

The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH

From Pastor David

The Son of Man

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." -Luke 4:18-19 & Isaiah 61:1-2

Happy New Year! At church we've already started our new resolution: to read through the Gospel of Luke on Sundays together this year.

We started a bit early, in December, with Luke's Christmas story in Luke 1-2. So now in January and February we read Luke 3-6 in a message series called "Son of Man." Here we join in following Jesus as He, at the age of 30, begins His public ministry of preaching, teaching and performing miracles. As we walk with Jesus along with Luke, we often hear Jesus refer to Himself by the strange title, "The Son of Man." For example, in Luke 6:5, "Jesus said to them, 'The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.'" Jesus is talking about Himself!

We saw Jesus born as a human baby, but He was born as the son of woman (Mary). Joseph was not Jesus' biological father. The Holy Spirit came upon Mary and she became pregnant with God, the Heavenly Father, being Jesus' divine Father. So, Jesus was son of woman and Son of God. So why, then, did Jesus commonly refer to Himself by the strange title, "The Son of Man?"

Jesus uses this awkward phrase in the public scene because it has roots back in the Old Testament. It had been used sometimes to mean a human being. But importantly, especially in Ezekiel and Daniel, the phrase was also used to refer to the coming messiah. The Jews knew, therefore, that the Messiah would be God, as Isaiah 9:6 says, but also human, as the title, "The Son of Man" described. During the time between the Old and New Testaments, the phrase came to mean "King Messiah" who would judge among the nations. So, when we hear Jesus referring to Himself as the Son of Man, He's using this loaded title to make the link back to the Old Testament prophesy of the coming Messiah, who would be King and Judge.

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Monthly Church Events

Jan 1	Happy New Year
Jan 2	Holy Communion 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service
Jan 3	8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters
Jan 5	4:00pm - Confirmation 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Echo & Youth Group 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Jan 6	10:30am - Book Club 12:00pm - Sarah Circle
Jan 7	8:00am - Grow Group
Jan 9	10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service
Jan 10	8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters
Jan 12	10:00am - Birchwood 11:00am - Romeos & Juilets 4:00pm - Confirmation 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Echo & Youth Group 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Jan 13	1:00pm - UMW Meeting
Jan 14	8:00am - Grow Group 2:00pm - Unload Food Truck
Jan 15	6:00am - Set Up 7:00am - Community Care

Pastor David Cont.

As we follow Jesus, we join with the crowds who try to sort this out. They remember that this is Joseph's son (3:23 and 4:22), but we also hear God's voice from heaven at Jesus' baptism say, "This is my son!" (3:22). Luke traces Jesus' human ancestry back to Adam, showing He is indeed a member of the human race (a generic son of man!). But then immediately the devil proclaims "you are God's Son" (4:9), followed by the demons confirming this when Jesus casts them out (4:41).

The title "Son of Man" helps us remember that Jesus, as fully God, has the power, healing and authority of God, but also that as fully human, has the mission and purpose to rescue the human race from the power of sin, sickness and death and the authority of evil. That's why early on Jesus explains in His hometown (Capernaum) synagogue that He has come to fulfill the prophesy from Isaiah 61:1-2 (quoted above). Yet this was not just for His hometown, but for all people. So Jesus also "said to them, 'I must preach the good news of God's kingdom in other cities too, for this is why I was sent'" (4:43).

So, we now "see" Jesus as He leaves home: transitioning from His earthly father's business to His Heavenly Father's business! It's now, at this point, that we get to really start following Jesus, for He begins calling disciples. We move from passively watching the story of His birth to actively following Jesus.

This becomes our real New Year's resolution: not just reading through Luke's Gospel, actively following Jesus as we read Luke's Gospel! He is God's Son, and we proclaim Him our God. Yet He is also The Son of Man, and so we proclaim Him as our Savior. We follow Him as His disciple, and as we do, we find we are changed.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor David

Jan 16	10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service
Jan 17	8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters
Jan 18	10:00am - Rebecca Circle
Jan 19	4:00pm - Confirmation 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Echo & Youth Group 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Jan 21	8:00am - Grow Group
Jan 23	10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service
Jan 24	8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters
Jan 26	4:00pm - Confirmation 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Echo & Youth Group 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Jan 27	6:30pm - AMT Meeting
Jan 28	8:00am - Grow Group
Jan 30	10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service
Jan 31	8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters



Youth Group

The Christmas Season is in full swing! We have one more week of our Advent Series. Then we will have a break Dec. 29th.

