



NEWSLETTER

Evangelical Free Church
2015 N. St. Joseph, Hastings NE 68901

September 2020
www.hastingsefc.org

LETTING YOUR LEAVES FALL

From Dayspring.com – September 25, 2017 by Rachel Wojo



Little yellow leaves from the front yard tree dance across the porch and driveway. As their bright green color fades, it seems they fall almost as quickly as they change. I love summer affectionately and part of me longs to whisper to the tree “Hold on a little longer. Come on; you got this. Think green!” But graciously the tree listens to its Maker rather than my foolish whispers. In order to flourish in the new season, the tree must let go of its decayed leaves. They have performed well for the term, but their time has drawn to a close.

Autumn is a wonderful time to observe nature. As I watch the swirling leaves stirred by the wind, I am reminded that they display an important lesson for all of us to follow suit in a way. Just as the trees don’t stubbornly hold on to their dead leaves, so we shouldn’t hold on to any unnecessary weight in our lives. When we long to enter a new season, the old can easily inhibit the new if we allow it. God’s Word reminds us to:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
{Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)}

To get rid of negativity in our lives, we must first identify it. How can we do this?

- » By reading God’s Word.
- » By allowing His Spirit to show us the necessary heart changes we need.
- » By being willing to shun practices such as bitterness and anger.
- » By asking God to help us let go of the guilt from the past.

Oh how the Lord longs to empower and strengthen us for the new season ahead! If we’re not sure of the issues detaining a kind and compassionate spirit, He will show us when we ask. And if guilt from the past is preventing this beautiful new season, we have His promises like this one to remember:

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. {Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)}

What are you holding on to that is preventing a freshness to the season ahead? Could it be that the decayed leaves are piling up and your heart needs to discard them for good? If so, why not reach out to the Lord in prayer? He longs to hear from you. Ask Him to shine light on any thoughts, circumstances, habits or other “decayed leaves” you might be clinging to. As you watch the leaves fall this season, our prayer is that you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God.



We are planning a BAPTISM SERVICE on Sunday, August 30th at 6:30 PM at the home of Sean & Jess Ablott, 1250 N. Showboat Blvd. The baptisms will take place at their outside pool. Please join us for this special time. Those attending are asked to bring their own lawn chair. Popsicles or ice cream treats will be available afterwards.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS

- **Sunday School** classes are available for children 18 months through Senior High. Classes include Bible lessons, individual & group discussion and fellowship. Contact Nathan Huyser or Kristy Stoeger if you'd like further information on the individual class groups.
- **Nursery** is offered for infants and toddlers through age 3 during both Worship Services 8:15-9:30 AM and 11:00 AM-12:15 PM and during Sunday school 9:45-10:45 AM. Nursery is also offered Wednesday evening during activities 6:30-8:00 for children of our volunteers. Our nursery is available:
 - to provide a secure place to leave children
 - to make it possible to worship and study undisturbed
 - to free parents of childcare during Bible study
 - to begin to teach the child that the church is a place characterized by love, fairness, and joy; in this way preparing the child for future spiritual training.
- **Children's Church** is open during the last half of worship each week. Children from age 3 thru 5 can come and learn about Jesus while parents can focus on the message from our pastors. This is also a great area to serve our church family.
- **AWANA** meets each Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 PM during the school year. It's available for children age 3 through 6th grade. If you haven't already signed up your children to attend, please check out the following link: <https://hastingsefc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/284690>

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

	<u>8:15 AM</u>	<u>9:45 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
Sep. 6	S & E Thomas	R Lemke/M Stoeger	A & K Collins
Sep. 13	S Jensby/M McDaniel	K Demick/E Stoeger	C & E Norlen
Sep. 20	A Armstrong	E & T Huyser	K & M Stoeger
Sep. 27	V Sidlo/E Stoeger	D & M Conant	A & AJ Hoagland

CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

<u>8:15 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
P Birky	A Hoagland
E Baker	K Stoeger
M Rathje	M Fullerton
A Hughes	K Stoeger

ELDER BOARD

Rod Goodin	Andrew Hewitt
Warren Hull	Wayne Johnson
Rod Sorensen	Louis Stoeger
Arlo Thayer	Dan Thompson
Nathan Zabel	Pastor Scott DeWitt
Pastor Matt Sass	Pastor Daniel Meade

