

The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH

From Pastor David Work Out Your Salvation

*“Therefore, my loved ones, just as you always obey me, not just when I am present but now even more while I am away, carry out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”
-Philippians 2:12*

The identity of “being a Christian” has some problems. Yes, it does show that our true identity (our state of being) comes from Jesus Christ, who has saved us and makes us whole. It does remind us that we are “little Christs” (which is what the diminutive “Christ-ian” actually means). But the problem comes in the stagnant, stasis idea of “being.” It congers up mental images of just hanging out, staying the same, being who you are to be.

Christian discipleship, however, is active; it’s mobile. It’s following Jesus, who is always on the move. So, being a Christian—a Jesus follower—means not just hanging out in our new identity, it means busily keeping up with an ever-busy Jesus. Christianity is not a state of being (I’m saved), it’s a lifestyle (it’s how I live).

At Forest Hills Church, we talk about this as a three-part movement. We follow Jesus by loving, growing and serving. We lay out active practices for each of these three movements. To Love God and Others means participate in public worship each week and to express love and inclusion to all of God’s people. To Grow in Christ means to each week engage in personal daily Bible reading and prayer, to be a part of a weekly grow group (the spring cycle starts this month!), and to . To Serve by the Holy Spirit means to spend time and resources being a blessing to others in concrete ways.

We have a month full of ways to Love.Grow.Serve. During Sunday morning worship (Love) we are following Jesus along with Luke. Bring your Bibles and make notes as we learn what it means to be a disciple. This month we are starting our grow groups (Grow). We commit to being a church of small groups, where 80% of our worshipping congregation is involved in a grow group. Sign ups are available in the lobby and on the

Monthly Church Events

Feb 2	4:00pm - Confirmation 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Echo & Youth Group 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Feb 3	10:30am - Book Club 12:00pm - Sarah Circle
Feb 4	8:00am - Grow Group
Feb 5	9:00am - United Methodist Men
Feb 6	HOLY COMMUNION 8:45am - Grow Group 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service
Feb 7	8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters
Feb 9	4:00pm - Confirmation 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Wed Programing 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Feb 10	1:00pm - UMW Meeting 6:30pm - AMT Meeting
Feb 11	8:00am - Grow Group
Feb 12	5:45pm - Adult Fellowship
Feb 13	8:45am - Grow Group 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service
Feb 14	8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters

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Pastor David Cont.

church web site for the many different groups offered (in person and via Zoom). We may be able to be Christians, but it is very hard to grow as disciples without being in a grow group! You can even invite others to your grow group! Also in February we have opportunities to serve others (Serve). We host the Community Care food distribution in the morning of Sat., Feb. 19, and we unload the food truck the Friday afternoon before (2/18). To volunteer, just show up! Also, the week of Feb. 20-26 we are staffing St. Andrews Homeless Shelter in Hugo. We need volunteers to provide an evening meal each night that week, and we need volunteers to spend the night at the shelter as chaperones. Again, sign ups are in the church lobby or the church website.

Paul urged the Christians at Philippi to “carry out your own salvation.” The NIV version translates it, “work out your salvation.” This doesn’t mean that we have to EARN our salvation. Jesus did that totally Himself for us. Instead, Paul is trying to show the church that we really aren’t supposed to just “be Christians.” As Jesus followers, we work at it: we actively engage in practices that keep us loving, growing and serving. As we each get very involved this month carrying out our own salvation, we will start changing the understanding away from just “being Christian,” and show more what it looks like to “living as Christians!”

So, let’s carry out your own salvation!

Pastor David

St. Andrews Family Shelter Week Feb 20-26!

After being closed much of 2021 due to implications from the COVID pandemic, St. Andrews Family Shelter is reopening this month! Their new director, Vicki Ettesvold, is excited to

again offer this critical expression of God’s love and is asking churches to again volunteer to provide volunteers for evening meal and overnight hosts. . **Our first week to volunteer will be February 20-26. Volunteer to bring and serve a meal or stay overnight.**



Feb 15	10:00am - Rebecca Circle
Feb 16	10:00am - Birchwood 11:00am - Romeos & Juliets 4:00pm - Confirmation 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Wed Programming 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Feb 18	8:00am - Grow Group 2:00pm - Unload Food Truck
Feb 19	6:00am - Set up Community Care 7:00am - Community Care
Feb 20	ST ANDREW SHELTER 8:45am - Grow Group 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service
Feb 21	ST ANDREW SHELTER 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters
Feb 22	ST ANDREW SHELTER
Feb 23	ST ANDREW SHELTER 4:00pm - Confirmation 5:30pm - Dinner 6:15pm - Wed Programming 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Feb 24	ST ANDREW SHELTER
Feb 25	ST ANDREW SHELTER 8:00am - Grow Group
Feb 26	ST ANDREW SHELTER
Feb 27	8:45am - Grow Group 10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service
Feb 28	8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters

