



# The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH

## From Pastor David

### Miracle!

*“He was despised and rejected by others, and a man of sorrows, intimately familiar with suffering; and like one from whom people hide their faces; and we despised Him and did not value Him.” (ISV)*

Is Jesus popular? His name certainly brings views on a post or reads on an article. It seems people are still very interested in Jesus. Perhaps it’s because there are still so many people (Christians) who claim Him as their Lord and Savior. Perhaps it’s because many of His famous teachings seem to support the values of many people today (love your enemies, do good to others, help those in need, etc.). Perhaps its because Jesus continues to be controversial.

Jesus was popular in His own time, too. Crowds flocked to see and hear Him. Hundreds came to be healed. Much of Jesus’ popularity in His own day was because people liked what He was saying. Some of His popularity was because He was controversial.

We’ve been following Jesus’ life in Luke since last fall, and up until now He has had mostly favorable reviews. But about halfway through His earthly life, Jesus starts to talk a lot more about how He as the Messiah has come to suffer and die. Those who follow Him He also calls to self-denial and suffering. It is at this point that Jesus’ popularity begins to fall. Jesus is not here just to say what we like to hear, to make us feel good about ourselves, or give us the healings and miracles we want. He repeats that He is Savior only by dying on a cross.

The prophet Isaiah foretold of the Messiah’s rejection and suffering. As we look closely at the Easter story in Luke, we see that Jesus’ approval turns dramatically into full-out rejection. Isaiah 53 is fulfilled, and Jesus is crucified. He’s a failure, as far as worldly success goes!

How can such failure and rejection be the culmination of our Miracle Series? Jesus’ greatest miracle was His willingness, as our glorious, all-powerful God, to be rejected. That is simply incomprehensible! But it is precisely that willingness to be the greatest failure that produced Jesus’ greatest triumph:

## Monthly Church Events

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>April 1</b>  | 8:00am - Grow Group   |
| <b>April 2</b>  | 9:00am - United Methodist Men   |
| <b>April 3</b>  | <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b><br>8:45am - Prayer<br>10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service<br>11:30am - Grow Group                            |
| <b>April 4</b>  | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters   |
| <b>April 6</b>  | 4:00pm - Confirmation<br>5:30pm - Free Community Meal<br>6:15pm - Echo, Youth Group, Grow Groups<br>7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal               |
| <b>April 7</b>  | 10:30am - Book Club<br>12:00pm - Sarah Circle<br>6:30pm - AMT   |
| <b>April 8</b>  | 8:00am - Grow Group<br>2:00pm - Unload Food Truck   |
| <b>April 9</b>  | 6:00am - Set up Community Care<br>7:00am - Community Care   |
| <b>April 10</b> | <b>PALM SUNDAY</b><br>8:45am - Prayer<br>10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service<br>11:30am - Grow Group<br><b>2:00pm - Easter Hop</b> |
| <b>April 11</b> | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters   |
| <b>April 13</b> | No Evening Programing   |
| <b>April 14</b> | <b>MAUNDAY THURSDAY</b><br>1:00pm - UMW Meeting<br>6:00pm - Seder Meal  |

## Pastor David Cont.

His Easter resurrection! Easter is human history’s greatest miracle! Because of the Easter Miracle, all the other miracles of Jesus become ours as well. The greatest miracle for us becomes the eternal life that Jesus achieves for us. But it’s all because of Jesus’ rejection! Easter is God taking rejection (even ultimate rejection!) and turning it into victory. Be sure to thank Jesus for His willingness to be a failure.

After Easter we’ll go back into the story of Jesus in Luke. We pick it up again at the point when Jesus’ popularity is fading and He is started to be cancelled by powerful people. His message becomes more difficult to receive as He is pointing out sin, calling people to put away selfishness and to embrace self sacrifice. We’re going to call this series (Luke 10-12), “Rejected.”

To be bold, we’re going to try something different for this spring series. Each Sunday, instead of me giving a sermon, we’re going to have a panel from our church share insights and reflections on the readings each week. Our goal is to hear how other Jesus-followers try to understand and then faithfully live out Jesus’ calling. People just like you (or perhaps it will be you!) will share how they hear what story of Jesus in Luke means for living as a faithful disciple today.

