



January-February 2020



Welcome! It is great to have you with us!

We care deeply for people and want to see them give their lives to Christ, and grow in their love and devotion to Him! Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship. Do you have children? They are welcome to join us in the Nursery (0-4) or Kid Zone (JK-Gr6). Ask us to direct you.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Prayer | 9:30 am | C.J. Feaver Room
Adult Class | 9:30 am | Fellowship Hall
Worship | 10:30 am | Sanctuary
Kids' Classes | 10:30 am | Sanctuary

PRAYER

Sunday | 9:30 am | C.J. Feaver Room
Sunday | 6:00 pm | C.J. Feaver Room
Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Library

SMALL GROUPS/BIBLE STUDIES

Small groups are an important part of how we grow in Christ and with each other here at Forward. A variety of groups meet on different days and at different locations. For details, talk to Pastor Steve.

YOUNG ADULTS

Monday | 7:00 pm | College +

ABOVE THE BEACH

Drop in playgroup for caregivers and kids 5 and under
Tuesday | 9:30-11:30 am

YOUTH PROGRAM

Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Gr. 6-12

FOOD BANK

9:30 am | 2nd Wednesday of the month

55+ MINISTRY

11:30 am | One Friday each month

Parents! Nursery (0-4) is open throughout the service and Kid Zone (JK-Gr6) will be dismissed part way through the service.

ADULT sundays 9:30 am
BIBLE CLASS

youth
GROUP
GRADES 6-12
WEDNESDAYS 7-9 PM



Mondays, 7-10 pm

The Young Adult Group is devoted to biblical teaching, prayer, and fellowship. The heart of ACT II is drawn from Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." NY

SONGS FOR
Sunday

Do you know the music we sing well?
Or want to help your kids learn it? Search for Forward Baptist Church on Spotify or YouTube to find our playlists!

january

3-5 FRI-SUN

Winter Weekend
at Beacon (offsite)

10 FRI

55+ Ministry
11:30 am-1 pm

11 SAT

Youth Event (offsite)

12 SUN

Membership Classes
begin

17 FRI

PA Day Camp
9 am - 4 pm

24 FRI

Jr. Youth Event
6:30-8:30 pm

24-25 FRI-SAT

Young Adult
Retreat (offsite)

26 SUN

Fellowship Meal
(following the service)

30 THU

Women's Mission
Fellowship 12 pm



february

1 SAT

Training Morning
(Worship & Host Teams)
9 am-12 pm

2 SUN

Newcomers Welcome
(following the service)

14 FRI

PA Day Camp
9 am - 4 pm

21 FRI

55+ Ministry
11:30 am-1 pm

23 SUN

Fellowship Meal
(following the service)

27 THU

Women's Mission
Fellowship 12 pm

28 FRI

Jr. Youth Event
6:30-8:30 pm

28-1 FRI-SAT

Youth Winter Retreat
(offsite)



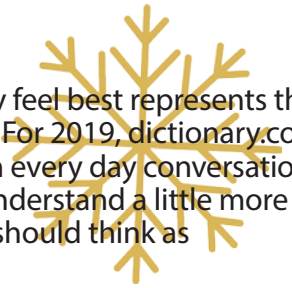
Prayer

Wednesdays:
7 pm

Sundays:
9:30 am &
6 pm

The Word of the Year

At the end of every year, dictionary websites choose a word that they feel best represents the year that is ending. They then name that word the word of the year. For 2019, dictionary.com chose the word “existential”. You probably don’t use this word a lot in every day conversation (unless you like using big words), but understanding it will help us understand a little more about how our world thinks and it will help us understand how we should think as Christians.



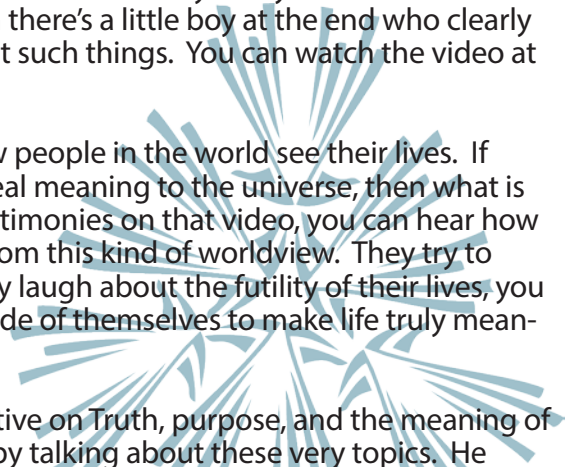
Dictionary.com defines existential in two ways. The first is “of or relating to existence”. For example, a business might talk about their existential requirements, by which they mean the things the can’t exist without. Environmentalists sometimes talk about existential threats, by which they mean things that threaten our existence as humans. The conversation around climate change was an important factor in the choice of this word for 2019.

