

Happy Thanksgiving The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH

From Pastor David

Parables

“Jesus said many things to them in parables....” -Matthew 13:3a

We’ve been learning this fall that Jesus is our King of kings and Lord of Lords. He is our Savior who died on the cross to earn our forgiveness and rose again to win our abundant and eternal life. But it seems that the most common title used for Jesus by those who listened to Him while here on earth (His disciples as well as others) was “good teacher” or “rabbi.”

Jesus, when going back to His hometown of Nazareth at the beginning of His earthly ministry, picks up the Isaiah scroll and reads, “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Isaiah 61:1-2 quoted by Jesus in Luke 4:18-19). He then explains that this is why He has come.

So proclaiming is a key part of His purpose on earth. He went from village to village, healing, preaching and teaching the people that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand (Matthew 4:23). People followed Him as their rabbi, and even acquaintances called Him “Good Teacher” (Luke 18:18). He taught the people many times, such as the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6), by the lake (Luke 5:1-3), in villages (Luke 13:22), even in other countries (Mark 7:24, 31). It was so typical to find Jesus teaching that Luke casually sets a scene in 5:17, “One day when Jesus was teaching....”

One of the distinctive styles that Jesus used in teaching was parables. Parables are spiritual lessons applied from common, everyday life. Jesus used parables from ordinary things that were just there, all around, such as farming, fishing, shepherding, eating, baking, clothing, family relations, money, lamps, and so forth. You can almost imagine following Jesus along the road, listening to Him teaching. Then, as you walk past a farmer planting seeds, and Jesus turns and says, “A farmer went out to sow his seed....”

Monthly Church Events

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| Nov 1 | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters 5:00pm - Confirmation |
| Nov 3 | 10:00am - Grow Group 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Grow Groups, Echo & Youth Group 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal |
| Nov 4 | 10:30am - Book Club 12:00pm - Sarah Circle |
| Nov 5 | 8:00am - Grow Group |
| Nov 6 | 9:00am - UM Men |
| Nov 7 | Holy Communion 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service |
| Nov 8 | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters 5:00pm - Confirmation |
| Nov 10 | 10:00am - Grow Group 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Grow Groups, Echo & Youth Group 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal |
| Nov 11 | Veterans Day 6:30pm - AMT Meeting |
| Nov 12 | 8:00am - Grow Group |
| Nov 14 | 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service 2:00pm - CMMT - ZOOM |

Pastor David Cont.

Jesus was a master of parables. And when He taught them, the listener was supposed to identify with some character or some application of the story. So, when hearing a parable of Jesus, we ask, “Who am I in that story?” then “What am I to do?” Parables are powerful because they do not just teach information, they also urge behavior as we live. Parables are lessons from ordinary life for ordinary life!

In Sunday worship during November I’m going to try Jesus’ example and offer some parables of my own. The messages will be taken from Scripture, but the stories will come from our everyday lives. For example, on Oct. 31 is the Parable of the Pumpkin. Then November will be the parables of the candle, the \$20 bill and the turkey.

My hope is that by drawing on these common images from our lives, I will be able to pass along the biblical applications that we’ve learned from Jesus. Again, our goal will be to listen for where we find ourselves in each parable and hear what this may mean for us. And again, this is not just about learning information. It’s about being guided into action, into behaviors.

So, as we head into November, let’s walk with Jesus. As we walk, we look around our daily lives and notice what we see. God’s world is filled with His lessons! We listen for God’s voice, using everyday objects to teach us how to live our everyday lives.

Let’s become good students of The Great Teacher!

Pastor David

PARABLES OF FAITH



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|---------------|--|
| Nov 15 | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters 5:00pm - Confirmation |
| Nov 16 | 10:00am - Rebecca Circle |
| Nov 17 | 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service |
| Nov 18 | 1:00pm - UMW Meeting |
| Nov 19 | 8:00am - Grow Group 2:00pm - Unload Food Truck |
| Nov 20 | 6:00am - Set up Community Care 8:00am - Community Care |
| Nov 21 | 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service 11:30am - Church Conference |
| Nov 22 | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters 5:00pm - Confirmation |
| Nov 24 | NO Wed. Programming 7:30pm Sanctify Rehearsal |
| Nov 25 | OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY THANKSGIVING |
| Nov 26 | OFFICE CLOSED |
| Nov 28 | Start of Advent 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service |
| Nov 29 | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters 5:00pm - Confirmation |

Nov. Wednesday Meals:

- 11/03 - Pancakes
- 11/10 - Tomato Soup and Grilled Cheese
- 11/17 - Beef Stew
- 11/24 - No Meal or Classes - Thanksgiving Break

Halloween Thank You!

