



# The Viewpoint

News From the Forest Grove United  
Church of Christ

April 2018

## Transitions

Meet your transition team: James Houx, Bev Maughan, Pamelajean Myers and Sandy Freeman. We meet soon with our Conference Minister Molly Carlson to understand more of our tasks; but I'm sure it has something to do with holding down the comma in 'God is still speaking, ...'. For now, know that we're here to listen to your thoughts, hand out tissues as we say 'farewell' to Pastor Jennifer and Ellen, and look forward to new doors opening both to them and to Forest Grove UCC.

— Sandy Freeman

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## Myth, Mystery, Miracle



Let's start with the myth. Easter is a part of a great tradition of myths that cross cultures and time. In the myth, the hero dies and then returns from death with new powers. Think of Obi wan Kenobi, for example, "If you strike me down, I shall become more powerful than you can imagine."

Persephone (Rome), Osiris (Egypt), Odin (Norway), Ganesha and Krishna (India) all have stories of resurrection. The myth reveals our deep longing for our gods and heroes to return from death. The power to overcome death supersedes all other powers and makes the hero worthy of worship or praise.

If Easter were simply about mythic resurrection, it simply wouldn't be that interesting, or for that matter, unique as a story.

Things get more interesting when we look at the mystery surrounding Jesus and who he was. Jesus is not a typical hero. He never battled anyone. He didn't have a discernable quest. He was a teacher, a healer, a prophet and a storyteller. He never took on Rome directly. His argument with the Temple was over hypocrisy, not a challenge to their authority.

The people wanted a traditional, military hero, one they felt had been promised to them in the manner of other heroes who had come before. Jesus was not that. As far as being a Messiah went, Jesus was a spectacular failure.

Jesus was not a mythic hero, but he was a mysterious character. He had too much power to be an ordinary man, but he didn't use it the way an ordinary man would. He had a great deal to say, but when in the courtyards of kings and governors, he remained silent. He referred to himself as the Son of Man when others called him the Son of God.

So here is the Miracle. Jesus was bold enough to declare a new covenant sealed by his sacrifice, when his sacrifice would be seen as failure by all but a handful of followers. Jesus' death broke the chains of corruption that strangled the grace which was supposed to be mediated by the Temple.

Jesus' Resurrection proclaimed that God's grace was freely available to all, that there was a new path to walk on our spiritual journey, a path not toward heaven, but with Christ; a path based on love, inclusion, equality, generosity and service.

Myth. Mystery. Miracle. This is what Easter means to me.

Happy Easter, everyone!

In Joy, Jennifer

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## Additional Notes:

**Upcoming Retreats**—Pastor Jennifer will be leading two retreats this month – the youth group confirmation retreat (including youth from Forest Grove, Lake Oswego and Meridian UCC) and the annual CPC-UCC Clergy Renewal Retreat) in the first two weeks of April right after Easter. She will be effectively out of the office April 5-April 15.

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT**—Please keep our confirmands, Nikaya Frye, Lily Mullen, Grace Ronan, Kyle Hoekstra, Dalton Burk and Carasandra Spears in your prayers on their final retreat of their confirmation year next weekend at Camp Magruder.

**NEW MEMBERS CLASS APRIL 15**— If you'd like to learn more about the United Church of Christ and what it means to be a member of our church, please join Pastor Jennifer after worship at **11:15 in the library on Sunday, April 15**. This “walking lesson” of our church lasts about 1.5 hours. Childcare is available and all are welcome!

**SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES:** Please mark your calendar for some exciting upcoming events for our youth:

May 6th: Youth Sunday

May 20: Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday

June 25th-29th: VBS

## Capped and Gowned

Pastor Jennifer's graduation from her Doctor of Ministry program from Portland Seminary takes place at Beaverton Christian Church (13600 SW Allen Blvd, Beaverton, OR 97005) starting at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.

## Music Sunday, April 29

We are so tremendously, abundantly blessed with music ensembles at our church! On Music Sunday, we will get to hear our Jubilate Bell Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Gospel Ensemble, Strong Wings Band and two children's choirs (Angel and Cherub choirs) play, sing, and make an incredibly joyful noise. Please be sure to join us on Sunday, April 29 to worship through Song and Music!

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## Women's Retreat 2018

*"This is Life"* will be a one day event **Saturday, April 7th, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**, at the Mountain Dale Cabin Village Deluxe Meeting Hall (at Stub Stewart State Park). Our presenters are Kristy Haines, Deva Harris and Pamelajeane Myers. Coffee and/or Tea with treats, lunch, and an afternoon snack will be provided. There is a \$5.00 day use parking permit per car required in addition to the \$30 cost of the retreat. (Plan to carpool.)