Grow Groups

Spring Grow Groups schedule is out! Forest Hills has a vision to be a church OF grow groups, not a church WITH grow groups. You can be a Christian by belief, worship, and service, but in order to be a maturing disciple you need also to be growing in a small group. God calls us to LOVE.GROW.SERVE, and we do this best when we are a church of grow groups. Sign up today in the lobby or online here: <https://www.foresthillsumc.net/sign-up-for-grow-groups/>

SUNDAYS

Exploring The Book of Ephesians

Host: Julie Hovey **When:** Sunday mornings 8:45-9:45am.

How Long: 6 sessions: Feb. 6 - March 27 **Where:** Fellowship Hall

Description: Anyone having questions about, heavenly places? Feel like you're walking alone? What is the full armor of God? Fighting spiritual battles? Then this is the grow group for you! We will explore what it means to, SIT with Jesus in the heavenly places, WALK with Jesus in our daily lives, STAND with Jesus wearing the full armor of God. Come and we will explore together as we meet with Jesus through the scriptures. **Details:** Just show up and bring your Bibles. Nursery provided.

"Cherish: The One Word That Changes Everything for Your Marriage"

Hosts: Bruce & Gina Lindholm **When:** Sundays from 11:30-1:00pm.

How Long: 6 Sessions, March 6 – April 10 **Where:** Fellowship Hall **Who:** Married couples

Description: Bruce and Gina celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this year, and they find it very important to keep working on their marriage. Gary Thomas offers a video teaching each session on how to take your marriage to the next level: not just to love your spouse but to cherish them, in the biblical sense, as well. **Details:** There will be reading handed out for homework each week. An optional book is available.

FRIDAYS

"The Bible for Grown Ups"

Host: Brad Blocher **When:** Friday mornings 8:00 - 9:15am.

How Long: Feb. 18 – April 7 **Where:** Fellowship Hall

Description: As children, many of us received a leather-bound book full of long words and difficult names we couldn't pronounce. We were told everything in it was true and we should do our best to abide by its teachings. Then we grew up. What was oh-so-simple then is . . . well, it's not simple. Perhaps that's because we were taught Bible stories but not the story of the Bible.

Details: Sessions include video presentations, discussion, and prayer.

WEDNESDAYS

"Fear of the Other (No Fear in Love")

Host: Marilee Leonard **When:** Wednesdays from 6:15 - 7:30pm.

How Long: 5 sessions: Feb. 9 - March 2 **Where:** Green Room Upstairs

Description: A no non-sense study! We'll consider the gospel command to love (and not merely tolerate) those considered to be "Other" or outside mainstream Christian culture. Rooted in a Christian and Wesleyan perspective, this study calls us to what may be the hardest thing for people of faith to do: keeping and loving the "Other" as they are, without any need for them to become like us. **Details:** Video study.

WEDNESDAYS CONTINUED:

“Wildfire: A Study on the Life in the Holy Spirit”

Hosts: Reese Werner

When: Wednesdays from 6:15 - 7:30pm.

How Long: 8 Sessions, Feb. 9 - March 30

Where: Pink Room Upstairs **Who:** Women

Description: This is a study for women! It's a practical action guide to stoking the fire of deep intimacy with the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives. We'll deepen our understanding and relationship with God the Holy Spirit, learn to use the T.H.R.I.V.E. method to meaningfully engage with Scripture, and encounter the Spirit in a personal and life-giving way. **Details:** Video study with handouts and optional study book (\$20)



Celtic Heroes of the Christian Faith

Host: Pastor David **When:** Wednesdays 6:15 - 7:30pm.

How Long: 8 sessions, Feb. 9 - March 30 **Where:** Pastor David's Office

Description: In this study we will encounter the Christian heroes of Ireland and learn how we can live more authentically as people of faith in our own contexts today. We will meet St. Patrick, St. Brigid, St. Columba (aka Colmcille), and many others who will speak to us down through the ages to surround us and push us to run our races of faith with perseverance (Hebrews 12:1). This study comes out of Pastor David's preparations for the tour he is leading to Ireland this summer.

Details: Handouts and some videos. No homework.

