



From the Pastor's Perspective

“The whole [Church] body grows from Jesus, the Head, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments.

The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part.” -Ephesians 4:16

We begin October with the celebration of World Communion Sunday. It’s a day to remember that God’s Church is one Body made up of Christians all around the world. It’s also a day to celebrate that we are not alone: as individual Christians, as a local church, or even as churches in our culture. The Body of Christ is huge (made up of billions around the world) and it is historical (billions of Christians have lived over thousands of years).

That “bigger picture” is crucial for our individual Christian lives. We need the Body to grow and flourish as Jesus’ disciples. Yes, we can be a solitary Christian—be saved and go to heaven—without other Christians. But the truth is that we need other Christians in order to be able to grow in our faith. It has been my experience that those believers who are not connected to a local church, remain spiritual infants. Other Christians can provide that “sweet fellowship” of care, support, help, and encouragement. They hold us, hug us, lift us up.

But sweeter fellowship still is the advice, correction, and accountability other disciples provide that calls us past our own laziness and selfishness. Proverbs 27:5-6 says, “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted.”

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Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

Oct 2	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo Jr., Echo, Confirmation, and Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Oct 3	10:30 am Book club 12:00 pm Sarah’s Circle
Oct 4	7:00 am Grow group - Judgement Call
Oct 5	9:00 am UM Men
Oct 6	WORLD COMMUNION DAY 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David
Oct 7	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Oct 9	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo Jr., Echo, Confirmation, and Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Oct 10	1:00 pm UMW Meeting 6:30 pm AMT Meeting
Oct 11	7:00 am Grow group - Judgement Call
Oct 12	4:00 pm Adult Fellowship
Oct 13	8:30 am Grow Group - A Study of Idolatry in Judges 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David 11:15 am Grow Group - Meditation on the Hebrew

Pastor's Perspective Cont'd



Other Christians are people, sinners saved by grace. We don't do everything right, and at times we can be very difficult, immature, and hurtful. People have told me over and over again that they have separated from church because of all the bad ways church people behave. But here, again, they miss opportunities for growth. When

other believers fail to behave well, it becomes opportunities for us to practice the really difficult parts of love: forgiveness, bearing with one another, and learning to get along with people who are difficult. We get plenty of opportunities to do all that in other settings, for sure, but it's a deeper love when we practice it among other disciples. Usually people use separation from church as a thinly-veiled excuse for not having to practice the hard love that Jesus calls us to. It's easier simply to avoid them!

Yet, Jesus' own example was to spend copious amounts of time with disciples who all betrayed and abandoned Him! If you are seeking true spiritual growth, you've got to be involved with a church. Going to worship, reading your Bible, fellowship and learning are all important, but even if you do this, you can stagnate. If you want to really grow spiritually, there is no substitute for a small group.

Good news! Our church is taking this seriously and so is providing a robust offering of spiritual-growth focused small groups! You have six different options to choose from! They are starting in October, and will run until Christmas. There are different formats and styles, and some complement our fall message series, as well. There is certainly something for everyone.

You can sign up for a grow group on the church [website](#), in the church lobby, or by calling the office. Invite someone to come with you. Offer to pick them up, or tell them you will save them a seat. That someone even doesn't have to be a part of our church. Invite a neighbor, friend, or family member.

This is one of the most important parts of being involved in a church: it is a way for you to keep growing. Don't miss out! Let's grow, group!

Pastor David

Calendar Cont....

Oct 14	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters 6:30 pm CMMT
Oct 15	10:00 am Rebecca's Circle
Oct 16	11:00 am Romeos & Juilets NO ACTIVITIES - MEA 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Oct 18	7:00 am Grow group - Judgement Call 5:00 pm Unload Food Truck
Oct 19	6:00 am Community Care Prep 8:00 am Community Care
Oct 20	8:30 am Grow Group - A Study of Idolatry in Judges 8:30 am Prayer 9:45 am Hymn Sing 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David 11:15 am Grow Group - Meditation on the Hebrew 11:30 am Dulac Mission Trip 6:30 pm Lifeline
Oct 21	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Oct 23	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo Jr., Echo, Confirmation, Grow Groups and Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Oct 25	7:00 am Grow group - Judgement Call 9:00 am Craft Fair Set up
Oct 26	9:00 am Craft Fair
Oct 27	8:30 am Grow Group - A Study of Idolatry in Judges 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David 11:15 am Grow Group - Meditation on the Hebrew
Oct 28	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Oct 30	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo Jr., Echo, Confirmation, Grow Groups and Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Oct 31	5:30 pm TRUNK-OR-TREAT!