If you'd like to attend, please contact Wendy White: [thewhitehouse2539@hotmail.com](mailto:thewhitehouse2539@hotmail.com) or Amber Mather: [ambob6@yahoo.com](mailto:ambob6@yahoo.com).

Thanks, Wendy & Amber

## And here's the schedule for May Activities for our Women's Spirit Group

**May:** We're having a Bake Sale to benefit the Youth Group Mission Trip!

Holly & Kristy are organizing youth to bake at the church Tuesday, May 8th. Our group is encouraged to come to the church to bake or you can just bake good at home to contribute as well. We will need Women's Spirit members to sell goods along with youth at the Farmers Market on Wednesday, May 9th. More details to come.

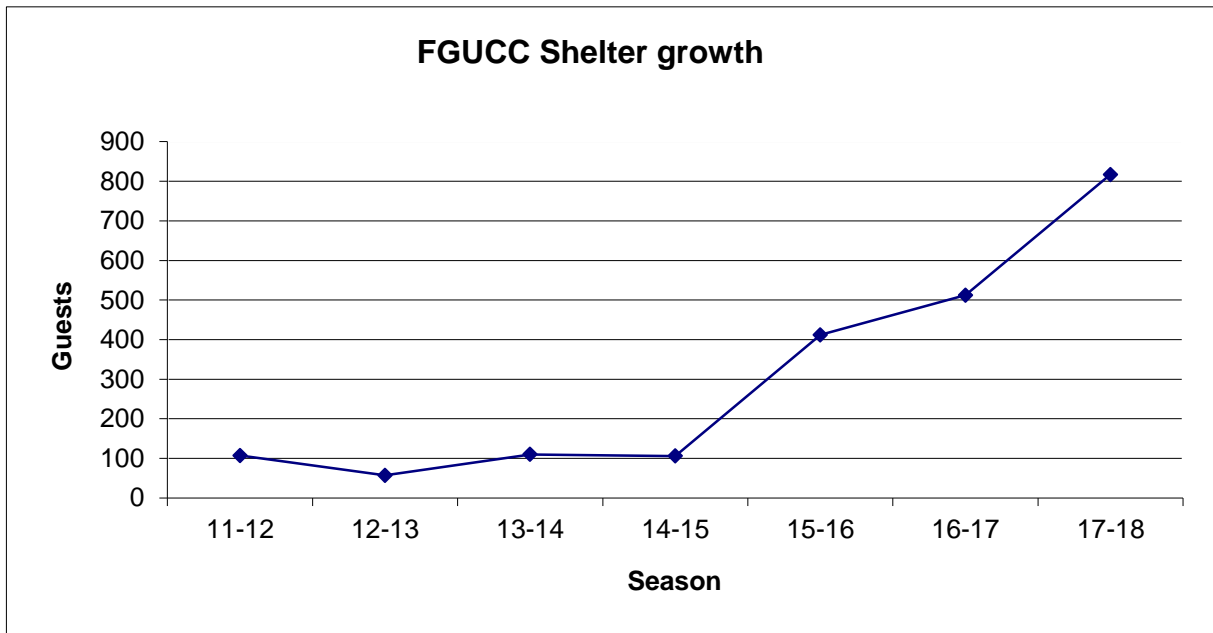
# A Picture Speaks a thousand words!

The Temporary Emergency Shelter is officially closed for the season. We are truly grateful for your consistent and faithful support and service in providing a SAFE & WELCOMING shelter for those experiencing homelessness. **Without ALL of you, this would not be possible.** Thank you!!!

The information below speaks for itself.

## Update on TES Shelter Growth

<b>FGUCC Guests</b>	<b>Guests</b>
<b>Season</b>	<b>Guests</b>
11-12	107
12-13	57
13-14	110
14-15	106
15-16	412
16-17	512
17-18	817



# Joys & Prayer Concerns

**Thanks have been received from the Shotwell family,**

Dear Jennifer, Elena and UCC Congregation. It's been almost 6 months since my dad died and almost two months since my mom died. I'm glad they are in heaven together and am missing who they used to be. Sure missing the visits and phone calls and this past week seemed extra final with the house closing. Life can change so quickly.

Thank you again for your love, care and concern for my parents and our family. Your presence with my mom and our family when my mom died was such a divine intervention and so special. Thank you for being there – it meant a lot.

To honor my mom through UCC and her music here are 2 checks for handbells and organ. I pray the music will continue to bless the church. Love, Bruce, Karen, Ellie and Stacy

—Karen Haldors (Shotwell)

**NEW PRAYER CONCERN**—Please keep Renee and Bill Mills in your prayers as Renee is dealing with new health concerns and is scheduled for surgery on Wednesday, April 4.