We will be starting back up Jan 5th with an all church game night. Then on Jan 12 we will start our new series "Monster."

Have you ever said something or done something so terrible that it shocked you? You were furious with a friend who betrayed you so, to take revenge, you shared their darkest secret with someone?

You got upset in a pick-up basketball game, lost your cool and literally punched someone. Seriously, what's up with us? Listen, you're not the only one. We all have moments like this. We call them monster moments. It's like we have a monster inside of us that occasionally takes control and says or does something that we instantly regret. Why does this happen and what can we do about it?

Monster is a series about sin, trust, and self-control.

Week 1 | THE MONSTER IN ME

Week 2 | HURT

Week 3 | LONELY

Week 4 | ASHAMED



Pastor Cassi

Custodian Change

Matt Lindholm to serve as our church custodian for the last year. Thank you, Matt, for serving not just as a job, but as a ministry among our church family. Congratulations on your new job.

Gary LaVigne has been hired starting in Jan. He is budgeted for 14-16 hours per week. He will also do the snow removal from the side walks this winter. Gary will be working with Matt and Lynn as he steps into the role.

A special thank you goes to Lynn Ruter who has graciously stepped in to fill in for custodial coverage during this transition. She does a phenomenal job, and she has made our church able to keep moving in times of change.

Jan 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!

Brandon Yetter 1/17

Rozanne Foster 1/21

Helen Ash 1/21

Jim LeTourneau 1/24

Toby Leonard 1/25

Gloria Hair 1/30



Grow Groups will begin in February - sign ups starting January!

Our winter grow groups will start again in February. Watch for sign ups in the lobby and on the church website in January. Grow groups are an essential part of our spiritual growth (we may be a Christian without a grow group, but we really can't grow as a disciple without grow groups) and a key part of our church's discipleship pathway. As we follow Jesus with Luke, make a point to join a group! If you might be open to hosting a group, or if you have a topic or study you would like to request, please let Pastor David know.



Thank you for your generous gifts this season!

UMCOR Tornado Relief: \$1,810

Christmas Offering Community Helping Hand Financial Relief Fund: \$1555

Thank you for the generous giving this to the Forest Lake Food Shelves!

Thank you for participating in the Hope Moves Christmas Party for 40 women of Adult-Teen Challenge.

Christmas Camp

This year we had over 11 kids at Christmas Camp! Thank you to all who helped plan, participated and vited their family and friends.



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All Church Game Night!

We want to kick off the new year with a little fun and fellowship! It is so important to meet together as the writer of Hebrews encourages us to do (Heb. 10:25). We need corporate worship and to praise our God as one family with one voice (church services). We need a place where we can discuss, ask questions and dig deep (Grow Groups). And once in a while, we need to simply spend time together for the sake of fellowship. That is what Wed. Jan 5th is all about!



After dinner, we will gather around tables to play board games. Not only is it a chance to have fun together, it is also a chance to learn how to play something new or to get acquainted with someone you may not know very well. Of course, winning is fun, but our real task is to know one another better.

We want to be an intergenerational church. We want to foster relationships between young and old. Game night can accomplish this goal, but only if we are willing to sit down with someone we would not normally and play something with which we may not be familiar. If we can step out of our normal comfort zone, we can unlock some experiences that we would not otherwise have had.

So, bring along a game that you enjoy and be prepared to teach it to someone new!

We thank God for our church family and the relationships with which he has blessed us. Let us continue to grow together in wisdom and in favor.

For the King!
Pastor Andrew

Free Community Meals Wed. Nights 5:30pm

Jan. 5 - Spaghetti Dinner - All Church Game night (Bring a game to share)

Jan. 12 - Swedish Meatballs

Jan 19 - Ham, potatoes and corn

Jan 26 - Chili and Cornbread