



# The Viewpoint

News From the Forest Grove United  
Church of Christ

January 2018

## Where do we grow from here?



January puzzles me. It kicks off with one holiday, has another one in the middle, and ends up anticipating a third holiday in mid-February. It starts with Epiphany and then ends with our Annual Meeting which means our fiscal year starts a month later than the calendar year, although our budget and policy decisions become effective retroactively to the first of the year.

January is the month where the Christmas season technically extends another week, but where most people can't wait to put the ornaments away early. It's when football and basketball and hockey all tumble over the TV listings. It's when Annual reports try to sum up the past year while simultaneously planning for the new year.

In January, the light has returned, but the temperature is that much colder. It's a clean slate that bears the marks of what has been before. January is a lot like mornings in general. Much of what you plan for the day ahead has been conditioned by the days before, but by golly, it's still a fresh start to whatever what may come.

This January, we'll start a process of asking, "Where do we grow from here?" We've got a number of very mature ministries underway. Between The Learning Community, Family Promise, Stephen Ministry, Prayer Shawls, Music programs, Visitation ministry, and Senior Luncheon we've got plenty of ways we've "dialed in" to create more joy, more justice and more compassion in our hearts, in our homes, in our communities and in our world, but we're asking what new thing is yet to break forth.

In the past few years, we've launched Parish Nursing, the Welcome Garden, and the Blessing Box. All of these ministries have been embraced by our members, friends and larger community. What's the next phase, we wonder? Where is the breath of the Holy Spirit calling us to follow?

This is the way we get to live out our faith, cherishing our past, keeping the plates of the current day spinning even while looking ahead at what new thing is yet to come. We invite you to look forward to participating in these conversations that will take place soon. "Where do we grow from here?" Won't it be fun to find out together?

— In Joy, Pastor Jennifer

## Story Time



The season between Epiphany and Lent sometimes feels like it lasts for 15 minutes, but this year we have a few more weeks to work with and we've got a great idea for framing our worship during this block of time. We're going to emphasize our storytelling faith and tell the scriptures passages as stories, much like they would have been heard for the first 1500 years or so of Christianity. We'd like to ask you to participate in a couple of ways:

First, if you'd like to be a lectionary "storyteller" during this time, please let Pastor Jennifer know and she'll work with you to coach your storytelling skills.

Second, we'd like to ask you to create a list of recommended stories, books for adults and children. We'll share these lists with each other and mutually enrich our trove of great stories.

Hoping you have a "story-worthy" season,

— Pastor Jennifer

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## We are looking for Volunteers to help make Breakfast on Saturday, January 6

Forest Grove UCC has been offered the opportunity to help prepare and serve the pancake breakfast for the Oregon Road Runners' Club annual Y2K Run-Walk of the year on **Saturday, January 6, 2018**. The ingredients will be paid for and provided and we just have to show up to make and serve the pancakes, orange juice, coffee/tea and hot chocolate. Doesn't that sound like a FUN way to start the New Year – **PLUS our church will receive \$1,000 for this effort!!!**



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## We're looking for Volunteers to help at the Shelter



Are you looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity for the New Year? We are in need of volunteers for various jobs at the Temporary Emergency Shelter (TES), including help with early morning breakfasts, help in the evening, such as welcoming and registering guests, and overnight shifts. Here's the link for more information and volunteer sign up: <https://oldtownfg.com/shelter>.

If you're interested and still need more information, please contact Elena Parker, TES Staff Coordinator at 503-357-9121, call/text 503-357-6960, or email to [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org),

## Become a Stephen Minister!

Use your caring gifts to help others! A new training will begin in February of next year, and you can be a part of that training to learn tools for helping others in the most effective way. Plus you will have the knowledge to use these tools in your own life. Please talk to us at church, or call one of us: Jeannine Murrell (503-816-0323) or Renee Mills (503-324-7603). We'd love to have you join us in caring for our community.



Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you to begin this enriching journey!

Blessings, Renee & Jeannine

### **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.

## Joys & Prayer Concerns

**NEW PRAYER CONCERN**—Please keep Bob and Ruth Holznagel in your special prayers as Bob continues recovering from a recent fall. Also, continue to remember John & Mary Welch as John recovers from a recent pacemaker procedure.

**CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR** Maggie Shotwell who is living at Rosewood Specialty Care. Visits and cards would be much appreciated. Address for Rosewood Specialty Care is 2550 SE Century Blvd, Hillsboro, OR. 97123, (503) 259-8999.

**ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS**—Please continue prayers for Art & Els Abma, Jack & Winnie Beu, Jim & Rusty Bradford, Marilyn Brown (Loren & Dottie Waltz's daughter); Bob Browning, Stephanie & Paul Edwards, Betsy & Rob Foster, 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, Maggie Shotwell, Tom Wallsted, Holly Vann and her family, Ralph, Robin & Megan Vasey, Dottie & Loren Waltz, Betty Wedell, 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!

