



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH

## *From the Pastor's Perspective*

### Strange Fire!

*"Our God really is a consuming fire."* -Hebrews 12:29

Jesus had proclaimed in John 8:12 that He was the Light of the World. "Whoever follows me," He promised, "will not walk in darkness but will have life."

On Holy Thursday, Jesus reclined with His disciples to celebrate the Passover Seder meal. According to Jewish ritual, the Seder begins with the lighting of the Sabbath lamps/candles. Yet this Last Supper with Jesus was not going to be as expected. A strange fire burned the lamps that night. Salvation for the world had begun!

In the darkness of the early next morning, Peter warmed himself by a fire burning outside the house of the chief priest as Jesus was on trial inside (Mark 14:54). It was strange for Peter to mingled with the guards, and they picked up on his strange accent. By the fire, Peter (the most fearless of the disciples) denied knowing Jesus three times (Mark 14:72).

By Noon Jesus had been hanging on the cross for three hours. By then the sun should have burned high in the sky. Yet, as all of human sin was heaped on Jesus in the holy transaction of atonement, the fire of the sun snuffed out and a strange darkness covered the land (Matt. 27:45).

When the women went to Jesus' tomb early Sunday morning, they found a strange site. The stone had been rolled away, and suddenly there appeared to them two angels with clothes that strangely burned white like lightning (Luke 24:4). They came to announce that Jesus, who is the Light of the World, was alive! Those who follow Him will have life, as He is alive! Later that afternoon Jesus appeared to two disciples walking to Emmaus. They didn't recognize Him, but as He taught them, their hearts burned strangely within them (Luke 24:32). Two weeks later, the disciples had gone back to fishing up on the Sea of Galilee. They didn't catch anything, but like a time three years earlier, Jesus called out to them and told them to

### Monthly Church Events

<b>April 1</b>	10:00am - Grow Group
<b>April 2</b>	8:00am - Grow Group 7:00pm - Good Friday Service 8:00pm - Prayer Vigil
<b>April 3</b>	Prayer Vigil Continue 9:00am - UM Men Meeting
<b>April 4</b>	EASTER & Holy Communion 6:30am - Sunrise Service 8:30am - Worship Service 10:00am - Worship Service
<b>April 5</b>	Office closed 8:00am - Monday Morning Men and Prayer Knitters
<b>April 6</b>	6:00pm - Grow Group
<b>April 7</b>	6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Programing for all ages 7:45 pm - Sanctified Rehearsal
<b>April 8</b>	10:00am - Grow Group 1:00am UMW Circle
<b>April 9</b>	8:00am - Grow Group
<b>April 11</b>	8:45am - Grow Group 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service 11:30am - Grow Group
<b>April 12</b>	8:00am - Monday Morning Men and Prayer Knitters
<b>April 13</b>	6:00pm - Grow Group
<b>April 14</b>	6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Programing for all ages 7:45 pm - Sanctified Rehearsal
<b>April 15</b>	10:00am - Grow Group
<b>April 16</b>	8:00am - Grow Group 2:00pm - Unload Food Truck

## Pastor's Perspective Cont.

cast their nets on the other side of the boat. When they did, like the previous time, they suddenly had a miraculous catch! When the disciples make it to shore, Jesus invites them around a fire of burning coals He had made, with fish and bread. It was a strange fire, one that Jesus had started. And by this fire Jesus ate breakfast with them and then reinstated Peter.

Strange fires burn throughout the story of Easter. God is up to something. Both the Old and the New Testaments proclaim that "God is an all-consuming fire" (Deut. 4:24 and Hebrews 12:29). Maybe that's why strange fires burn during the Easter story!

Jesus, who is God and who Himself burns as the Light of the World, brings His light and life to all who follow Him: so our hearts burn strangely within us! God's fire is brought to us; God's fire purifies us; and God's fire burns through us.

Our spring message, "Strange Fire," will explore how "God is an all consuming fire." Then, in May we'll discover that the Holy Spirit comes to God's people in tongues of fire who burns within our hearts. In the burning heat of summer we'll study about the fiery furnace in the story of Daniel and we'll learn how to be a strange follower of our holy and pure God.