I love this church! I love this church because we don't take the easy road. I love this church because we refuse to sit comfortably at home. I love this church because we take seriously the calling of Christ. This last Sunday, on Halloween evening, families from all over our community stopped by our Trunk or Treat event. Nearly 300 adults and kids enjoyed a safe and fun experience. We had 24 trunks, served up pulled pork sandwiches and were able to spread a little light in our corner of Forest Lake. Each parent received a small bag of information about our church and a pocket-sized version of John's Gospel. Kids received plenty of candy, but they were also able to come away with the understanding that our church is thinking about them and cares about what interests them.

Trunk or Treat does not lend itself to on-the-spot conversions or the sharing of powerful testimonies. It's a bridge building event. It is an outlet by which we as the church can begin to create inroads with those who live around us. At times it may feel transactional: they come, they eat, they leave; yet, over time, these roads begin to lead to somewhere important. We have been doing Trunk or Treat for six years now...we are a bit of a staple for many families. We have had repeat visitors from new neighborhoods. We have been able to make small connections that would not have been possible otherwise. We even had a dad ask if their family could host their own trunk next year since they live in a rural area that does not get trick or treaters.

It's a small bridge for sure, but I believe a small bridge, a slight crack in the door, a mustard seed, is all God needs to work!

Thank you for being a faithful church! Thank you for stepping up and stepping out into the chilly night to meet families where they are!

For the King,

-Pastor Andrew

Fall Craft & Vendor Sale Thank You

Thank you to all those that donated crafts, food and time. Also a big thank you to all those who purchased items. This year was a first year adding outside vendors, we're a bit nervous about the addition but it turned out great. The sale made \$3300 this year. These dollars goes to the UMW and ministries they support.

Spiritual Assessment Tool

On Oct 12th, you received the survey via email with links and instructions to help you complete this helpful questionnaire. We ask each participant to answer honestly with where they are at currently. Your responses will be kept anonymous unless participants would like to include their email for future scoring reference. This is completely optional.

Thank you in advance and we look forward to participating with you in this endeavor!

Action Ministry Team

We're Hiring

We are currently hiring for a part-time nursery attendant and part-time pianist. If you or someone you know is interested please let Pastor Andrew know.

Youth Group

Last week, we had a fun night with the Bethel University students. They shared some testimonies and talked about finding our identity in Christ. Starting in November, we will begin our new series "Dressed for Success." The series is centered on Paul's analogy to be clothed with Christ-like character (Colossians 3). With practical application for different areas of our lives, each week hits home pointing to the truth that Jesus should be the center of our life.

11/3 - Success at School - Colossians 3:17; 22-23

11/10 - Success at Home - Colossians 3:18-21

11/17 - Success at Your Spiritual life - Colossians 3:5-11

There will be no class Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving Break.

Sunday Nov. 28 we will be taking a special offering for students for the conferences special offering Sundays.

Pastor Cassi

Hope Moves - Christmas Party



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.

In December we will be looking at the topic of addiction. So many families have been impacted by addiction to drugs or alcohol. We will meet Wednesday, December 8th at 6:30 pm, and will focus on ways we can help those who are struggling and recovering. Then on Sunday, December 12th we have invited the women of MN Teen Challenge, along with their families, to join us for a Christmas Party at 2:00 pm.

This is an opportunity for us to share the joy of the season with people who may be really struggling to see the joy this year. We need others willing to help with the crafts, games, and snacks. More information will be shared soon!

If you have any questions about the workshop or are interested in helping with the party, please reach out to

Teresa Gruber, Marilee Leonard, or Reese Werner. We are excited to see Hope move through us into these families this holiday season.

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

Darrell Benson 11/6

Carter Rosenbaum 11/9

Matt Lindholm 11/9

Lillian Kilgore 11/11

Andrew Bonsell 11/15

Sue LaVigne 11/18

Lillian Bruno 11/19

Bethany Bonsell 11/27

Lee Dougdale 11/28

