



From the Pastor's Perspective

"Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others." -Philippians 2:4

We are struggling to love others well. Our current reality is polarized into factions, the pandemics of racism and COVID-19 divulge deep-seated divides and anxieties, public language grows ever more decisive, name-calling and hate speech is common, the political campaign year continues to slide into mudslinging, violence is erupting.

The Christian calling is to love one another. The Church leads the way to a different way! God's people stand as an alternative in our current situation. We call out another way. We name a different path. We point to a hope that changes everything.

It starts with each one of us. Paul puts Jesus in front of us and calls us to adopt lives modeled after His. He says in Philippians 2:1-5, "Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort in love, any sharing in the Spirit, any sympathy, complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united, and agreeing with each other. Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:1-5)

Our fall message series takes us into this calling: "Messy, Loving Others Isn't Easy!"

All over the Bible we are called to love others, even when they are hard to love. Jesus goes so far as to say we should even love our enemies, which really doesn't leave very many people out of this calling. When we stop to remember how God chooses to love us, unloveable as we are!, that produces

Monthly Church Events

Sept 3	10:30 am - Book club 12:00 pm - Sarah Circle
Sept 4	7:00 am - Grow Group
Sept 5	9:00 am - Unite Methodist Men
Sept 6	10:00am - Holy Communion Outdoor & Online Worship
Sept 7	Labor Day: OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 am -Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters
Sept 9	6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Programing for all ages 7:30 pm - Sanctified Rehearsal
Sept 10	1:00 pm - UMW Meeting
Sept 11	7:00 am - Grow Group
Sept 13	10:00 am - Outdoor & Online Worship 11:30 am - Hope Moves
Sept 14	8:00 am -Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters
Sept 15	10:00 am - Rebecca Circle
Sept 16	11:30 am - Romeos and Juliettes 6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Programing 7:30 pm - Sanctified Rehearsal
Sept 17	6:30 pm - AMT
Sept 18	7:00 am - Grow Group 2:00 pm - Unload Food Truck
Sept 19	6:00 am - Set - up Comm. Care 8:00 am - Community Care
Sept 20	10:00 am - Outdoor & Online Worship 11:30 am - Hope Moves

Continued on page 2...

Pastor's Perspective Cont.

grace in us to love others who are, quite frankly, not that easy for us to love.

It's easy to love those who like us, those that are like us, and those who say nice things about us. Loving them seems effortless. Loving our families and friends isn't always easy, and we often struggle with feeling love even towards them. Those that grate on our nerves, who always press our buttons, whose personalities grind against ours, who see things so differently, or those who are just plain difficult, require extreme amounts of patience!

How do we love others when it's not easy? Be sure to engage worship this month as we come to Jesus asking Him to show us—and lead us into—the way of love. Yes, love is messy! But it is only messy love that can bring transformation: for us, for our broken relationships, and for our broken world.

God commanded, "Love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord." (Leviticus 19:18b) Then He sent Jesus to free us from our bondage to hate. Then He sent the Holy Spirit to change our hearts and lead us into holy loving. Let's get messy...let's get loving!

Pastor David

Sept 21	8:00am -Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters
Sept 23	6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Programing 7:30 pm - Sanctified Rehearsal
Sept 24	8:00 am - Rummage Sale
Sept 25	7:00 am - Grow Group 8:00 am - Rummage Sale
Sept 27	10:00 am - Outdoor & Online Worship 11:30 am - Hope Moves
Sept 28	8:00am -Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters
Sept 30	6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Programing 7:30 pm - Sanctified Rehearsal



Fall Grow Groups

Grow Groups are being planned for fall! They may look a bit different, but we are committed to keep growing! If you have suggestions for resources, topics, or issues we should offer, please let either Andrea Hendrickson or Pastor David know. Also, if you know of anyone who might consider hosting a grow group, pass that along as well! Let's keep growing!

Wednesday Night Programing

Summer has reached its end (kinda). The school year is about to begin (kinda). Things are getting back to normal (not really). We have hybrid learning going on for our students. We have the cultural embrace of masks being worn everywhere. We have an underlying anxiety about an unknown virus. But as Christians, we know that God is good all the time. We must not be deterred in our ability or willingness to worship and serve him. We've been thrown the curveball, but we still need to approach that base and take a swing. Will we strikeout or will it be a grand slam? In all honesty, that is not for us to decide. The question we need to answer right now is: are we being faithful? Are we using our gifts and talents to make disciples?