Celebrate Recovery

Each Saturday night
7:00 PM

Men's Groups

Monday 8:00 PM
Saturday 7:00 AM

Women's Groups

'Not Alone'
1st & 3rd Sunday 11:00 AM

Property Committee

Tuesday, Sept. 15
7:00 PM

Elder Board

Tuesday, Sept. 8
5:30 PM

Celebrate Recovery Leaders

1st Tuesday of each month
7:00 PM

GREETERS

We have greeters at the two main entrance doors each Sunday morning. There have been times, however, when we need to find substitutes to help. Would you prayerfully consider helping once a month with this ministry? At this time, due to COVID19, our greeters are asked to not shake hands – they can if they choose give elbow bumps or virtual hugs. Call the office if you're interested in helping!

- Our ladies **INTERFACE** mentoring ministry has formed 11 groups that meet weekly. At this time, the groups are closed to any additions.
- We have a number of small group studies that meet during the week. If you desire to get connected in one, talk to Pastor Matt Sass.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

Attention Ladies! Our next Coffee Fellowship will be Saturday, September 19, 9:30-11:00 AM at the home of Elizabeth Baker, 811 N. Lincoln Ave. Please join us!



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:30 am Staff mtg. 6:30 INTERFACE gr. 7:00 CR Leaders	2 6:30 AWANA 6:30 Youth Group 6:30 ZOOM prayer	3	4	5 7:00 am Mens St. 7:00 Celebrate Rec.
6 8:15 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday Sch. 11:00 am Worship 11:00 am Not Alone 1:00 Hisp. Worship 3:00 Beye Small Gr.	7 <i>Labor Day</i> Office is closed	8 10:30 am Staff mtg. 5:30 Elder Board 6:30 INTERFACE gr.	9 6:30 AWANA 6:30 Youth Group 6:30 ZOOM prayer	10	11	12 7:00 am Mens St. 7:00 Celebrate Rec.
13 <i>Grandparents Day</i> 8:15 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday Sch. 11:00 am Worship 1:00 Hisp. Worship	14 2:00 RystromVideoSt 7:00 INTERFACE gr. 8:00 Mens St.	15 10:30 am Staff mtg. 6:30 INTERFACE gr. 7:00 Property Cmte.	16 6:30 AWANA 6:30 Youth Group 6:30 ZOOM prayer	17	18	19 7:00 am Mens St. 9:30 am Ladies Coffee Fellowship 7:00 Celebrate Rec.
20 8:15 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday Sch. 11:00 am Worship 11:00 am Not Alone 1:00 Hisp. Worship 3:00 Beye Small Gr.	21 8:30 am-12:30 Home- school Co-op begins 2:00 Video St. 7:00 INTERFACE gr. 8:00 Mens St.	22 10:30 am Staff mtg. 6:30 INTERFACE gr.	23 6:30 AWANA 6:30 Youth Group 6:30 ZOOM prayer	24	25	26 7:00 am Mens St. 7:00 Celebrate Rec.
27 8:15 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday Sch. 11:00 am Worship 1:00 Hisp. Worship	28 8:30 am-12:30 Home- school Co-op 2:00 Video St. 7:00 INTERFACE gr. 8:00 Mens St.	28 10:30 am Staff mtg. 6:30 INTERFACE gr.	30 6:30 AWANA 6:30 Youth Group 6:30 ZOOM prayer			

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92 YEAR OLD PREACHER

While watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak..."When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me...the only thing that would comfort was this verse...

"Jesus loves me this I know. For the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to Him belong, We are weak but He is strong.....

Yes, Jesus loves me....The Bible tells me so."

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best." "Here for you now is a Senior version of Jesus Loves Me":

JESUS LOVES ME

*Jesus loves me, this I know, Though my hair is white as snow,
Though my sight is growing dim, Still He bids me trust in Him.*

*CHORUS: Yes, Jesus Loves Me. Yes, Jesus Loves Me.
Yes, Jesus Loves Me, the Bible Tells Me So.*

*Though my steps are oh, so slow, With my hand in His I'll go,
On through life, let come what may, He'll be there to lead the way.
(CHORUS)*

*When the nights are dark and long, In my heart He puts a song,
Telling me in words so clear, "Have no fear, for I am near."
(CHORUS)*

*When my work on earth is done, And life's victories have been won,
He will take me home above, Then I'll understand His love.
(CHORUS)*

*I love Jesus, does He know? Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say, That I love Him every day.
(CHORUS)*

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