



From the Pastor

In this month of February, we begin our celebration of Lent. Lent is a time we set aside so that we can prepare ourselves for the wonder of Easter morning. Jesus rose from the grave, defeating sin and ushering us into eternal life! What a glorious victory we are able to share!

But the glorious result comes at a price. In order to truly understand that victory, in order to truly feel the impact of Easter, we must first journey to the cross. In Lent, we walk with Jesus through his experience of rejection, suffering and death. Lent then, is a solemn season. It is filled with purpose and intent. We may know how the story ends, but we also know it is a story worth revisiting.

This year for Lent, we are going to employ a well-known and powerful modern hymn to help guide us through this season. How Deep the Father's Love for Us has been a staple in the song lists of many churches. The lyrics lay out the gospel and the melody makes it memorable. We will simply use this song as a launching point from which we can dive into the story of our salvation. There is always more to be discovered as God continues to reveal the depths of his mercy and love for us. The song was published in 1995 and written by the prolific Stuart Townend who hails from the UK. His father and brother both serve as pastors, and he has dedicated himself to inspiring and equipping the Church through music. Many of his songs serve to articulate our faith in words, and How Deep the Father's Love For Us is no exception. Following are the lyrics to this hymn which will guide us through our time of Lent:

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

Verse 1

How deep the Father's love for us
 How vast beyond all measure
 That He should give His only Son
 To make a wretch His treasure
 How great the pain of searing loss

Monthly Church Events

Feb 1	10:00am - PAX - Sue 6:30pm - PAX - Julie (Remote)
Feb 2	8:00am - Grow Group
Feb 4	HOLY COMMUNION 10:00AM - Worship
Feb 5	8:00am - Monday Morning Men - Prayer Shawl Knitters 8:00am - PAX - Andrew 10:00am - Comfort Quilters 10:00am - PAX - Tracy Hansen
Feb 7	4:30pm - PAX - Andrew 5:30pm - Free Meal Served 6:15pm - Evening Programs 7:30m - Sanctify Rehearsal
Feb 8	1:00pm - UWF - Exec Board 6:30pm - PAX -Julie (Remote)
Feb 9	8:00am - Grow Group
Feb 10	5:30pm - Adult Fellowship
Feb 11	UWF -Sunday 10:00am - Worship
Feb 12	6:45am - Breakfast Club 8:00am - Monday Morning Men - Prayer Shawl Knitters 8:00am - PAX - Andrew 10:00am - Comfort Quilters 10:00am - PAX - Tracy Hansen
Feb 13	6:30pm - AD Council
Feb 14	ASH WEDNESDAY 4:30pm - PAX - Andrew 5:30pm - Free Meal Served 6:30pm - Worship Service 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Feb 15	10:00am - PAX -Sue 6:30pm - PAX - Julie (Remote)

Verse 2

Behold the Man upon a cross
 My sin upon His shoulders
 Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
 Call out among the scoffers
 It was my sin that held Him there
 Until it was accomplished
 His dying breath has brought me life
 I know that it is finished

Verse 3

I will not boast in anything
 No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
 But I will boast in Jesus Christ
 His death and resurrection
 Why should I gain from His reward
 I cannot give an answer
 But this I know with all my heart
 His wounds have paid my ransom

CCLI Song # 1558110

Stuart Townend

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Lenten Sermon Series: "How Deep"

February 14 th : Ash Wednesday Service (6:30pm)

February 18 th : How Deep the Father's Love

February 25 th : How Deep My Sin

March 3 rd : How Deep My Shame

March 10 th : How Deep the Father's Loss

March 17 th : How Deep the Wounds

March 24 th : How Deep the Grave

March 29 th : Good Friday Service (7:00pm)

March 31 st : How Deep My Boast! (Easter Sunday)

Feb 16	8:00am - Grow Group 2:00pm - Unload Food Truck
Feb 17	7:00 am - Food Distribution
Feb 18	10:00am - Worship Service
Feb 19	8:00am - Monday Morning Men 8:00am - PAX - Andrew 9:00am - Birthday Breakfast 10:00am - Comfort Quilters 10:00am - PAX - Tracy Hansen
Feb 20	10:00am - Rebecca Circle
Feb 21	4:30pm - PAX - Andrew 5:30pm - Free Meal Served 6:15pm - Evening Programs 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Feb 22	6:30pm - PAX - Julie (Remote)
Feb 23	8:00am - Grow Group
Feb 25	10:00am - Worship Service Missionaries Visit Pot Luck After Worship
Feb 26	6:45am - Breakfast Club 8:00am - Monday Morning Men - Prayer Shawl Knitters 8:00am - PAX - Andrew 10:00am - Comfort Quilters 10:00am - PAX - Tracy Hansen
Feb 28	4:30pm - PAX - Andrew 5:30pm - Free Meal Served 6:15pm - Evening Programs 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Feb 29	10:00am - PAX - Sue 6:30am - PAX - Julie (Remote)



