



## *From the Pastor*

Happy New Year! As the calendar rolls over from 2022 to 2023, it is always a good time to take stock and count one's blessings.

This past year has brought a season of transition to Forest Hills. I have been so humbled and honored to serve as lead pastor of a church that loves the Lord and so earnestly seeks to please Him. This year has also once again revealed to my family and I the bounty of God's blessings and his unending patience and grace. Most notably, just before the new year rang in, we welcomed child number seven into the Bonsell household: Magdala (Maggie) Judy is here!

As with all children, she will have decisions to make. Our oldest, for example, is getting ready to leave high-school and begin the next chapter of his life. He has many important decisions to make regarding his future. Our middle children are deciding if they will live obediently and trust in the wisdom of their parents or if there is a better (more fun) way to live life. Tracy and I make decisions every day that either enhance or inhibit our family's ability to recognize God's truth. Self-determinism, that is, our ability to make decisions, is a blessing and a curse. This world serves up a buffet of options from orthodox Christianity to therapeutic deism; from humanism to an atheistic worldview and all the religions and opinions in between. We all approach this buffet with our empty plate in hand, but how do we know what to choose?

Paul's letter to the Colossians addresses this very same problem. As worldviews and religious thought swirled together, even ancient people were left to choose their beliefs from many options.

Paul's solution for this young church: Choose Christ! Only in Him do we find the fullness of God, only in Him can we experience salvation. For Paul, there is no choice. According to him, we ought to make Jesus our portion.

I truly believe the issues Paul addresses with the Colossian church are not far from what we face today. As such, Colossians is an important letter for us to dive into and digest. Our new series, "Portions" will do just that.

## Monthly Church Events

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Jan 1</b>  | <b>Holy Communion</b><br>10:00am - Worship  |
| <b>Jan 2</b>  | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men - Prayer Shawl Knitters<br>8:00am - PAX - Andrew<br>10:00am - Comfort Quilters<br>10:00am - PAX - Tracy Hansen                            |
| <b>Jan 4</b>  | 4:00pm - Confirmation<br>4:00pm - PAX - Andrew<br>5:30pm - Free Meal Served<br>6:15pm - Family Game Night<br>8:00pm - Sanctify Rehearsal                              |
| <b>Jan 5</b>  | 12:00pm - Sarah Circle<br>7:00pm - PAX - Julie  |
| <b>Jan 6</b>  | 8:00am - Grow Group   |
| <b>Jan 7</b>  | 9:00am - United Methodist Men   |
| <b>Jan 8</b>  | 10:00am - Worship   |
| <b>Jan 9</b>  | 6:45am - Breakfast Club<br>8:00am - Monday Morning Men - Prayer Shawl Knitters<br>8:00am - PAX - Andrew<br>10:00am - Comfort Quilters<br>10:00am - PAX - Tracy Hansen |
| <b>Jan 11</b> | 4:00pm - Confirmation<br>4:00pm - PAX - Andrew<br>5:30pm - Free Meal Served<br>6:15pm - Evening Programs<br>8:00pm - Sanctify Rehearsal                               |
| <b>Jan 12</b> | 10:00am - PAX - Sue<br>7:00pm - PAX- Julie (remote)   |
| <b>Jan 13</b> | 8:00aM - Grow Group   |
| <b>Jan 14</b> | 530pm - Adult Fellowship at CHINA BUFFET  |

Beginning January 15, we will begin a five-week series that will take us through Paul's entire letter to the Colossian church. Come and learn how to approach this buffet of ideas we face. Invite friends and neighbors as they too can benefit from the biblical wisdom offered in this short letter.

Once again, happy New Year and may you be even more mindful of God's presence and blessings moving forward into 2023!