**SYMPATHY**—Please remember John Aguirre and his family upon the death of John's mother, Minnie Aguirre, on March 21. A funeral mass is scheduled for Tuesday, April 3, 10:30AM at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Please keep John and his family and friends in your prayers during this time.

**ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS**—Please continue prayers for Art & Els Abma, Jack & Winnie Beu, Carol Benner, Jim & Rusty Bradford, Marilyn Brown (Loren & Dottie Waltz's daughter); Bob Browning, Stephanie & Paul Edwards, Sue Groszmann, Bob & Ruth Holznagel, Alice & Bill Hoskins, Dick & Lois Johnston, Richard & Christine Kidd, Herb & Carlene Krueger, Betty Lancaster, Peg Nigbor, Jean & Bob Nixon, Del & Stella Schrag, Tom Wallsted, Holly Vann and her family, Ralph, Robin & Megan Vasey, Dottie & Loren Waltz, Betty Wedell, John and Mary Welch, and any other members, friends and family of our church, not named here, who are homebound or who have other ongoing concerns.

**PRAYER SHAWLS**—Do you need a prayer shawl? Please call Elena in the church office at 503-357-9121 to make a request. —Blessings, Dottie Waltz

**HOW TO GET ON THE PRAYER CHAIN**—Are you or someone you know in need of extra prayer support? Our church has a confidential prayer chain ministry. If you'd like to be added to this prayer chain, please contact the church office or Sandy Mueller at [fguccpray@gmail.com](mailto:fguccpray@gmail.com). Thank you!

**FGUCC Visitation Ministry: Helping all of our church family stay connected.** This is the mission of the Visitation Ministry. If you know of someone in our church family who has limited ability to get out and about and who would like regular friendly visits from another church member, please let the Visitation Ministry coordinators know. If you can be a Visitor to someone, we would love to put you in touch with someone who would treasure your companionship. — Sandy Mueller and Elaine Bohlmeier, Visitation Ministry coordinators.

## Best wishes to all of you celebrating birthdays in April!

Els Abma—2  
Paul Johnson—3  
Gail Burrus—9  
Vivi Houx—9  
Diane Jackson—12  
Kendra Vann—12  
Margerette Cooney—20  
James Houx—20  
Darrell Lawrence—23  
George Williams—27  
Ryan Jones—27  
Geoff Johnston—28  
John Davis—28  
Rusty Bradford—30



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### Adult Education: The Other Story



We continue our discussion of “*The Other Story*” on **Sunday, April 8 from 11:30 AM to 1PM** in the Library. We all know the story of Moses or Jesus, but do we know the reason why the story of Deborah or Daniel is important to us today? What can we learn about the smaller stories in the Bible?

During our next session we will be focusing on 1 Samuel 28; the story of Saul, the Medium and the Ghost. It will be a continuation of the worship service as we explore the meaning of resurrection.

This is a Brown Bag Lunch. Bring your bible and an open heart and mind for this fellowship of common discovery and journey. ***Child care is provided.***

— Jeannine Murrell & Pamelajean Myers, Leaders

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**NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness)** offers a support group meeting for family members of people facing mental health challenges. The meetings are free, confidential and safe. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday every month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Hawthorne Walk-in Center, 5240 NE Elam Young Pkwy, Suite 100, Conference room #20, Hillsboro, Or. For further information, contact: NAMI Washington County 503-356-6835.

## **Reading the Bible in a Year:** These are the Bible readings for the month of April:

### WEEK FOURTEEN—Apr 2, 2018

Monday: Exodus 1-4  
Tuesday: I Samuel 16-20  
Wednesday: Psalms 39-41  
Thursday: Job 27-28  
Friday: Jeremiah 7-11  
Saturday: Mark 7-8  
Sunday: I Corinthians 11-12

### WEEK FIFTEEN—Apr 9, 2018

Monday: Exodus 5-8  
Tuesday: I Samuel 21-25  
Wednesday: Psalm 42-44  
Thursday: Job 29-30  
Friday: Jeremiah 12-16  
Saturday: Mark 9-10  
Sunday: I Corinthians 13-14

### WEEK SIXTEEN—Apr 16, 2018

Monday: Exodus 9-12  
Tuesday: I Samuel 26-31  
Wednesday: Psalm 45-47  
Thursday: Job 31-32  
Friday: Jeremiah 17-21  
Saturday: Mark 11-12  
Sunday: I Corinthians 15-16

### WEEK SEVENTEEN—Apr 23, 2018

Monday: Exodus 13-16  
Tuesday: II Samuel 1-4  
Wednesday: Psalm 48-50  
Thursday: Job 33-34  
Friday: Jeremiah 22-26  
Saturday: Mark 13-14  
Sunday: II Corinthians 1-3