The second definition is as follows: “concerned with the nature of human existence as determined by the individual’s freely made choices.” This definition is a philosophical one; it comes from the philosophy known as existentialism. Existentialism is the belief that the universe is random and meaningless and therefore our purpose for existence as humans is something we must determine ourselves as we make purposeful choices. In other words, there is no absolute Truth or meaning in life that is knowable through science or through revelation from God and therefore we must each be purposeful in deciding how to live our lives in ways that are meaningful and true to ourselves. In existentialism, living this way is referred to as living authentically. You can see why this would be significant for 2019 (for instance, take a minute to look up Merriam Webster’s word of the year for 2019).

Dictionary.com has posted a video of several people talking about what the word existential means in their own lives. They talk about rising above the grind of working and paying bills. They talk about defining who they are outside the norms of society. They talk about the anxiety of trying to live a meaningful life. And then there’s a little boy at the end who clearly has a more simple existence and isn’t worried about such things. You can watch the video at <https://www.dictionary.com/e/word-of-the-year/>

Watching the video made me think a lot about how people in the world see their lives. If there is no Truth with a capital T and if there is no real meaning to the universe, then what is left but to define it for yourself? But even in the testimonies on that video, you can hear how much confusion, anxiety, and regret is the fallout from this kind of worldview. They try to couch it as positivity and freedom, but even as they laugh about the futility of their lives, you can see that they desperately need an anchor outside of themselves to make life truly meaningful.

The Bible, thankfully, gives a very different perspective on Truth, purpose, and the meaning of our existence. The Apostle John began his gospel by talking about these very topics. He opens the gospel by referencing a philosophical term, logos, which is translated into English as “Word”. The Word was a Greek concept referring to the logic and Truth of the universe. It



was the reason for existence, the essence of all things; the Word is everything that existentialism denies. But the Word was also an important concept for the Jewish people. The Jewish faith is based on the Truth that God has spoken to His people. His will, His Truth has been revealed to us in the Bible through God's prophets. When the Apostle John speaks of the Word, he is bringing all of these ideas together. The Word is the Truth behind all existence, the meaning of life revealed to us by God in Scripture. But John takes it a step further and says that the Word isn't just an abstract concept or a written story, the Word is a person. And it's only through this person that we can know God, know ourselves, and find true meaning and purpose in life. This is how John puts it:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it....

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.... No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

~John 1:1-5, 9-14, 18 (NIV)

As 2019 draws to a close and 2020 begins, we need more than what existentialism offers us. There is Truth. There is Reason. There is Purpose. His name is Jesus. The world may not recognize him, but that doesn't change the Truth. Jesus was the Word in the beginning with His Father and He will be the Word long after the empty philosophies of today are forgotten.

-Steve Lambert
Pastor

Scripture Memory for January-February is John 1:1-5, 14 NIV

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MINISTRY UPDATE: Youth Group & Young Adults

Hello Forward family,

It's been a fantastic time of change and growth for the Youth Group. Our numbers have grown significantly (15-20), but more importantly I believe we are growing spiritually. We have made it clear that youth group is not a place to simply hang out with your friends. If that is one's intention, there are many other places you can hang out! Youth group is a place where we learn about Jesus; who He is and what He's done for us. We have been going through the Alpha Youth Program since September, which has been great for facilitating discussion and learning the basics of Christianity.

Here are three new things to celebrate and pray for:

- ~ First, I've had better engagement with the parents, praying over some and even sharing the gospel with them. The parents in return have repeatedly asked how they can contribute to youth group. Pray for further connections with the parents.
- ~ Second, the youth are starting to intentionally bring their friends! Some of these invited youth are one-time visits, but many have returned. You can pray that the youth continue to be brave in inviting their friends so that they may hear the gospel.
- ~ And third, many of the youth are volunteering and helping in our other programs like PA Day Camps and Jr. Youth. This is amazing to see!



As for the Young Adults: the nature of young adults is that they are always on the move. We're about the same in number we were this time last year - with a big set of new faces! In spite of the constant change, we have a fantastic group with a great sense of comradery. We are going through 1 Corinthians and it's been lovely fellowship. You can pray for the Young Adults to have growing involvement in other aspects of church life here at Forward.

-Mark Memije
Pastor

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Glorify God.
Grow in Christ
Go with the Gospel.

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