pastor Andrew's ability to lead the church during my absence, and I also believe that Forest Hills is a strong and vital church that will continue to flourish and serve God unabated.

I want to personally thank everyone for making this Renewal Leave possible and for supporting me and my family by doing all the extra work this requires. It is a gift! May God bless us all and make us stronger disciples.

See you in the fall!

Pastor David

Summer Worship and Pastoral Coverage Schedule:

Pastor Andrew will serve as the lead pastor for our church this summer. Others will be providing additional assistance. Feel free to connect with any of these ministers during the summer.

Weekly:

June 3-16 Pastor Dan Hair

June 17-30 Steve Ruter

July 8-21 Steve Ruter

July 22-Sept. 2: Pastor Dan Hair

Sundays:

June 9 Preaching: Pastor Dan Hair; Leading Worship: Amanda Lucas

June 16 Preaching: Pastor Andrew; Leading Worship: Amanda Lucas

June 23 Preaching: Pastor Peter Milloy; Leading Worship: Andrew

June 30: Preaching: Pastor Andrew; Leading Worship: Sandy Gildersleve

July 7 Preaching: Cassi Betker; Leading Worship: Andrew

July 14 Preaching: Steve R; Leading Worship: Amanda Lucas

July 21: Teen Challenge; Leading Worship: Andrew

July 28 Preaching: Pastor Andrew; Leading Worship: Sandy Gildersleve

Aug. 4 Preaching: Pastor Dan Hair; Leading Worship: Andrew

Aug. 11 Preaching: Pastor Andrew; Leading Worship: Julie Berninghaus

Aug. 18 Preaching: Pastor Andrew; Leading Worship: Amanda Lucas

Aug. 25 Preaching: Pastor Dan Hair; Leading Worship: Andrew

Sept. 1 Preaching: Pastor Andrew; Leading Worship: Amanda Lucas

Worship's Word

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." - John 1:5

June has arrived! With Rev. Dr. Werner and his family on sabbatical, Pastor Andrew will be covering the "Pastor's Perspective" and I have the honor and privilege of bringing the Worship news for the summer. Who am I? Good question! I am Amanda Lucas, helping to fill the worship shoes for the next few months. You'll usually find me seated behind the drums during Sunday worship, and you still will this summer, but I'm thrilled to be helping to lead worship several times while Pastor David is away. This month, Pastor Andrew and I will be splitting time at the worship helm. Throughout the summer, we will have a handful of guest leaders for worship. Stay tuned for the July newsletter to see who is coming up.

This new month of June sees Forest Hills moving into the summer schedule now that school has ended/is ending for most. A new month also means a new song on Sunday mornings. For June, we'll be introducing the song *Hope Has a Name* by River Valley Worship. It is on 98.5 KTIS frequently, so keep your ears open for that!

Confession: I love Pentecost Sunday. We will be celebrating this on the 9th and, for the third or fourth year in a row, I will be leading worship. I originally loved Pentecost because this was one of two times during the liturgical calendar year that we could wear our RED choir stoles...red is my favorite color, just in case my car, guitar, and several shirts I own didn't tip you off!

Once I was more aware of what Pentecost represented as far as the Holy Spirit coming down like tongues of fire on the disciples and the others gathered near Jerusalem, I realized that this seventh Sunday since Easter isn't just another church holiday – it is the beginning of the Christian church. Pentecost is a celebration of the power and very personal presence of the Holy Spirit. It was the day, hour, minute, and second that God equipped us to spread the word, in many languages, to all corners of the Earth. It was an absolute game changer. From that time on, God's empowering Holy Spirit lives within us, equipping us for the tasks ahead, never leaving us alone.