### WEEK EIGHTEEN—Apr 30, 2018

Monday: Exodus 17-20  
Tuesday: II Samuel 5-9  
Wednesday: Psalm 51-53  
Thursday: Job 35-36  
Friday: Jeremiah 27-31  
Saturday: Mark 15-16  
Sunday: II Corinthians 4-5

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## **Donate your empty Cans & Bottles to our Senior High Youth!**

Got empty cans and bottles that you don't want to deal with? Bring them to the church and the Sr. High Youth Group will take care of these for you! With the expanded 2018 Bottle Bill we're also accepting empty bottles/cans of coffee/tea, energy and sports drinks, kombucha, hard cider and juice. We are asking people to bring in their empties to the church office so we can recycle them for you! All the money made from these donations will go to the **SSP Mission Trip Fund**. Thanks for your help! —Kristy Haines



## First Sunday is Easter Day, Sunday, April 1

### Food for Elijah's Barrel



Please remember to continue filling Elijah's Barrel with canned food and non-perishable items and paper products (toilet paper, tissues, and paper towels) and place them in Elijah's Barrel in front of the bulletin boards in the Narthex. The Food Pantry at St. Anthony's Catholic Church helps supply food boxes to low income families in the Forest Grove Community.

Thanks to all who continue to make sure that this important ministry continues!

### BEST Team Sunday Recycling

Safeway, Fred Meyer and Winco are still accepting film plastics, so you can continue to take your film plastics to those stores for recycling. Otherwise, below is the current list for other items we accept for recycling. Here's what we continue to welcome on the First Sunday:



- Real block and food Styrofoam (colored and dyes are okay)
- Clean, reusable packing materials (air pillows, peanuts, etc.; Bonnie takes to UPS)
- Wine corks, the real ones
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Batteries
- Planting pots (the Pricketts will reuse)
- Candle wax (the Pricketts will use)

[At this time BEST team is still unable to accept ANY plastics, books or tennis shoes on First Sunday.] Please continue to recycle responsibly in the curbside bin. The BEST team is always available to answer any questions you might have.

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### Electronic Giving



If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions we encourage you to check out our electronic giving option. To set up electronic donations, simply request an authorization form from the church office. Once it has been completed we can set up donations to be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account. Give us a call at 503-357-9121. Thank you for your generosity and support!

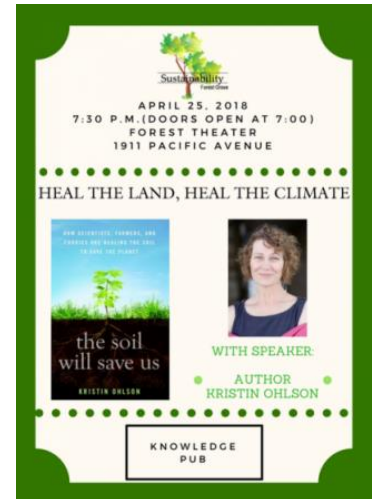


# Knowledge Pub: Heal the Land, Heal the Climate

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 - 7:30pm

"Many people despair that the planet is doomed because our leaders consistently failed to take on climate change and other challenges". But author Kristin Ohlson argues that leadership is coming from the grassroots, as farmers and ranchers (working with scientists) discover that they can restore healthy landscapes and reverse generations of damage while producing an abundance of healthy food. "They're working with nature to heal the carbon cycle from the bottom up – and the rest of us can do it too."

Join the Sustainability Commission in welcoming author and speaker, Kristin Ohlson to Forest Grove as she speaks on the topic *Heal the Land, Heal the Climate*. The Knowledge Pub will once again be hosted at Forest Theater. Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. and the event begins at 7:30. Come early, grab a drink and snack; learn, be inspired, bring a friend...participate in conversation with each other and the Commission members!



## On the Way - March 2018

Here's the link to the March issue of *On The Way*, e-News from the Central Pacific Conference UCC. <https://mailchi.mp/cpcucc/on-the-way-march-2018-enevs-from-the-central-pacific-conference-ucc-2876725?e=fb9e8ea40c>

## UPCOMING PROGRAM AT FOREST GROVE CITY LIBRARY

**Monday, April 30, 6:00 PM** in the Rogers Room, public interest lawyer Ann Su will host "What's in a Label: Thinking About Diversity and Racial Categories," a program that focuses on the language we use and how that affects our understanding of race and racial diversity. These programs are offered in partnership with Oregon Humanities as part of their Conversation Project series.

## **Forest Grove UCC Staff**

**FGUCC Moderator:** Eric Murphy — [eric.murphy@forse.com](mailto:eric.murphy@forse.com)

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### **Director of Sanctuary Choir**

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### **Organist and Piano Accompanist**

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Joannah Ball—[joannahball@gmail.com](mailto:joannahball@gmail.com)

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