Worship's Word



Hang on to a Lifeline

"The believers devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching, to the community, to their shared meals and to their prayers." Acts 2:42

This oft cited verse describes the culture that the early church had established. It provides us modern Christians with a good rubric by which to gauge our own churches. To what things are we devoted? Eating together? Praying together?

These are certainly things we do (at least once a week) as a church family, but let us consider the very next sentence: "A sense of awe came over everyone." For the early church, the reality of community with both God and one another instilled in them a sense of awe. Normal actions like eating and praying, became awesome encounters because they were done within the context of a believing community.

The account goes on: "God performed many wonders and sign through the apostles." This is where we especially feel our historical distance. We don't do signs and wonders anymore. Signs and wonders are for old stories and legends. It's beyond our scope of comfort and our grasp to understand. Certainly, if we were to experience signs and wonders, we would surely arrive at a place of awe! But that is not the way this passage reads. According to Acts, people already shared a sense of awe before signs and wonders were performed! One might hazard to guess that this community who devoted themselves to living and learning together, were so filled with faith and worship and awe that they were then empowered to perform wonders.

Maybe wonders are not for everyone. Maybe we are too far along in history to tap into the Pentecost power of the Holy Spirit. Or maybe, we are not devoted to the right things. Maybe we live in drudgery and weariness and have lost our sense of awe? Our church has been hosting Lifeline on every third Sunday evening for a long while now. For the past months it has been happening in my living room. Sometimes it's a full house...sometimes it is very few...but always there is a sense of awe. When God's people gather together to devote themselves to worship and prayer, to take advantage of their ability to come into His presence with thanksgiving, to lay before Him their worries and cares, to sit quietly and say nothing, they open themselves up to a sense of awe.

The next Lifeline is Sunday Oct. 20th at 6:30pm. It's located at 7141 208 th Cove just off of highway 97. Hang on to the Lifeline. Draw close to a God who loves. Take this once a month opportunity to devote your heart to an awesome God.

Pastor Andrew

Kid's Moment



This month begins our cycle of Grow groups! Come October 23 rd , our Wednesday nights will be dedicated to groups meeting together to study and share life! If you have not joined a group, please be sure to sign up. Childcare will be no problem as we will have nurse available and all kids will have the chance to be a part of a kid's only grow group.

As we continue to make discipleship our focus, we will be talking about prayer and taking a look at prayers found throughout the Bible. Often, prayer seems to be a public endeavor reserved for pastors and other adults. We want to help kids learn how to make prayer a part of their lives and to walk more closely with Jesus!

Adults are a vital part of this process. Each week, those who attend will receive a take home sheet with suggestions and resources for helping kids develop a healthy prayer life at home.

Invite a friend, a new person, to come and join. Let's keep our church family growing, in number, in faith, and in how welcoming we are!

Pastor Andrew

Youth Group

"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you." Romans 8:9-11

God has a better plan for our lives if we let Him have the Remote Control. This week, we will be finishing our Remote Control series with Negativity and how that controls our behaviors if we don't let the Holy Spirit control our lives.

Fall has officially started on the calendar, but the first quarter of school is almost over! We are averaging six kids in youth group every week. It is great watching them interact and grow together. We would love to extend that outside of the church walls. If you or your teen is involved in extracurriculars, we want to support them. Please give me dates and times to see them.

We are also starting to plan for next years mission trip. Currently, we are looking at the second week of August (2020) to serve those in the Twin Cities Metro area. More information to come soon!

Cassi

Director of Youth Ministries

AMT Update

“Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:13-15



The Action Ministry Team met in August and September.

We were blessed again to have Pastor Andrew lead our devotion time in August. He took his devotion from the Bible passage Matthew 16: 13-18 where Jesus asks the disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answers, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus then tells him, “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not stand against us.” I want to have faith like Peter, like when he immediately acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah and when he jumped out of the boat to go toward Jesus in total faith. With faith like Peter, God can do anything through us. Our only job is TO OBEY. If we do what God says, his will for us, for our church, will come to fruition.

A group of people within AMT including our two pastors, have been working on a self-assessment spiritual tool to help us figure out where we are on our own personal road to becoming the best disciple Christ wants us to be. Do we spend time reading His Word each day, spend time in prayer with our God, commune with our fellow Christians, share our story with others? If we don’t, or want to do better, this tool, will help each of us assess those particular areas of need. Watch for this new exciting tool to be coming to the full church within the next few months.

A task group comprised of AMT members and other church family are planning a Ministry Month for January 2020. All ministries of our church are invited to share the purpose of their group, how they meet the “Love.Grow.Serve.” vision, share their activities, and invite new people to join their ministry. AMT challenges everyone to join in and participate in “Ministry Month.” We’ll keep you updated on details.