The imagery of Pentecost between the color red, the flame, and the mighty rushing wind (Acts 2) has always been amazing to me. Fire/flame is representative of heat and light but also of power and glory – God's power and glory. The rushing wind has always brought to mind the breath of life that God brings to us. What a combination! Fire plus wind equals a blaze – He wants us to be on fire for Him! There is a worship song called *Consuming Fire* that encapsulates this perfectly: "Consuming fire fan into flame, a passion for Your Name, Spirit of God fall in this place, Lord have Your way, Lord have Your way with us." Hint: we'll probably be singing this on the 9th!

Before this first Edge article I've ever written becomes a thesis on Pentecost, the Greek root of it's name, early church traditions and so forth, I'll just leave you with this thought: the very same Holy Spirit that came down on Peter, John, James, and Mary is the same one that lives in us today. The Spirit is the same one that was present at the beginning. Mind blowing!

Blessings,

Amanda

Forest Hills Youth Group

May 22nd, we wrapped up our youth group weekly meetings. This year, we focused on how to share the Gospel with our friends. We averaged about 8-9 teens per week. They all have such a heart for service; they helped with Trunk or Treat, Christmas Camp, Feed My Starving Children and Wednesday meals. I have been so blessed and honored to work with the teens of our church.

This summer we will meet once or twice a month to stay connected. Our first get together will be at the church on June 12th from 6:30-8pm to start the summer off. We will also have our big mission trip to Alaska in July! We have 12 people from our church headed up to Wasilla Lake to serve the people there for a week. We have been so blessed by the church for helping with \$6000 in donations to cover some of the cost. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers while we get ready to leave.

For those teens planning to attend Red Rock Camp, June 23rd-29th, let me know you are attending so I can mark you on our list. Every teen that attends receives \$100 off their registration from Forest Hills! And parents, if you want to come along, we'd love to have you there. You receive \$75 off your registration.

<https://www.campminnesota.org/>

Cassi

Director of Youth Ministries

Red Rock Bible Camp!

Summer is a great time to reconnect with God and re-ground your faith. One of the best ways to do that is to attend a Bible Camp to get away from it all, enjoy God's beautiful creation, connect with a wider Christian family, engage in a wide variety of activities, hear teachers and preachers, renew your soul, and have loads of fun!

Every summer our church sends people to a summer Bible camp called Red Rock Camp (last year we had 30 campers!). It is held the last week of June at the United Methodist camp grounds near Paynesville. It is an inter-generational camp with speakers and programmed activities for kids, youth, young adults, and adults. Register at Our church offers a \$100 kid and youth/\$75 adult discount incentive. Other scholarships are offered through our church, through the camp, and through the UM Conference. For more information, see <https://redrockcamp.org/>, the camping brochure at church, or talk to Cassi Bekter. To register, go to <https://www.campminnesota.org/registernow>. See you at camp!

Summer Grow Groups!

Summer is the season of growth...just look outdoors! It's also a great season for nurturing your spiritual growth. The summer message series is growing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. To help us do that, we are offering four different group experiences on different days and times. We know summer can be busy, so it's okay to miss a session or two. Sign up anyway! Child-care provided. Information and sign-ups are available in the lobby and on the church website. There is one perfect for you! See the available options below:

Fruit of the Spirit - Deepening Life Together

Sundays, June 9th through July 28th, 11:30 - 1:00 pm, hosted by the Rosenbaums

This grow group complements the summer Sunday message series. We'll learn how to increase the yield of Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in our lives and become more like Jesus to those around us. Each session will include a video, Scripture reading, discussion and prayer. There will be no homework, and no cost associated with this group. Also, childcare will be provided if requested.

Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus

Tuesday evenings, July 9th through August 20th, 6:30-8pm, and hosted by Sue LaVigne

If Jesus were to sit down with you right now and have a DTR (Define the Relationship) conversation, how would you respond? Are you truly his follower, or just a fan? Or perhaps you're someone who doesn't even know or care about the difference? Not a Fan invites you to make Jesus not merely the object of your admiration, but the very center of your life. New and mature Christians alike can find this study "life-changing." The group will consist of weekly video presentations by Kyle Idleman, which weave together a comprehensive story, and then discussion time and spiritual exercises. Handout lessons will be provided for each session. Childcare will be provided if requested.