To that very end, Forest Hills Church is returning to our Wednesday night schedule (kinda). This month, starting September 9th we will host Echo in the large room upstairs, youth group in the large room downstairs, confirmation in the office area and Echo Jr. in the nursery.

Wednesday nights are for everyone! We are all called, old and young, to be disciples! We want Wednesday nights to be intergenerational! In Matthew 28 Jesus commands his disciples to "go and make disciples...baptizing them...[and] teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." We cover the baptism part on Sunday mornings and Wednesdays are for taking on the teaching part. Disciples make disciples...we teach and guide others into the truth of God's word. Who are you teaching?

To help you answer that question, Echo has been revamped for this year. We will have a team of adults take on different roles throughout the evening to teach, to encourage, to build generational bridges.

Throughout the year adult grow groups will rotate into Echo, serve as disciple-makers for that cycle and then resume a normal grow group come next cycle. We also have incorporated a time of mentoring in which adults and kids will be paired together for a chance to connect across generational lines and experience what it is to make disciples!

Please be aware that, while we are returning to Wednesday night programming, due to Covid precautions, it will not look the same. We will not be serving community meals and eating together. When we meet, everyone will be asked to wear masks and remain physically distanced. Finally, a slight time change from last year. We will begin the evening at 6:30 and conclude at 7:45.

So here we are standing at the plate. Circumstances have thrown us the curveball. Are we going to throw in the towel and give up? No! We keep calm and carry God. We stand strong, take a swing, remain faithful and trust God with the results.

For the King,
Pastor Andrew



Youth Group and Mission Trip Summary



This summer our local mission trip was a huge success! Tuesday, we hit the ground running. Our group of 12 (which included two teens who saw us working at decided to join in) started the week off working on the church grounds. We dugout the plants and edging from the front and installed new edging near the cross. Next we headed off to Dugdale's home for some yard work help.

The next day we had a group finish off the church yard work while another set helped out at Kids' Bash. Then we had an afternoon of fun, we tried out some indoor laser tag!

Thursday we moved from those within our church or on our church grounds and went out into the community. We started by cleaning the grounds of five different parks in Forest Lake. Then we headed over to Community Helping Hands to help with sorting their donations. We continued this work through Friday afternoon.

Friday afternoon was the start of Forest Hills Church Community Care. We joined other volunteers and organized the food for Saturday's distribution. On Saturday we helped hand out over 240 boxes of food to the people in the Forest Lake community.

Overall it was a great way to spend a week being the hands and feet of Jesus to our local community. We also want to say a huge thank you to all of you, through your generous donations and prayer coverage you made this possible.

So what's next?

This school year, there will be no dinner so we will be meeting at 6:30 pm downstairs in the blue room. Please bring a mask to wear during class.

We will be starting with a game night to get the teens reacquainted and to have some fun together. Our first message series will be "Start Fresh". If most of us are honest, we need to start fresh in multiple areas of our lives. Many of you could benefit from a clean start in life, in self-image, and in relationships. God offers each of us a way to start fresh as we allow God to clean us not just superficially but in a transformative way that leaves us changed forever.

Sept 16: A Clean Start

Sept 23: Fresh Worth

Sept 30: Start Fresh Each Week



Cassi Betker

Director of Youth Ministry

Hope Moves

United Methodist Women have a rich legacy of bringing hope to communities around the world through mission work. Through Hope Moves we are looking to inspire, empower, and equip each of us to serve right here in our local communities. We aim to provide a couple workshops a year, on different topics, bringing in speakers and providing specific opportunities to get involved.

Our first workshop will be in September. We'll be learning about Human Trafficking, which is an issue even in smaller communities like ours. According to the United Nations, human trafficking is the second largest – and fastest growing – criminal industry in the world. We'll meet Sunday's after church for 3 weeks, September 13th - 27th.

If you have any questions about the workshop or Hope Moves ministry, please reach out to Teresa Gruber, Marilee Leonard, Gina Lindholm, or Reese Werner. I'm excited to see Hope move through us into our communities.

Thanks!

Teresa



Fall De-clutter Day

Please help with decluttering the church on September 19th @ 9:00 AM. We will be going through the rooms and storage areas to identify items we no longer need. Please bring your PPE.

Sept Birthdays

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!

Isaac Hendrickson 9/10

Mary Weaver 9/14

Doris Richardson 9/18

Ezra Bonsell 9/20

Colten Johnson 9/22

Steve Betker 9/27

Steve Ruter 9/30

