

The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH

From the Pastor's Perspective

"All God's creatures, bless the Lord! Everywhere, throughout His kingdom, let my whole being bless the Lord!"

-Psalm 103:22

The early Pilgrim leaders called the beleaguered community together after a terrible first winter and an abundant first harvest to give God thanks. Then, two years later, Governor Bradford ordered the community to gather, on their third anniversary, to give God thanks. George Washington called the nation to a day of Thanksgiving after the formation of the struggling new country. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a day of thanksgiving in 1864 at the end of the Civil War. Do you notice that all of these Thanksgiving observance were ordered and commanded?

God also commands people to give thanksgiving. Some 3,400 years ago God mandated the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles as a seven-day thanksgiving festival. After the main harvest, God ordered that the people stop and give thanks to Him for these material blessings (Deut. 16:13-17). A bit later, King David expresses thanksgiving in the imperative (as a command): "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name" (Psalm 103:1).

In the New Testament, Paul again puts thanksgiving in the form of a blunt order, "Be thankful people" (Col. 3:15). Now, normally I think of cultivating "an attitude of gratitude," but I always think about it in terms of voluntary appreciation.

Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

Nov 1	7:00 am Grow group - Judgement Call
Nov 2	9:00 am UM Men
Nov 3	COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:30 am Grow Group - The Downfall of Israel in the Promised Land 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David 11:15 am Grow Group - Meditation on the Hebrew
Nov 4	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Nov 5	6:30 pm Grow Group Leader Meeting
Nov 6	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo, Confirmation, Youth Group and Grow Groups 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Nov 7	10:30 am Bookclub 12:00 pm Sarah's Circle 6:30 pm CMMT Meeting
Nov 8	7:00 am Grow group - Prepared
Nov 9	5:45 pm Adult Fellowship
Nov 10	8:30 am Grow Group - The Downfall of Israel in the Promised Land 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David 11:15 am Grow Group - Meditation on the Hebrew

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From the Pastor continued...

I think there is something more here, however, deeper than feelings of gratitude or a heart swollen with appreciation. It is a choice we make, something we commit to do no matter what we've experienced or what we feel like. Thanksgiving is a commitment of our will, not a feeling.

I saw a line this past week that said, "To be thankful means to be thankful." Here might be the secret to the kind of thanksgiving we've been commanded to give. We are told to be thankful because in order to do that, we have to stop and be intentional about noticing how rich and full our lives are. We have to think about it, rather than taking all we enjoy for granted. That means we have to do the harder work of going deeper than the "extras" we are glad for, and honestly admit that all we have is a gift.

Psalms 103:2 says, "Do not forget His benefits." Again, an order. An order not to forget. Strange, at first, but when we are thankful about it, we are being called to the intentional work of stopping and recounting all that God continuously does for us.

Here's a glimpse into God's wisdom when He requires us to be thankful: the effort and work it takes to give thanksgiving stops us from spending our usual time and attention on griping and complaining about our lives, or being stressed and worried about everything. It diverts our attention and focus us onto what brings us life, rather than what drains it away. God commands thanksgiving not because He needs it. It's because we need it. We need it to free us from our bondage to worry and negativity, or our constant striving for more. It is a path of liberation for us, that opens abundant living. It refreshes us from the inside out.

So, this year, I will add my voice to all these previous decrees. In the strongest command I can give, I order us again this year to stop and give God thanks!

There has been a great harvest: give God thanks. You have many luxuries in your life: give God thanks. God has guided us through so much: give God thanks. We have all we need and more: give God thanks. Count your blessings. Name them one by one. As you do, you will find yourself transformed!

Happy Thanksgiving!
Pastor David

Calendar Cont....

Nov 11	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Nov 13	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo, Confirmation, Youth Group and Grow Groups 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Nov 14	1:00 pm UMW Meeting 6:30 pm AMT Meeting
Nov 15	7:00 am Grow group - Prepared 5:00 pm Unload Food Truck
Nov 16	6:00 am Community Care Prep 8:00 am Community Care
Nov 17	8:30 am Grow Group - The Downfall of Israel in the Promised Land 8:30 am Prayer 9:45 am Hymn Sing 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David 11:15 am Grow Group - Meditation on the Hebrew 6:30 pm Lifeline
Nov 18	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Nov 19	10:30 am Rebecca's Circle
Nov 20	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo, Confirmation, Youth Group and Grow Groups 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Nov 22	7:00 am Grow group - Prepared
Nov 24	8:30 am Grow Group - The Downfall of Israel in the Promised Land 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David 11:15 am Grow Group - Meditation on the Hebrew
Nov 25	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Nov 27	No Wednesday Activities - Thanksgiving Break
Nov 28	THANKSGIVING Office Closed
Nov 29	7:00 am Grow group - Prepared Office Closed



AMT Update



As we move toward the new year of 2020, I want to thank the members of AMT that are going off the team. All of the hard work, time sacrifice, praying and thinking that was accomplished the past year or two. Is greatly appreciated by me and all of us on the team. I have enjoyed the time getting to know each of you better, hearing the stories that have shaped you as Christians and knowing that each of these experiences have helped bring our church closer to the vision God has for us. For it is by “our stories” that our faith is shared with others. Continue to share those stories as you move on to other endeavors within our church.

