



From the Pastor's Perspective

Peace in Uncertain Times

"I've said these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world." -John 16:33

I'm writing this article before the election, knowing that by the time you are reading it, the election will be over. I'm not sure, however, if you will have the conclusive results of the election by then! It is possible that the results could be delayed days or even weeks.

This makes me think about how we as followers of Jesus live with uncertainty. In addition to the election, we are also apprehensive about the possibility of a "new wave" of COVID-19 cases, as already they are starting to increase again at the end of October. Will the schools go to full distance learning? Will business close? Will we receive new quarantine mandates? We also witnessed the stock market again react erratically amid the looming concern of an economy choking on the limits of social distancing. So many of us are experiencing personal concern over job security and income needs. There is social unrest in our communities as we disparage about racial inequality. And then there are the natural disasters both by tropical storms in the Southeast and the continuing fires in the West.

Christians, just like everyone else, have worry in the pit of our stomachs. Yet, the key difference is that we have a place to take our worry...or more accurately, we have a PERSON to give our worry to. Jesus calls to us during this uncertainty: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28)

Our sense of peace (rest) during uncertain times doesn't come from WHAT we are—or are not—facing. It comes from the face of Jesus, who is smiling on us, even in the midst of what is happening around and to us. At times like this we just wish everything would calm down and "return to normal" (isn't that a misnomer!). We want our struggles to go away. We want

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Monthly Church Events

Nov 1	8:30 am - Grow Group 10:00 am - In Person & Online Worship
Nov 2	8:00 am - Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters 8:00 pm - Grow Group
Nov 4	6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Programing for all ages 7:30 pm - Sanctified Rehearsal
Nov 5	10:30 am - Book Club 12:00 pm - Sarah Circle 6:30 pm - Grow Group
Nov 6	7:00 am - Grow Group
Nov 7	9:00 am - United Methodist Men
Nov 8	8:30 am - Grow Group 10:00 am - In Person & Online Worship
Nov 9	8:00 am - Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters 8:00 pm - Grow Group
Nov 11	Veterans' Day 6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Programing for all ages 7:30 pm - Sanctified Rehearsal
Nov 12	1:00 pm - UMW Meeting 6:30 pm - Grow Group
Nov 13	7:00 am - Grow Group
Nov 15	8:30 am - Grow Group 10:00 am - In Person & Online Worship 11:30 am - Church Conference
Nov 16	8:00 am - Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters 8:00 pm - Grow Group
Nov 17	10:00 am - Rebecca Circle
Nov 18	6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Programing for all ages 7:30 pm - Sanctified Rehearsal

Pastor's Perspective Cont.

things to be easier. But yet, the truth is that our peace doesn't come from a reduction in our struggles. It comes from putting our trust in Jesus while experiencing struggles and uncertainty.

The Hebrew word for "peace" is "shalom." It doesn't mean absence of conflict or struggle. It means being well-balanced and whole. It's an inner state we enjoy because we know Jesus, and therefore—here's the good news!—it's independent of what's happening outside of us!

When we put our hope and trust in Jesus, we can have inner peace and centeredness even during—perhaps especially during—the times of uncertainty and anxiety. Peter says in 1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxieties on Him every day, because you know how much He cares for you." So, as we face election outcomes, economic worry and concerns for our personal safety, we can every day stop and cast these concerns to Jesus. He takes them all into His strong hands, smiles at us, and reminds us that He will make sure that everything will work out. It may not be easy or the way we choose, but Jesus promises to bring good out of every situation; He promises to work all things together for good (Romans 8:28).

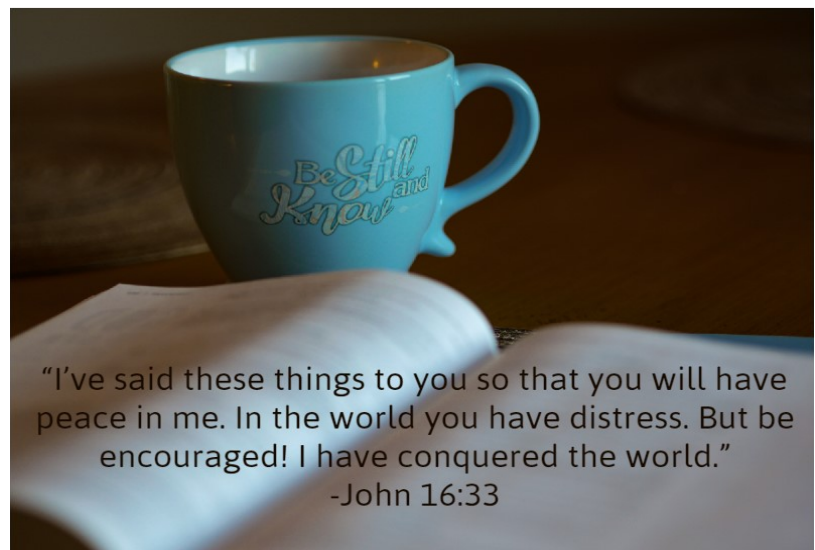
Jesus, you see, has already overcome all the bad things that can happen to us. Even death itself, the strongest of worldly powers, has been defeated. That's why Paul can tell Christians facing terrible persecution that they "do not grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope" (1 Thess. 4:13). They (and we) have hope! We have Jesus!