This Easter, notice the strange fires in the story. They point to our God, who is Himself an all-consuming fire! Celebrate Jesus' resurrection by inviting our fiery God to burn away all ungodliness within you. Give Him your heart, so you will have "holy heartburn!" Then let God's divine fire kindle your life and fuel you to live for Jesus every day—all summer long!

Jesus is alive! The Light of the World still burns! It's a strange fire! Hallujah!

Rev. Dr. David  
Werner

<b>April 17</b>	6:00am - Set up Community Care 8:00am - Community Care
<b>April 18</b>	8:45am - Grow Group 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service 11:30am - Grow Group
<b>April 19</b>	8:00am - Monday Morning Men and Prayer Knitters
<b>April 20</b>	10:00am - Rebecca Circle 6:00pm - Grow Group
<b>April 21</b>	6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Programing for all ages 7:45 pm - Sanctified Rehearsal
<b>April 22</b>	10:00am - Grow Group
<b>April 23</b>	8:00am - Grow Group
<b>April 25</b>	<b>Membership Sunday</b> 8:45am - Grow Group 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service 11:30am - Grow Group
<b>April 26</b>	8:00am - Monday Morning Men and Prayer Knitters
<b>April 27</b>	6:00pm - Grow Group
<b>April 28</b>	6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Programing for all ages 7:45 pm - Sanctified Rehearsal
<b>April 29</b>	Rummage Sale
<b>April 30</b>	8:00am - Grow Group Rummage Sale



## Holy Week Activities:

**April 2 Good Friday Worship**, 7 p.m. In-person and Zoom

**Prayer Vigil:** Good Friday following the service through Saturday Midnight - both in-person and remote, sign ups [on line](#). Also Shepherds are need [sign up here](#).

**April 4 Easter Sunrise service** 6:30 a.m.

**Easter Worship**, 8:30am and 10:00 am In-person and recorded

## Lifeline Resurrects!

In what seems to be the long forgotten past, we used to gather on Sunday evenings once a month in Pastor Andrew's living room to simply come before the Lord in prayer and song. These plans were laid to rest as the world endured the onslaught of the Covid-19 virus. But now, as more and more people are vaccinated and as restrictions are eased, we are happy to re-group and stand together before the Lord who is our Lifeline!

Worship and prayer are God's main mode of connecting with his people. We cannot last long in our faith unless we come willingly to be filled by his presence. But we do not worship only because it benefits us. We worship because God deserves it! He is worthy!

So, starting April 18th we will reconvene at 6:30 in the evening to sit before the Lord, open our hearts to him and ask him to fill us! We will then continue on every third Sunday of the month. Come and be refreshed by the presence of the Lord. Come and experience his great love for you. Come and grab hold of the Lifeline.



For the King,

Pastor Andrew

## April 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!

Andrea Hendrickson 4/16

Lois Werhan 4/17

Jennifer Berglunc 4/18

Jacob Hendrickson 4/22

Marlin (Bergie) Bergerson 4/22

Matt Hendrickson 4/26

Dona Yetter 4/27

Tony Lloyd 4/22





## Youth Group

This week we will be starting our new series. "Misquoted" is a 4-week series that investigates four popular sayings that are often attributed to the Bible. The only problem is, you won't find them in there! The words we speak say a lot about who we are. So it's frustrating when someone takes our words and twists them, because it leads people to believe things about us that aren't true.

Likewise, when God is misquoted, it causes people to believe God is someone He is not. This series challenges students to draw near to