As we move into the fall season, we welcome Pastor David and his family back from his renewal leave. We anticipate in the next few months Pastor David will share some of the insights he discovered during his time off. Each of us should take time to have our own personal sabbatical and discover new things about what being a Christian means to us. There are several opportunities in the next month or so to take advantage of this. There is a “Walk to Emmaus” men’s retreat October 24- 27 and “Walk to Emmaus” women’s retreat October 31-November 3. Talk to Teresa or Chris Gruber or myself about this wonderful Christian spiritual renewal. There is also a Faithfully Yours women’s retreat November 1- 3, Our theme this year is “Not Just Me.” Learning more about ourselves, our relationship with Christ, talking with other women, praise and prayer are abundant during this time. Talk to me, Reese Werner, Tracy Bonsell, Diane Geving, Sherry Robinson, Cassi Betker, and many more about coming.

God is good, all the time!

In Christ,

Marilee Leonard

UMW Today

“The crowds asked, ‘What should we do?’ John replied, ‘If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.’” – Luke 3:10-11

On October 26 th from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, the United Methodist Women will be hosting their annual Fall Craft Show and Luncheon.

We are incredibly excited this year...I guess I should say even more than we normally are...as we’re taking a new approach to our craft show. New this year, we are going to donate 25% of all proceeds directly to St. Andrew’s Family Shelter in Hugo. Additionally, the UMW is donating the first three gallons of our famous vegetable beef soup and the first three loaves of homemade bread.

What brought about this change in how we go about our craft show? I’m glad you asked! The United Methodist Women as an organization (not just within Forest Hills) was established with one main mission: to focus on ministries with women, children, and youth. We are thrilled to partner with St. Andrew’s Family Shelter not only because they are a local establishment but also because they area a primary venue of serving families in our community. St. Andrew’s relies on donations to help with operating costs such as utilities as well as food donations to meet the physical needs of the families staying with them as they get back on their feet.

The UMW at Forest Hills Church is committed to serving women, children, and families and we invite you to join with us in that endeavor. How can you help? Again, I’m so glad you asked!

Our Fall Craft Show and Luncheon is a very large event that has many moving parts, each part has an important role to play. We rely on volunteers to help make this all possible. The following are some of the things we’d need help with:

Food Donations/Opportunities:

- * Vegetable Beef Soup (we have the recipe for you!)
- * Homemade Bread
- * Bake Sale goods
- * Kitchen Team (serving food, dishes)
- * Caramel Roll Team (Nancy Daschel has info)

Volunteer Opportunities:

- * Sales Area Volunteers
- * Set Up Day Help
- * Greeters
- * Cashiers
- * Monetary Donations (help with food costs)

****Volunteer sign-up sheet will be in the lobby starting October 2nd ****

In addition to the above opportunities, we also need craft donations for the sale itself. Any and all homemade crafts are appreciated and encouraged! Men – this includes you! If you are interested in donating your items to the sale, please let Amanda Lucas or Gina Lindholm know. You can also bring them to our set up day, see below for more information on dates.

Not a crafter, cook, or baker? That is totally fine! Come and enjoy the event, eat caramel rolls, have lunch, and do some early Christmas shopping! I’ve heard Pastor David’s famous apple butter is going to be there... just saying! We thank you in advance for your help and support. Here are the important dates for you to remember:

Set Up Day: October 25th – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Fall Craft Show: October 26th – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Onward,
Amanda Lucas - UMW Craft Show Chair

Trunk or Treat



Come out to the Forest Hills parking lot, for trunks full of candy! This is a fun way for us those of us at Forest Hills to serve our immediate community. We will be providing a safe place for young kids to trick or treat. There are lots of ways to serve that night, from helping in the kitchen, welcome commit or decorate your car and hand out candy to those who stop by. We will also have a free meal of chili! Hot cider and coco will be available too.

Dulac Mission Trip

Come find out about how you can be the hands and feet of Jesus in Louisiana. Dulac Mission Trip meeting in the upstairs blue room on Oct 20th, following the service. This meeting will be discussing 2020 dates and logistics.

Save the Date

Annual Church Conference will be held after service on November 17th. We will be reviewing the ministry of our church this past year, and we will be casting the vision for the year ahead.

Want to be in the know?

Sign up for the church Wednesday email and newsletter. Sign up in the lobby or on the [website](#) or call the office.

★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY! October Birthdays

Nancy Fredeick	10/4	David Werner	10/16
Bev Johnson	10/7	Amanda Rydell	10/16
Judy Dittberber	10/5	Erik Kargel	10/17
Delores Ford	10/10	Silas Bonsell	10/18
Roy Pope	10/11	Mason Lindholm	10/18
Kay Bergerson	10/12	Shane Kargel	10/25
Nathan Werner	10/12	Julianne Benson	10/26

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!