So, we can navigate these uncertain times with confidence, steadiness and calm—and even as times for experiencing joy! We do that by 1. casting our cares on Jesus every day. We do that by 2. filling our minds with thanksgivings and appreciation to God for all that is—and all that He is making—good (it's a good time to focus on Thanksgiving!). And 3., we look for ways of offering the shalom we have to others who are apprehensive and worried around us.

How we persevere with confidence and joy right now is our strong witness for the Jesus who anchors our souls, our witness to a world filled with anxiety and vexed by worry. To uncertainty we respond with the sure and certain hope we have in Jesus, who is, as it says in Hebrews 6:19, "a safe and secure anchor for our whole being."

For that, we are truly thankful!
Shalom!
Pastor David

Nov 19	6:30 pm - Grow Group
Nov 20	7:00 am - Grow Group 2:00 pm - Unload Food Truck
Nov 21	6:00 am - Set - up Comm. Care 8:00 am - Community Care
Nov 22	8:30 am - Grow Group 10:00 am - In Person & Online Worship
Nov 23	8:00am -Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters 8:00 pm - Grow Group
Nov 25	6:30 pm - No Kid or Youth Programing 7:30 pm - Sanctified Rehearsal
Nov 26	Thanksgiving Day Office Closed No Grow Groups
Nov 27	Office Closed
Nov 29	8:30 am - Grow Group 10:00 am - In Person & Online Worship
Nov 30	8:00am -Morning Men, Prayer Knitters, Comfort Quilters



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-John 16:33

What time is it?

Our cat, Apricot, always seems to know what time it is. It is usually either play time, bathing time, sleeping time, meditation time, eating time, petting time or keeping watch at the window time. He often doesn't tell us what time it is unless we get it wrong. It's as if he says, "No! That's not it! It's not petting time, it's play time! Or "It's not play time, it's eating time!"

In some ways, God is both like and unlike Apricot in this regard. God doesn't always let us in on what time it is in our lives. Sometimes it seems He gives us a big hint as to what we should be doing in the current season of our lives and sometimes He seems silent about it. There also seem to be times when He will give us some indication of what time it is in our lives IF we seek Him about it. For example, I prayed about how to spend my time the next few months and then I had a week-long visit with my Grandma which ended up being right before the stay at home order in Minnesota in the spring of 2020, so the timing seemed providential. We don't always need to know what we should be doing in a given time in our lives, but it seems wise to seek God and try to find out if there is something specific He would like us to be doing.

In Ecclesiastes chapter three, it says, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:...A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;...a time to keep silence a and a time to speak... (v. 1, 2b, 7b KJV). God promises in Matthew 7:7, "'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you" (NASB). We are free to seek God's guidance about what our current goals and projects should be. And if we do get it wrong, I think God is usually more gracious to us than Apricot in gently, but firmly letting us know that that wasn't it, if needed. In James chapter one, it says, "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given him" (v.5 NASB).

Let us ask God for wisdom about our time today.

By Jennifer Berglund

Membership Class

All people who get involved with Forest Hills Church become part of the church family! We invite active people also to consider becoming a Professing Member. Professing Members are those who "own" our church's ministry and commit to making it happen. The five commitments are to support our church by your Time, Talents, Gifts, Service, and Witness. We hope to offer a 2-session Membership Class in early November. If you are interested in becoming a Professing Member, please connect with Pastor David.

Nov 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!

Gary LaVigne 11/1	Lillian Bruno 11/19
Darrell Benson 11/6	Lee Dugdale 11/28
Carter Rosenbaum 11/9	Bethany Bonsell 11/27
Matt Lindholm 11/9	
Lillian Kilgore 11/11	
Andrew Bonsell 11/15	
Sue LaVigne 11/18	



Trunk or Treat was a Huge Success

At the end of last month, on Halloween night, we hosted our Trunk or Treat event! Last year we opened our fellowship hall, fed people sloppy joes, set up some carnival games, roasted s'mores, as well as loaded everyone with candy! This year things were bound to be a little different.

We decided to move forward with the event, but we kept everything outdoors and simplified our activities. We hosted 17 trunks sporting the likes of Scooby Doo, a lawn gnome and John Wesley himself! Over 330 people passed through our parking lot! Adults received a small bag with some information about our church, a pocket copy of John's gospel, and a couple high-quality "mom" chocolates. Pastor David also had the opportunity to "bless" those who came through as well as provide kids with a prayer attached to chocolate pumpkins. He reports that the idea of prayer was very well received by those who walked through.

Volunteers spent two hours on what would have been a rather beautiful evening were it not for the constant chill factor of the wind. It seemed to increase through the course of the night. As the event concluded, everyone was more than ready to pack up and head home to warmth! Yet the energy expended, and the misery endured is what lies at the heart of our calling as Christians. It would have been so much easier to call the whole thing off.