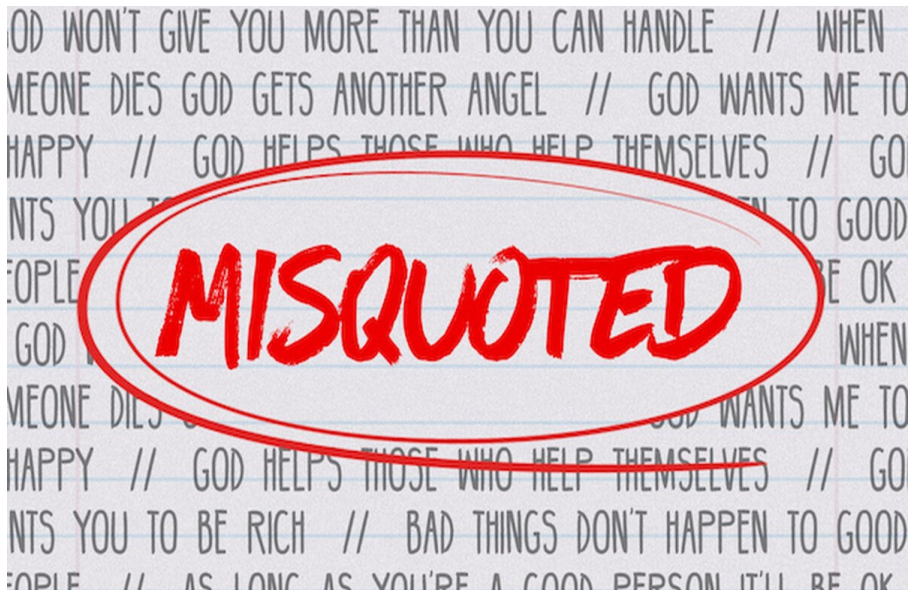
God, because the closer we are to someone, the more likely we will know their voice. The misquotes we will explore are:

1. "God helps those who help themselves."
2. "God wants me to be happy."
3. "God will never give you more than you can handle."
4. "Bad things don't happen to good people."

April 7th, I will be out of town. For youth Group that night we will be taking a break and doing a serve moment. The Youth Group will be joining Echo to have a night with the younger kids in our church family. This will be a great time for the teens to role model to the younger ones.

Cassi Betker

Director of Youth Ministries



## Red Rock Camp

Spend a week with God experiencing his renewing love and saving, healing power at Red Rock Camp on the shore of Lake Koronis near Paynesville, MN. Red Rock Camp is for the whole family. There are speakers for children, youth and adults, they partake in a five-fold mission to: Encounter God, Experience holiness, Equip generations, Empower leaders and Engage communities. Amazing things unfold when people gather and seek Christ for a week. Nothing is impossible for those who believe! Brochures for camp are in the lobby! Sign up before April 30 and receive \$25 towards the camp store.

## Camp Scholarships (Blackford Fund)

Would love to come to camp but are unsure how to afford it? We can help with that. Forest Hills offers three different styles of scholarships. The first goes to first time campers, this will pay your full registration. You can get the [application here](#) please apply by May 1st. The second is for those that need a boost of funds to pay for the registration. You can get the [application here](#), please apply by May 15th. The third way is for all campers. They will receive an incentive for going to camp. Each person under 18 receives a \$100 and everyone over 18 receives \$75.



## Easter Offering: UMCOR

This year for our special Easter offering for UMCOR. For those in service please use the UMCOR offering envelopes. If you are giving online please mark this in the memo or notes area of your giving platform. UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need.

## Church-Community Scavenger Hunt!

Sun., April 25, 3-6 p.m.

Cooped up from winter and COVID? We're hosting a fun event for all ages to get us out into the community, to have fun, and to reconnect with others. We'll gather at church at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 25, break down into teams, and go driving around Forest Lake getting pictures to earn points. At 5 p.m. we'll gather back at church for a pizza party (if possible) while we look at the pictures and award the winning teams! This event is designed so you can invite friends, family, neighbors and non-churched folks. We'll have a lot of fun and follow Romans 12:18 "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."



## Easter Hop

Thank you to all those that helped out at our first annual Easter Hop! It was a great success with over 300 people in attendance. We were able to share the gospel as people "hopped" from trunk to station to trunk through the day. A special thank you goes out to Rozanne Foster for being our Easter Bunny!

## SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

April 29th & 30th from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

FREE shopping on Friday April 30th from 1-5:00 p.m.

Setup: Monday 8am, Tuesday 6-8:00 p.m., and Wednesday 9 am- 8pm

Teardown: Friday, April 30th at 5:00 p.m.

You may begin bringing your stuff to church the Sunday before the sale. If you'd like to help with the sale, contact Carol Humphrey at 651-464-5370. Please put your name/phone # on large items in case they don't sell.

Proceeds will go to Parsonage Fund.

# Refresh!

*Spring  
Women's Retreat*

*Yours  
Faithfully,*

Come away for  
the day to refresh  
your soul through  
worship and  
"sister"ship!

@ Castle Rock UMC



May 1st  
Contact Reese soon to  
register  
Cost ~ \$35