For the King,

**Pastor Andrew**

## CHRISTMAS CAMP RECAP

Christmas Camp 2022 was so much fun. First, I need to thank all the volunteers. Gary did the sign in every morning and was able to make the parents comfortable dropping their kids off. The Monday Morning Men that helped with the crafts made a big difference. All the kids said that crafts were their favorite thing. Pastor Cassi came in second with her game time. Her computer games kept the kids thinking and laughing. One of my favorite God moments was lunch. The kitchen volunteers provided good meals but seeing all the adults sitting down and talking with the kids and sharing extra time with them while we shared a meal was a blessing. Lesson time, I have to say it was challenging. We went from the cradle to the cross in three days. Two of the kids didn't know who Jesus was or what the Bible was. We have our Easter Hop to thank for some of the kids. One of the children came to Easter Hop and he invited his friends to Christmas Camp. Snacks were always centered around the lesson. The picture you saw was the kids using mini chocolate donuts and mini-Oreos to build an empty tomb. In the lesson game pictured we used markers as sin and paper bags to represent being bound in sin. They had to make their way in the bag to the cross, drop off the marker and get rid of the bag to show that the cross set us free from sin. The day wasn't complete without what I call physical game time (meaning they got to get up and run off some steam. A big thank you to Connor, Colby, and Vicki for leading those games. They loved the relay race to find the candy canes and asked to play it all three days. Other big hits were Vicki says and copying Connor's drawing on paper plates on top of their head. Was the time and effort worth it? Did we reach enough kids? I think about Luke 15:3-10 the shepherd leaving the 99 sheep to find the lost one, or the woman searching for the lost coin. So, if we reached one child to me it was time well spent. I like to think that everything Jesus suffered He would have done it gladly even if it was only for this one sinner. Thank you for making this Christmas Camp able to take place.

**Miss Sue**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Jan 15</b> | 10:00am - Worship   |
| <b>Jan 16</b> | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men<br>8:00am - PAX - Andrew<br>9:00am - Birthday Breakfast at PERKINS<br>10:00am - Comfort Quilters<br>10:00am - PAX- Tracy Hansen           |
| <b>Jan 17</b> | 10:00am - Rebecca Cirle   |
| <b>Jan 18</b> | 11:00am - Romeos & Juliets<br>4:00pm - Confirmation<br>4:00pm - PAX - Andrew<br>5:30pm - Free Meal Served<br>6:15pm - Evening Programs<br>8:00pm - Sanctify Rehearsal |
| <b>Jan 19</b> | 7:00pm - PAX - Julie  |
| <b>Jan 20</b> | 8:00am - Grow Group<br>2:00pm - Unload Food Truck   |
| <b>Jan 21</b> | 7:00am - Food Distribution  |
| <b>Jan 22</b> | 10:00am - Worship   |
| <b>Jan 23</b> | 8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Prayer Shawl Knitters<br>8:00am - PAX - Andrew<br>10:00am - Comfort Quilters<br>10:00am - PAX- Tracy Hansen                              |
| <b>Jan 25</b> | 4:00pm - Confirmation<br>4:00pm - PAX - Andrew<br>5:30pm - Free Meal Served<br>6:15pm - Evening Programs<br>8:00pm - Sanctify Rehearsal                               |
| <b>Jan 26</b> | 10:00am - PAX - Sue<br>7:00pm - PAX - Julie   |
| <b>Jan 27</b> | 8:00am - Grow Group   |
| <b>Jan 29</b> | 10:00am - Worship   |
| <b>Jan 30</b> | 6:45am - Breakfast Club<br>8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Prayer Shawl Knitters<br>8:00am - PAX - Andrew<br>10:00am - Comfort Quilters<br>10:00am - PAX- Tracy Hansen   |

## Youth at Forest Hills

### Youth Group Update

Let's face it, it's AWKWARD to have spiritual conversations with unbelievers. Our next class is a six-week series that will get students talking about evangelism.

Uncover critical topics: barriers to evangelism, articulating a clear explanation of the gospel, and identifying unbelieving friends for prayer.

Lesson One: Beautiful Feet

Lesson Two: Scared

Lesson Three: Made, Done, Is

Lesson Four: It's Not You, It's Me

Lesson Five: The Man of the Hour

Lesson Six: So,,,Now What?

### Confirmation

Our three confirmation students are nearing the end of two years. They will start working with their mentors on their version of the Apostle's Creed and their testimony for Confirmation Sunday. May 7th.

Blessings

Pastor Cassi

## Fall Grow Groups

This past fall we had a good turn out for Grow Groups and off season but we want to make it GREAT! Please fill out our survey either online or on paper about our educational programming at Forest Hills Church.

<https://www.foresthillsumc.net/grow-group-survey>

Our next Grow Group session will begin February 26th. Stay tuned for more information at the end of January.

Blessings,

Pastor Cassi



## January 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 | Hellen Ash     | 1/21    | Toby Leonard | 1/25/65 |
| Rozanne Foster | 1/21 | Jim Letourneau | 1/24/50 | Gloria Hair  | 1/30/47 |



# CHRISTMAS CAMP PHOTOS