Within the context of this pandemic, we could have come up with many reasons and justifications to cancel. No one would have blamed us. In fact, it might have been considered the more responsible thing to do. But there is something more crucial at stake than physical safety. The fact still remains: we are surrounded by people who do not know the saving love of Jesus Christ. If our Halloween event can urge a few of them one step closer to our Savior or communicate to them that our church loves our community or show them that Christians have all the fun, then we ought to expend ourselves for such a cause.

Thank you for doing so!

For the King!

-Pastor Andrew



Youth Group

Thank you to the teens who came out to Trunk-or-Treat and helped. This was an amazing event reaching those in our community.

We are midway through our series "Blood & Guts" This series walks through the book of Hebrews, introducing them to key theological concepts in an engaging and practical way.

We also have **exciting news as a group from Bethel College will be coming Nov 18th** to lead a night of testimonies, devotions and games.

We will then have a week off for Thanksgiving.

Cassi Betker - Director of Youth Ministries



United Methodist Women's Christmas Party

Gift Ideas from Emma Norton

A Welcome Basket includes:

- Laundry basket
- Blanket (comforter, quilt, winter blankets) Coffee mug
- Pillow and Case
- Twin Sheet (flat) Twin Sheet (fitted)
- Toothbrush Toothpaste
- Deodorant Bar soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Bath towel Hand towel or Wash cloth

Optional Items:

- Lotion
- Journal
- 4x6 picture frame
- Lint roller

Move-In Totes:

- Totes
- 1 Roll Paper Towels
- 1 Box Facial Tissues
- 4 Rolls Toilet Paper
- Cleaning Products:
- 1 Container Disinfecting Wipes
- 1 Bottle Multi-Purpose Cleaner
- 1 Bottle Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- 1 Toilet Bowl Scrubber
- Several Garbage Bags
- 12 Laundry Detergent Pods
- 1 Bottle Hand Soap
- 1 Bottle Dish Soap
- 2 Sponges
- 2 Dish Cloths

Kitchen Items:

- 4 Plastic Disposable Plates
- 4 Plastic Disposable Cups

- Set of 4 Plastic Disposable Forks, Spoons, Knives

- 1 Kitchen Towel

Bathroom Items:

- 1 Shower Curtain
- 1 Package Shower Curtain Rings
- 2 Hand Towels
- 2 Washcloths

Hygiene Items:

- 3 Bars Body Soap
- 1 Deodorant
- 1 Tube Toothpaste
- 4 Toothbrushes
- 1 Floss
- 1 Bottle Shampoo

Medical Items:

- 1 Box Assorted Bandages
- 1 Box Rolled Gauze
- 1 Roll Medical Tape
- 5 Gauze Pads
- 5 Alcohol Prep Pads
- 5 Pouches Antibiotic Ointment
- 2 Pouches Hydrocortisone Cream

Miscellaneous Items:

- 2 Light Bulbs
- 1 Blanket (Twin or Queen)
- Linens:
- Bath Towels
- Bed Sheets (Twin or Queen)

Gift Cards: (of \$25, \$50, or \$100)

- Aldi
- Cub Foods
- Lund's & Byerly's
- Target
- Walmart

Action Ministry Team (AMT) Update

Here we are in November and it's almost 70 degrees! I'll take more of these days anytime.

At our October meeting for Action Ministry Team, we had a team building exercise to lead each of us on a self-assessment of key personality behaviors and traits using the colors red, yellow, blue, green. Knowing and understanding our own color traits and the colors of others in our group can allow us to work together better. As the visioning team at Forest Hills, it is important that we communicate well together.

In the next few months we will continue to be vigilant concerning Covid-19 in our community. More than likely we will see a surge of cases as winter comes on. Our staff has done a tremendous job of leading us through this difficult period while still focusing on the mission of our church which is to "make disciples for Jesus Christ".

Our annual church conference is coming up on Sunday, Nov 15 following worship. There we will look back at 2020 and look forward to 2021. Everyone is welcome to attend, following social-distancing and wearing masks. Please continue to pray for our church leadership teams so that we "keep our eyes upon Jesus" and let the Holy Spirit guide us at all times.

God is good, all the time!

Your lay leader, Marilee Leonard

Church Charge Conference

We will be our annual Church Charge Conference on Nov 15th at 11:30 am. All Church Conference business for the year is handled at this one meeting! Everyone is invited to attend the Church Conference and has a voice. Professing members have a vote. For those who would like to join virtually via zoom we will be sending out a link and password the Friday before. Please watch for this one off email with the Zoom information.

UMW Update

This fall has been busy for the United Methodist Women. The fall rummage sale at the end of September brought in \$950 for parsonage maintenance.

Last week, they hosted a Fall Craft Sale, which had a great turn out of items made by those in our congregation and community. The sale made \$2000 with proceeds going to the Amborella House for women escaping trafficking.