This, actually, is the miracle of Easter! Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection long ago, we experience today our lives transformed and are able to live differently, living for our Savior! Jesus’ rejection becomes our salvation, and as we join Jesus in rejection, God works the miracle of victory in our lives!

Happy Easter!  
Pastor David.

## Rummage Sale

The UMW Bi-Annual Rummage Sale will be April 28-29. Please start bringing items in on April 25th. Proceeds of the sale will be going to furnish a prayer room in the lobby.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>April 15</b> | 8:00am - Grow Group<br><b>6:00pm - Prayer Vigil Starts</b>  |
| <b>April 16</b> | <b>Prayer Vigil all day</b>   |
| <b>April 17</b> | <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b><br>6:00am - Sunrise Service - Lakeside Park<br>8:30am - Breakfast<br>10:00am - Worship Service |
| <b>April 18</b> | <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters                                   |
| <b>April 19</b> | 10:00am - Rebecca Circle  |
| <b>April 20</b> | 4:00pm - Confirmation<br>5:30pm - Dinner<br>6:15pm - Wed Programming<br>7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal                 |
| <b>April 22</b> | 8:00am - Grow Group   |
| <b>April 24</b> | 8:45am - Prayer<br>10:00am - In-person and online Worship Service   |
| <b>April 25</b> | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Quilters and Prayer Knitters   |
| <b>April 27</b> | 4:00pm - Confirmation<br>5:30pm - Dinner<br>6:15pm - Wed Programming<br>7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal                 |
| <b>April 28</b> | 8:00am - Rummage Sale   |
| <b>April 29</b> | 8:00am - Grow Group<br>8:00am - Rummage Sale  |

## Wednesday Meals

- Apr. 6: Men
- Apr. 12: No meal
- Apr. 13: Staff: Seder
- Apr. 20: Amanda Lucas - Italian
- Apr. 27: Coley’s Baked Ziti

## 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 Henderickson 4/16
- Lois Werhan 4/17
- Jennifer Berglund 4/18
- Marlin Bergerson 4/26
- Dona Yetter 4/27



## Easter Outreach

As Christians, Easter is the most important celebration of the year! It's a sign posted in the ground that points us to life eternal and joy unending. Our job as a church is to proclaim the glorious truth of Jesus' resurrection! But we are not meant to keep this good news just to ourselves. We are called to share it with any who will listen! This Easter season, Forest Hills is inviting our community to come and experience the story of Easter in a new way. Yes, we will have candy to give away, but we will also offer an interactive tour of Jesus' story broken up into stations. Families will be able to hear and understand the true meaning of Easter thanks to your willingness to faithfully proclaim His story.

Be a proclaimer! From set-up to tear-down, from greeting to doling out candy, we need all hands on deck for our Easter Hop on Sunday April 10th from 2-4pm. Contact the office and let us know that you are ready to serve at the Hop!

For the King,

Pastor Andrew

## Youth Group

We will be finishing up our Lent series on April 6th with "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?" Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus gives us great insight into who, why, and what it means to us that He gave His life for us. This is a one-off message on why Jesus died for us and what our response should be.

We will be making and serving an Easter Breakfast this year. This will be a fundraiser for this year and future mission trips. Please plan on being there 7:30-10am. Meal is 8-9:45am.

After Easter we will be starting our next series "Acts: A Movement." This is a four-week series that focuses on the first four chapters of Acts. This series is designed to help students learn about how the movement of Christianity began and discover insights about their own faith in light of how the first followers of Jesus lived.

Week 1 – Acts 1:1–11

Week 2 – Acts 2:1–41

Week 3 – Acts 2:42–47

Week 4 – Acts 3 & 4

There is still time to sign up for the summer mission trip to Tennessee! This trip is inter-generational so adults and teens are welcome. Also, the more people, the more excitement and work we can do in the Memphis community. The cost per person is around \$250, this includes lodging, food and transportation. For more information talk to Pastor Cassi.

Pastor Cassi

## Holy Week Schedule

### Palm Sunday

**April 10, 10 a.m.** - We will wave palm branches together during service to start off Holy week in celebration of Jesus triumphant entrance.

### Easter Hop

**April 10, 2-4 p.m.** - Easter Style trunk-or-treat, but indoors. We will also be providing a hands-on way of hearing the triumphant story of Easter. Yes, we will still hand out candy, but we will also provide interactive stations that retell the plight of Jesus and highlight his ultimate victory.