“How Happiness Happens”

Host: Annelle Mix **When:** Wednesdays 6:15 - 7:30pm.

How Long: 6 sessions: Feb. 9 - March 9 **Where:** Blue Room Upstairs, Zoom option offered

Description: Don't let your life be mired by dissatisfaction, discontentment, or disappointment any longer. In How Happiness Happens, Max Lucado looks at several “one another” statements in the Bible that reveal how the happiest people on earth aren't those who have the most but those who are willing to give the most away. **Details:** Video study with handouts and optional study book (\$10)

Wednesday Evening Children and Youth Programs

Time: Wednesday Evening, 4:00 – 5:30pm.

Confirmation (grades 6-8) with Pastor David

Time: Wednesday Evening, 6:15 – 7:30pm.

Children (grades K-6) with Pastor Andrew

Youth (grades 7-12) with Pastor Cassi Betker

Free Community Meals Wed. Nights 5:30pm

Feb. 2 - Pancakes and Sausage

Feb. 9 - Ham, potatoes and corn

Feb. 16 - Baked chicken alfredo

Feb. 23 - Tator Tot Hotdish



Youth Group

Next week we will start our new series "Into the Wilderness." This is a three-week series containing stories in the Bible of people who went into the wilderness and overcame the challenges they found there. Wilderness" can be defined as a position of disfavor or an uncultivated region. These stories will help students to overcome when they find themselves going through wilderness experiences. Topics covered are temptation, running away from God, and how God reveals Himself in our life struggles.



Week 1 | Tempted in the wilderness

Week 2 | God will find you in the wilderness

Week 3 | God calls you into the wilderness

We will also play some survival style games as talk through how to survive in the wilderness.

Pastor Cassi

Memphis Mission Trip - July 8-13

July for a mission-based trip to Memphis, Tennessee. This opportunity is for any kids (ages 13 and up) who call Hosanna home. In partnership with Hosanna Lutheran Church (Forest Lake) and Praying Pelican Missions (Minneapolis). We will depart for Memphis (via driving - more on that later) on July 8th, 2022. The 9th - 12th we will devote our time and our talents to people in need at local church communities. Our group has been selected and connected to Pastor Joseph Jackson's Ministry at The Fellowship of Believers in Christ Church (Memphis).

Now maybe you are reading this and thinking; "naw... this isn't for me." Or perhaps - 'I've never done anything like this before... maybe I'll try the next one.' And I certainly understand those hesitations... But I also know the immeasurable feeling of grace that comes with stepping out of a comfort zone and sprinting toward an opportunity like the one before us. So what are the benefits of a trip like this? Why sprint towards uncertainty? Elizabeth Bosscher (In Serve, Youth Ministry) offers these reasons for a trip just like this one...

- 1 - God will change you.
- 2 - You build relationships with people.
- 3 - Your comfort zone will be challenged.
- 4 - You are taught faith in ways you don't expect.
- 5 - Your compassion grows.
- 6 - You practice patience and flexibility.
- 7 - You become more globally aware and better understand the world.
- 8 - You commit to servanthood.
- 9 - The benefits don't end when the trip is over.

I encourage anyone interested to pray about it! If you have any questions you can email or call the office.

Pastor Cassi

ECHO UPDATE

As another round of grow groups begin, Echo will be making a shift as well. Since the beginning of this school year, we have held a dual class for both kids and parents. After singing some Scripture songs, we played a game or shared an activity together. About halfway through the evening, we would spilt and kids would go with Mrs. Sue Lavigne to do a lesson and eat snacks. Adults would then remain with Pastor Andrew to discuss parenting strategies and how to apply the Bible to this ever-important role that we serve.

Now we want to encourage parents to join a grow group and continue their discipleship. Pastor Andrew will continue Echo with kids during this cycle of grow groups. He will be leading them on a journey through the Old Testament with a helpful curriculum entitled "Trackers of Truth". Kids will be able to learn about major figures from the Bible while also learning about the Bible itself. We want them to learn how to navigate and handle the Word of God and not to be intimidated by just another big book. As they learn verses through our songs, they will also be learning the order of the books of the Bible and understanding how Jesus fits into all of Scripture!

Pastor Andrew



Feb. 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!

Harris Miller 2/3
Pat Rosenbaum 2/5
Glen Giving 2/8
Harold Berg 2/10
Joyce Ann Betz 2/23

Rebekah Werner 2/4
Sarah Dittberner 2/7
Tracy Bonsell 2/8
Chuck Yetter 2/21
Nick Thoen 2/25