Read The Bible In A Year

As 2024 breaks upon us, we have taken on the challenge at Forest Hills Church to read through the entire bible this year! From the familiar parts to the sections we never open, the Bible is worth reviewing. And even though we are separated from the biblical authors by thousands of years, we believe God still speaks primarily through the bible. Even when it comes to Jesus, whom we serve and worship, the bible is our source of information on who he is and what he has done. As we read through some of the tougher parts of the Old Testament, we realize that these words are were the same bible Jesus read, the same bible in which Jesus trusted. Though it is made up of 66 books written by 40 different authors, we can't really see how it all come together unless we read it all together.

As we read together, we also want to provide the opportunity to discuss together! Join our Facebook discussion group! You can ask questions, leave comments, or just follow along with someone else's thoughts. Reading together is always a better option than going it alone. Just log onto Facebook and search "FHUMC Bible in a Year".

A link to the reading plan itself can be found on the Facebook page or on our website. We also have physical copies on the welcome center or in the office. The plan will basically lead us through four chapters each day: Two full chapters in the Old Testament, a Psalm, and two half chapters in the New Testament. Each day's reading is listed. In addition, each month consists of only 25 readings so you can have extra days in each month to catch-up and/or study something you have come across in more detail.

It's not too late to join us! We have only just begun. Let 2024 mark a special milestone as we strive to read more of God's word!

Pastor Andrew

ECHO UPDATE

We just finished learning the 23rd Psalm and learned a song with hand motions to help them learn it. In honor of Valentine's Day we are celebrating God's unconditional love.

Miss Sue

February 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!

Pat Rosenbaum	2/05	Harold Berg	2/10
Sarah Dittberner	2/07	Chuck Yetter	2/21
Glen Geving	2/8/54	Joyce Betz	2/23/36
Tracy Bonsell	2/8/84	Nick Thoen	2/25

Youth Update

This month we will head back to the Youth room on Wednesdays to start our Lenten series "Resurrection."

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul bluntly said that if the resurrection of Christ hadn't happened, our faith would be pointless. Other religious traditions have some references to people coming back from the dead, but nothing like the story of Jesus.

Typically, other religions depict people coming back from the dead to become gods, yet the way these so-called gods ruled was generally selfish and unloving, or the resurrections led eventually to them eventually dying again. With Jesus, something very different happened and it's the cornerstone of our Christian faith.

In Resurrection, we will explore the power of resurrection and discuss how it should impact their lives, not just in the afterlife, but in the here and now.

Specifically, we will look at the following:

Week 1: I Am the Resurrection

Week 2: The living Among The Dead

Week 3: United in Resurrection

Week 4: The Resurrection Body

GROW GROUPS

Lent is a great time to reconnect with God and spend some focused time in study. Forest Hills is doing just that! This year we have 5 Grow Groups during Lent.

Starting on February 16 we have two offerings. "Right In The Eye" is an Andy Stanley study looking at the moral mayhem depicted in the Old Testament book of Judges. This Grow Group, facilitated by Brad is at 8am. Also on Friday at 10am is Tracy's group studying the Book of Jeremiah. The prophet Jeremiah was called to take a public and unpopular, stand for God's truth. His story can inspire us to make the powerful, decisive choice to stay firm in our faith and values.

On Sunday's Julie is facilitating a group looking at a devotional book called "All We Like Sheep." In this study we will learn how a Shepherd cares for his Sheep both in the natural and in the spiritual. Every step the Shepherd performs on the natural sheep, Jesus has performed with each and every one of us as His sheep.

Don't miss our Wednesday groups; we have two of them! Amanda is leading a group at 6:15pm, "Beyond the Hallelujah." Many know the "Hallelujah Chorus" but there is so much more the Handel's Messiah than this one movement. Hear his great composition as you never have before as we deep dive into the scriptural basis of the music, the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, and His final victory over the grave. Join Amanda Lucas for the second part of her new study that looks at the Gospel message told through this timeless choral masterpiece.

The second Wednesday group facilitated by Vicky and Jason Keintz at 6:15pm "The Path To The Cross". Discover how their passionate faith prepares the way for Jesus and his ultimate act of obedience and sacrifice at the cross. Then, be challenged in your life to live as they did - by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Sign up today in the lobby and join a grow group this Lenten Season.

Thank you
Pastor Cassi Betker