My heartfelt thanks to Shane Tsubaki, Steve Ruter, Jim LeTourneau and Andrea Hendrickson as they transition off the team. The Action Ministry Team continues to fine tune the Discipleship Self-Assessment Tool which will be coming to all of our church family in the new year.

We are also spearheading a Ministry Fair for one of the Sundays in January. This is an opportunity for all ministries within our church to get involved, create their own booth, explain “Why Should We Buy That” (how Love.Grow.Serve is a part of the ministry) and invite new people to join in the excitement. More details will be coming.

As pastor appreciation month comes to a close, I encourage everyone to give thanks for our wonderful ministry staff, including Pastor David, Pastor Andrew and Cassi Betker.

God is good, all the time!
Marilee Leonard
Lay Leader

Church Conference

Our annual Church Conference will be held after worship on Sunday, Nov. 17th. We will be reviewing the ministry of our church this past year, and we will be casting the vision for the year ahead.

Everyone is invited to attend the Church Conference and has a voice. Professing members have a vote.

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.

Kid's Moment

"No doubt about it: children are a gift from the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a divine reward."

Psalm 127:3

This month our church is taking a close look at money as we launch our annual stewardship campaign. We know that money is a tool used to purchase, to build and to maintain. It is necessary for any organization that intends to keep its doors open. We ask God to help us use money wisely while keeping us away from developing a love for it.

Our use of money tends to be what comes to mind when we hear about stewardship, but the term includes much more. Stewardship involves the act of supervision. The fact is that God has put us in charge many different aspects of our lives: from finances to time management, from creation in

general to our children specifically. Our kids are the most dynamic part of our lives. Money will always come and go, it will always be spent or saved, but kids are ever-changing. They mature and grow, and our relationship with them does as well. Our role of supervisors or stewards seems unending, but soon enough, our kids will be out on their own making a go of this thing called life.

As parents and grandparents, we hope and pray for our kids, we pour into them, we invest time and money into their development, we take extra strides to provide the best that we can. In the quest to rear productive offspring, we must be careful that we do not forget the main goal of our role: to connect our kids to Jesus.

It's easier said than done, of course, but we must keep our focus. This world will peddle our children lies, offer noisy distraction and hail the allure of self-promotion. As Christians, we walk a different road, we adhere to different values and we seek to be good stewards of all that God has given us, especially our children and grandchildren.

At Forest Hills we want to focus on making disciples who love God and others, who grow in Christ and who serve their community. This call includes our kids! If you have kids or grandkids or neighbor kids in your life, you can help steward the next generation. Demonstrate for them what it is to follow Jesus.

Pastor Andrew

Youth Group

"And who knows but that you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this and for this very occasion?"

Esther 4:14

All of our Sr. High youth group members are driving now! Watch out on the roads in and around Forest Lake. This also means that they, along with our Jr High members, will be hosting their own station for Trunk-or-Treat. So come check out the camouflage group of teens on Halloween.

November, starts our new message series, "What if?" The book of Esther is one of two books in the Bible that never mentions the word "God." However, a close examination of the story reveals God's fingerprints all over Esther's journey from slave to queen to rescuer. In the same way, many of us don't realize that God has created us for a purpose and given us talents, families, and circumstances for a specific reason. What If...? is a four-week series through the book of Esther, finding parallels to our lives today. What if...life is more than a series of coincidences? What if...God is using all of our lives for his purpose? This series will help us view our lives differently than they ever have before.

Cassi - Director of Youth Ministries

UMW Today



Emma Norton

The Journey Home Begins Here

UMW Annual Christmas Party, All women of the church invited!!!

Save the date , Tuesday, December 3rd 5:30 pm at Key’s Café. This is a fun night of fellowship, food and serving. We traditionally bring gifts that will be donated to the Emma Norton Residence. Emma Norton Residence program is a transitional housing program for women. Gift suggestions are listed below.

Items always needed included:

- Umbrellas
- Hot Chocolate packets
- Toilet tissues
- Paper towels (for dispense or rolls)
- Napkins
- All-purpose Cleaner
- Window, bathroom & floor cleaner
- Plastic Gloves
- Plastic Bags (Garbage, Kitchen -all sizes)
- Yard games & Sports Equipment
- Twin Bed Sheets
- Razors for shaving
- Bath towels
- Liquid hand soap
- Liquid Shower soap
- Flip-flop
- Paper Plates, Cups, Plastic spoons & Forks
- Soup Bowls, silverware & drinking glasses
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Air freshener
- Hand & body lotion
- Deodorant

Emma Norton Services is also in need of:

- Women’s Gift Cards \$25.00 to Walmart, Target, Visa, Etc.
- Winter Coats and boots: Used and in good shape

Community support is large part of what help’s Emma Norton Services continue to help women, children and families. Your support goes miles to make a difference in your neighbor’s life.

WATCH YOUR MAILBOXES FOR INVITATIONS

Thank you
United Methodist Women

★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY! November Birthdays

Gary LaVigne	11/1	Matt Lindholm	11/9	Sue LaVigne	11/18
Darrell Benson	11/6	Lillian Kilgore	11/11	Jerry Gustafson	11/23
Carter Rosenbaum	11/9	Andrew Bonsell	11/15	Lee Dugdale	11/28

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!