Explore the Bible: Galatians - Bible Study

Thursday mornings, June 6th through July 12th, 10:30-noon, hosted by Tracy Bonsell, and at the Bonsell home (7141 208th Cove N., Forest Lake).

This study highlights our freedom found in the gospel of Jesus and teaches us how to live in Him through the Holy Spirit. There will be print outs provided, or you can purchase the book at www.lifeway.com. Childcare will be provided.

Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith, by Andy Stanley

Friday mornings, June 7th through August 25th, 7:00-8:15am, and hosted by Brad Blocher (breakfast will be provided!)

God is most honored through your living, active, death-defying, out-of-the-box faith. He's committed to growing it big! Imagine how different your outlook on life would be if you had the absolute confidence that God was with you! Imagine how differently you would respond to difficulties, temptations, and even good things that come if you knew with certainty that God was in ALL of it, and was planning to leverage it for good. In other words, imagine what it would be like to have PERFECT faith. In Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith, Andy Stanley builds a biblical case for - you guessed it - five things God uses to grow BIG faith! Each session will begin with a video presentation, followed by discussion and prayer time. Childcare will not be provided for this session.

Everyone is really encouraged to join a summer grow group. Despite travels, and the busyness of summer, these groups are designed to encourage continued growth during the summer months when there is less activity within the church, and the necessity of missing a session or two should not deter you from signing up! We know that vacations, etc., occur more during this time of year, but we wanted to provide you with the opportunity to continue growing in your faith and relationships with other church members. All sessions will be at the church except for Tracy's, which, as stated, will be at the Bonsell home.



Change of the Director of Office Administration

Mary Weaver, who has been our Director of Office Administration for nearly two years, is moving to the south side of the Twin Cities this summer. Her last day in the office will be Friday, June 28. On Sunday, June 23, her last Sunday at Forest Hills, we will celebrate her ministry and pray God's blessings over her future. Please be sure to share your appreciation for her work among us. She has seen her position not just as a job but as a ministry. She has always been eager to be helpful and to connect with people on a personal level. She has brought a caring touch to those who have connected with the church office. Thank you, Mary! You will be missed.

Church leadership saw value in inviting Cassi Betker to expand her staff role at Forest Hills to include the position of Director of Office Administration. She has accepted! She will be training with Mary in the office during the week of June 10, and then try working on her own the week of June 17. After her return from Red Rock Camp, she will officially start as our Director of Office Administration on July 1. Cassi brings administrative and organizational skills to the office, in addition to communication, technical, and interpersonal skills. Her main duties this summer will be to become familiar with the duties and cadence of the church office, learn the church software platform, update the church website, and become the main check writer for our church. She will be working an average of 22 hours per week, in addition to the 10 hours a week she serves as Director of Youth Ministry. Her office hours will be Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

On Sunday, June 30, we will officially celebrate Cassi in her additional role and pray over her. Please welcome her with appreciation and excitement.

A Note from Mary:

As I prepare to leave Forest Lake and Hugo to return to the area of the Twin Cities where my roots are, I have had a lot of time to think about what I am leaving, and where I am going. I did not make this decision lightly. In fact, until my daughter Holly started talking about it, it wasn't even something I was considering.

When I came to Forest Lake almost 13 years ago, I came here because my whole life had been torn apart. I was in a lot of emotional pain, and was looking to heal and recover from the damage. One of the first people I met was Steve Ruter. He came to the place I was living and offered us "Forest Hills Church." I had been very active in church prior to my life going down the tubes, and instantly felt a connection with this church and all of you here. This church has a servant's heart. I found that very comforting, and it was something I wanted to be a part of. Off and on, throughout my 13 years in Forest Lake, I have found myself coming back here. I always felt at home here, and it was because of all of you.

