



The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH

From the Pastor's Perspective Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar



"Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." -Exodus 20:1-2

When we were at the Vatican last summer, we saw their collection of Roman sculptures. Included was this head of the god Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions. Janus is depicted as having two faces: one facing forward, but also one facing backward. Our current calendar of months is based on the Roman calendar, and the month carries the namesake of this god. We have begun a new year, and as we look forward to the year ahead, it is also good to look back on the previous year. Looking backward helps us look forward.

As we begin the new year, it is a good as Christians to look forward to (meaning both looking ahead as well as being excited about what's coming) where God is leading us. This requires trust and confidence, an inner assurance that God will take us through whatever is ahead.

Yet where does this trust come from? It comes from looking back! We remember all that God has done to get us to this point, all the ways that God has proven that He is trustworthy. We have "God with Us," helping us in the past, and promising to continue to help us into the future. Spend some time as you being this new year remembering what God has done in your life - all that He has done to prove to you that He is trustworthy and reliable. This will give you boldness going forward.

We are still in the 12 Days of Christmas. We remember that God sent Jesus to be our Savior. He showed up in person rescued us from our slavery to sin and our sentence of death. Because of Christmas, we have Jesus with us, guiding us into the path of life in the year ahead. He set us free so we could live free!

Our January message series is on the 10 Commandments. The 10 Commandments are the bedrock of how God's people are to live. All the other rules for godly living are built on them.

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Jan 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR! The office is closed.
Jan 2	10:30 am Book Clun 12:00 pm Sarah's Circle
Jan 3	7:00 am Grow group - Prepared
Jan 4	9:00 am United Methodist Men 11:00 am Gayle Novak Visitation 1:00 pm Funeral with Lunch to follow
Jan 5	HOLY COMMUNION 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor Andrew
Jan 6	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Jan 8	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:30 pm All Church Game Night 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Jan 9	1:00 pm UMW Meeting 6:30 pm AMT Meeting
Jan 10	7:00 am Grow group - Prepared
Jan 11	5:45 pm Adult Fellowship meeting at the China Buffet in Forest Lake
Jan 12	8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David
Jan 13	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Jan 15	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo Jr., Echo, Confirmation, Grow Groups and Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal

Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

It is key to remember that God provided His people with the 10 Commandments right at the crucial junction: after He had liberated them from slavery in Egypt and before leading them into the Promised Land. He wanted to set His people up for success! God wanted His people to have the best life possible, to live abundantly in the future. So, as God tells them the best rules to live by, He begins by reminding them that He freed them from slavery in Egypt: "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." He calls them to look back and see what He has done for them. He reminds them how He showed His love for them in such a dramatic way and how they know they can trust Him. The rules to live by, they see, are a gift from Him to free them for living abundantly. They were set free so they could live free!

We're looking back to The 10 Commandments so that we can live our best possible lives going forward. They aren't just a list of rules, things we should do even though we don't want to. They are not obsolete or even dated. We continue to have the same longings, the same foibles, and the same tendencies. They are a radical call to live very differently. God gave them a long time ago, but these core principles still illumine the way to the best life. They reflect God's character, and they resonate God's image in us.

This will be a 2-part message series. The first (January-February), Love God, will cover the first four commandments. They focus our love singularly on God. The second series (after Easter), Love Others, will cover the remaining six commandments and guide us to live out our love for God in how we love our neighbors. Have you noticed how the 10 Commandments are an expansion of the greatest commandments: loving God and loving others? The 10 Commandments are the Greatest Commandments, expanded! They are the path to abundant life!

As we begin our new year, remember God's love. Remember His faithfulness. Remember how He wants the best possible life for you. Remember He is trustworthy! When we look back to look forward, we see that God has set us free so that we can live free!

Happy New Year!
Pastor David

Calendar Cont....

Jan 16	1:30 pm Reverse Mortgage Class
Jan 17	7:00 am Grow group - It Came from Within 5:00 pm Unload Food Truck
Jan 18	6:00 am Set-up Community Care 8:00 am Community Care
Jan 19	8:30 am Prayer 9:45 am Hymn Sing 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David 6:30 pm Lifeline at Pastor Andrew's
Jan 20	8:00 am Christmas Camp 8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters 6:30 pm CMMT Meeting
Jan 21	10:00 am Rebecca's Circle
Jan 22	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo Jr., Echo, Confirmation, Grow Groups and Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Jan 24	7:00 am Grow group - It Came from Within
Jan 26	8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David
Jan 27	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Jan 29	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo Jr., Echo, Confirmation, Grow Groups and Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Jan 31	7:00 am Grow group - It Came from Within

VISION 20/20 MINISTRY FAIR

Join us January 19th, for church wide Ministry Fair immediately following the service. This is a great way to see all the different ministries our church offers. Whether you want to sign up to get involved or just hear what each of the teams are doing.