### Maundy Thursday - Seder Meal

**Thurs., April 14, 6-9 p.m.** - Our Holy Week worship will be a special Jewish Passover Seder ritual and meal. Rabbi Debra Rappaport will guide us through a Jewish Seder as practiced by Jews today. This will not only be a way for us to join with Jesus when He celebrated the Passover with His disciples the night of His arrest, it will also help us understand better the meaning of what Jesus did with His disciples to make it The Last Supper. It will be a three hour experience for all ages, with a chicken dinner included. No cost! (No meal or groups meeting Wed., April 13.)

### Prayer Vigil

**April 15-17 6 p.m. - 12 a.m.** - The vigil will begin on Good Friday (4/15) at 6:00 PM and will end on Easter morning (4/17) at 12:00 AM in the sanctuary. A sign up sheet can be found in the lobby. Anyone wishing to participate is welcome to sign up for a time slot of 30 minutes but you can sign up for a longer period if it is available. We also have time slots for overnight shepherds so please consider signing up for that as well!

### Easter Sunrise Service

**April 17 - 6 a.m.** at Forest Lake Veteran's Memorial Park. This will be a half hour worship service in the gazebo.

### Breakfast Fundraiser

**April 17 - 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.** - The youth will be making and serving breakfast on Easter as a fundraiser for their mission trips. Breakfast will be a free will donation. We will be serving egg bake, sausage, potato cakes, and fruit.

### Easter Worship Service

**April 17th 10 a.m.** - The greatest miracle in human history was Jesus' resurrection that first Easter. But celebrating that miracle is meaningless unless we make Jesus our risen Lord. This Sunday we proclaim the greatest miracle of our lives: Jesus is alive in us!





## Easter Prayer Vigil

Hello Forest Hills! As we draw closer to Easter, it is once again time to prepare for our annual prayer vigil. The vigil will begin on Good Friday (4/15) at 6:00 PM and will end on Easter morning (4/17) at 12:00 AM in the sanctuary. A sign up sheet can be found in the lobby. Anyone wishing to participate is welcome to sign up for a time slot of 30 minutes but you can sign up for a longer period if it is available. We also have time slots for overnight shepherds so please consider signing up for that as well!

For the last two years, we have had a remote prayer option for the prayer vigil. This year, we will be fully in-person as we have normally been in past years. While our pandemic protocols have eased considerably since last year, this is not the only reason why we are moving back to having the vigil on-site although this is also a factor. The primary element in this decision is a calling I feel to harken us back to the original intent of the prayer vigil - a prayer time set aside from our daily devotions to be watchful for the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning.

The significance of holding our vigil in the sanctuary affords us an enhanced prayer time not typically experienced in our normal day-to-day prayers at home. In fact, it elevates our prayer to a new level. Prayer at home, while absolutely amazing, can be fraught with distractions and interruptions no matter how well we prepare ourselves or those we may share our homes with. Participating in the prayer vigil in the sanctuary is a special time for individuals to steep in the presence of God without interference and reflect on His wondrous love and mercy for us. The vigil also provides a shared experience for the entire church as we each take turns manning the prayer helm and, when our "watch" comes to an end, passing the reins to our next brother or sister in Christ that arrives for prayer.

We cannot go from the majesty of Palm Sunday to the celebration of Easter Sunday without experiencing the weighty emotion of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday or the ultimate act of love and sacrifice on the cross on Good Friday. As we approach Passion Week, I encourage everyone to join in watchful expectation of Easter morning but also to not be afraid to immerse yourself in the full gravity of the days preceding it. The prayer vigil is one way we can do this together.

All questions regarding the vigil or shepherding can be directed to Amanda at 651-491-6386 or [lindholmgroup.amanda@gmail.com](mailto:lindholmgroup.amanda@gmail.com).

May God bless you and keep you,

Amanda Lucas



## Easter Offering: Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

Our Easter Offering this year will be going to the Lakes Area Mobile Pack at Hosanna Lutheran. Dates are April 20 to 23. Please give generously to help the Feed My Children organization. If you would like to volunteer, public registration starts April 1<sup>st</sup>. To volunteer for a packing time slot [click here](#). Thank you for helping children around the world!