During this time of "thinking about moving back down to where I'm from," I've had time to consider the ramifications of this decision. Obviously, I have to find a new job, and I have some friends here; but the most difficult part of moving for me is going to be leaving all of you. I am not a perfect Christian, and I don't attend church often enough (yes, I'm aware), but I love ALL of you, and I'm going to miss you; I'm going to miss this church; I'm going to miss the activities I've been a part of, and I'm going to miss the job! However, the most interesting thing that I've learned during this time of reflection is that when I moved here, I was leaving those who hurt me. And while I found love and healing in this church (even without regular attendance!), its time for me to "go back home." Its time for me to re-connect with family, become (hopefully) a Grammy, and re-introduce myself back into society. Its time for me to "get a life." You see, I have kept myself locked away, and that was something I didn't realize. Only by considering moving did I realize that, in a sense, coming to Forest

Lake allowed me to “run away from home.” It wasn’t until I decided to move that I realized I am going back home! My heart is filled with joy! I also plan on continuing to attend a United Methodist Church. In fact, I will be right down the road from River Hills UMC, and will check that out first. I will also be looking for another Office Administrative position in a UMC.

I want to thank you for all that you’ve given me. I’ve learned so much from all of you, and have never felt more loved. That is the gift this church brings to the community of Forest Lake. I will miss you, and I will always have a place in my heart for the people of Forest Hills United Methodist Church. I wish you all the very best, and hope to live up to the gifts of love and service that you have shown me.

Until we meet again,

Mary



Happy June Birthdays!

Calvin Leonard June 2

Chuck Werhan June 16

Colby Keintz June 7

Michael Berglund June 19

Angie Prchal June 11

Colleen Kargel June 23

Kayla Rosenbaum June 12

Rich Kargel June 23

Linda Meyer June 16

May your special day be blessed and filled with joy! If your birthday isn’t listed, please call the office and let us know so we can add you to the list!

AMT Update:

The Action Ministry Team has been making plans for fall, talking about Grow Groups, Echo, Echo Jr, Christmas Camp and more. However, we don't want to forget about our summer. There are three actions that we would like to bring to our church family.

- 1) We would like our whole church to participate in planning One Big **"All Community Summer BBQ"** in August. Besides a picnic and games, perhaps a bouncy castle could be added. Let's let our neighboring community know we are here. Anyone interested in being part of the planning committee please see either Pastor Andrew or Marilee Leonard.
- 2) We are looking for a "champion" to support **Forest Hills Church at the 4th of July parade**. It could be a float, or a walking group with signs, handing out candy, etc. The signs would be great for advertising our "All Community BBQ" for August. If there is anyone interested in leading that with others, please contact Pastor Andrew or myself, Marilee Leonard.
- 3) Participate in one of the Summer Grow Groups. Sign up now in the church lobby.
- 4) Our week to volunteer at St. Andrew's Family Shelter begins August 18 and goes through the 24th. The sign-up sheet is already on the website. You can sign up right from the front page of the website. Otherwise, sign-up sheets will be available in the near future in the lobby.

Have a fun and blessed summer. See you at church!

Marilee Leonard
Lay Leader

Events and Info

Adult Fellowship

**Saturday, June 8th, 5:45pm See
Rozanne Foster for more details!**

Romeos and Juliets

**Romeos and Juliets meet on
June 12th at 11:30 am.**

Youth Fun Night

**Wednesday, June 12th at 6:30 pm
here at the church**

June Preachers

**June 9th - Pastor Dan Hair
June 23rd - Pastor Peter Milloy
June 16th and 30th - Pastor Andrew**

Community Care

**5pm 6/14 - Unload Truck
6am 6/15 - Set-up
8 am 6/15 - Distribution**

Lifeline Sunday June 16th 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.**

Red Rock Camp!

**Sunday, June 23rd through
Saturday, June 29th**