Wednesday Evenings



Wednesday nights will begin again on Jan. 8 with a all-church game night. Wednesday evening is church family night! You are included! It will begin with a shared stir-fry meal together, beginning at 5:30 p.m., provided free of charge!

Then, from 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. we will have discipleship for all ages. Echo is a time for kids-and-adults to interact together. Echo's purpose is to help pass on (echo) our Christian faith to the next generations! We want kids, parents and other adults to hear the message of the Gospel, as we seek to be disciples that make other disciples. For our preschoolers we'll have Echo Jr. in the nursery, a time of Bible stories and fun. For youth we will host confirmation (meeting upstairs) and youth group (which will now be meeting in the large room downstairs).

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!

Youth Group



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10

This past week 9 of our teens volunteered with Christmas camp. This helped provide winter VBS style daycare for over 40 kids in our community.

In January we are starting our next series called Lenses. The whole goal of this series is to examine five common worldviews that many teenagers tend to hold (their "lenses"), gently expose them as unfulfilling narratives for their lives, and help students begin to swap out the lies for gospel truth (God's lens). Each week, we will be digging into an account from Jesus' life to see how Jesus addressed these common worldviews with a new lens. Here's the breakdown for the next six weeks:

Week 1: Real life and light come when you change your lens. (John 1)

Week 2: Good is never good enough because only God is good. (Luke 18:18-27)

Week 3: The pursuit of happiness puts you on a treadmill. The pursuit of Jesus puts you on the path to eternal happiness. (John 4)

Week 4: The selfie-centered life leads to isolation. Selflessness leads to true connection. (Luke 13:1-17, 34-35)

Week 5: My faith should be personal but not private. (Matthew 28:16-20)

Week 6: Doing life God's way is life to the fullest. (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23, John 10:10, Jeremiah 17:9)

Cassi

Director of Youth Ministries

Children Ministry Update

Christmas break is it time of rest and reconnecting with family. Everybody is home for the holidays and traditional celebrations can ensue. However, at Forest Hills, we have decided to make Christmas break a time for serving our community. We all have responsibilities and special plans around this time of year and yet our church is willing to give of themselves, to sacrifice plans and to extend ourselves beyond what this season normally demands.

During the week of Christmas we hosted Christmas camp: an all day experience for kids whose parents need an extra hand. We ran games, activities, crafts, snacks and a full lunch. We put up with some whining and tears. We put in long hours having strange conversations with imaginative kids. We opened our building to wear and tear. We ate popcorn in the sanctuary. We chose to go beyond our comfort zone.

But we also got to form relationships with families in our community. We provided for a need parents were feeling during Christmas break. We used our entire building to serve others. We had fun! And best of all we were able to share the gospel story with 35 kids!

Thank you to those who volunteered, who helped plan, and who prayed. Thank you for being a church that loves to serve in creative ways that are not always easy. Thank you for being disciples.

Many parents expressed their thanks for providing a place for their kids. One little girl even broke down in tears when her parents arrived because she did not want to leave. All of the kids enjoyed their time at our church and God was glorified.

For the King,

-Pastor Andrew



UMCOR Kits

We will be collecting items for the UMCOR bags this year. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters - be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. We provide relief, response and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

Here are items needed for the bags:

School Kit Materials

- One pair blunt scissors
- Round tips only
- No plastic scissors
- One box of 24 crayons
- Only 24-count boxes are accepted
- Three one-subject notebooks
- No marble composition books
- No 3 or 5-subject notebooks
- One pack of loose-leaf paper
- 100-200 page packets are acceptable
- Wide or college rule accepted
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- 1-inch or longer
- Remove from packaging
- One ruler
- 12 inches or 30 centimeters long
- Sturdy or flexible material accepted
- Six unsharpened pencils
- One eraser
- Two inches or larger
- One two-gallon re-sealable plastic bag



All items are due Feb 3rd. Once collected Kay and Bergie will be heading down to UMCOR later that month to deliver packages.

Kay Bergerson

United Methodist Women

Summer 2020 Mission Trip - Fundraiser

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can as long as ever you can." – John Wesley

January 26th, will start our fundraiser for the teens portion of the mission trip. Our goal is to raise \$3000. These funds will help cover half the cost of the teens to go on the trip and two chaperones. For each \$50 we raise we will add a van to our board, help us reach 60 vans!

Our primary partner will be [Good in the Hood](#). Their desire is to inspire individuals, families and entire neighborhoods to take responsibility and ownership for the growth, improvement and well-being of their personal lives and community. Through partnerships and kindness-based initiatives they believe the physical, emotional and spiritual climate of an entire community can be changed for good.



Cassi

Director of Youth Ministries

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

Jan Birthdays

Brandon Yetter 1/17

Rozanne Foster 1/21

Hellen Ash 1/21

Jim Letourneau 1/24

Toby Leonard 1/25

Gloria Hair 1/30

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!