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

Lillian Gimre—January 2  
Bill Hoskins—January 4  
Kent Mueller—January 4  
Dot Cooper—January 6  
Peg Nighbor—January 10  
Tom Epler—January 12  
Kathleen Lacock—January 20

Jordan Vann—January 2  
Betty Lancaster—January 4  
Stella Schrag—January 6  
Sharon Ronan—January 8  
Clara Van Dyk—January 11  
Gini Petersen—January 15  
Dottie Waltz—January 23



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### Adult Education: The Other Story

**Next Meeting: Sunday, January 14, 11:30 AM to 1PM**

*Child care is provided.*

***BYBBL: Bring Your Brown Bag Lunch.***



We continue our discussion of “*The Other Story*” on **Sunday, January 14 from 11:30 AM to 1PM** in the Chapel. 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? We will share our understanding and insights together of those other stories. 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 & Pamela Jean Myers, Leaders



We’re looking for hosts to run fellowship hours. We’re continuing to keep fellowship hour easy and light, so please feel free to use the abundant stash of snacks available in the kitchen, thanks to generous donations from our members.

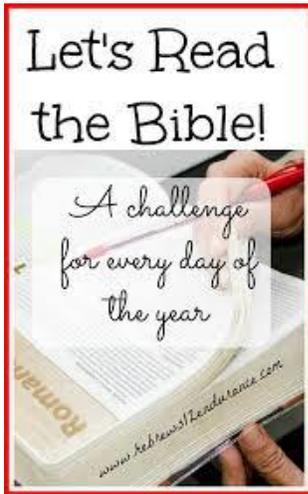
Fellowship time is an opportunity to meet, greet and encourage one another over coffee or tea and snacks following worship. You can sign up on the schedules hanging in the narthex. For more information contact Elena at 503-357-9121.

### Reader, Greeter, Usher?

Would you like to be a reader, greeter, or usher? If so, please let Pastor Jennifer, Kristy or Elena know.



## Reading the Bible in a Year



The art of reading and writing is a phenomenon that intrigues me. Each day as I write in my daily devotional journal the BIBLE verse of the day, I am amazed that this scribble on the page can be 'understood' by others.

That 'understanding' is one of the reasons that people like John Wycliffe, Martin Luther, William Tyndale and Johann Gutenberg ventured to translate and publish the WORD of God so that the common man could read the scriptures for themselves. Making the scriptures accessible to everyone.

One of the purposes of a library is to provide reading material for the masses. But probably the most important task was to make the BIBLE available to everyone. When one is able read and decipher the scribbles on the page, they begin to understand the truth of God.

In that light, I challenge the members of Forest Grove United Church of Christ to join me in reading the Bible through in 2018. Several online websites offer interactive reading and study program, i.e., BIBLESTUDY TOOL.com. Other sites include BIBLEGUIDEPRO.com, BIBLEGATEWAY.com (which has many versions available), and NAVIGATORS.org (check-off listing that can be printed). We also have copies of the 52-Week Bible Reading Plan in the narthex.

— Royce Hostetler, FGUCC Librarian

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## Get a Healthy Start in 2018

This winter, Village Without Walls (VWW) will offer beginning T'ai Chi Chih classes for VWW members and volunteers and Forest Grove United Church of Christ (FGUCC) members and friends. The classes will take place on **Mondays from January 8 through February 26, 11am to 12:30pm** in Fellowship Hall. Participants will learn gentle ways to move that benefit body, mind and spirit. The program is free with the option of donations to help cover class expenses.



T'ai Chi Chih, developed by Justin Stone in 1974, includes nineteen movements and one pose, which can be easily learned by all ages. No special equipment is needed. Those who practice T'ai Chi Chih regularly report having better balance, lower blood pressure, a greater clarity of mind, and many other benefits.

Class will be taught by FGUCC member and VWW volunteer Linda Minor, an accredited T'ai Chi Chih instructor. Contact Linda with questions and to reserve your space, which is limited: 503-320-5487 or [lminor2@yahoo.com](mailto:lminor2@yahoo.com). A waiting list will be maintained for a future class if this one is full.

## 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!

## First Sunday Recycling

Far West Recycling is still not accepting mixed plastics or film plastic due in part to China's increased restrictions of materials that they allow for import for recycling. So the BEST team is still unable to accept ANY plastics, books or tennis shoes on First Sunday. **BUT** ... 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)

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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## Donate your empty Cans & Bottles to our Senior High Youth and they will recycle them for you!

Got empty cans and bottles that you don't want to deal with? We are asking people to bring in their empty cans and bottles to the church and the Sr. High Youth Group will recycle them for you! All the money made from this will go to future mission trips for our youth. Thanks for your help!



—Kristy Haines

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## Annual Meeting set for January 28, 2018

Our Annual Meeting for the year 2017 has been scheduled for **Sunday, January 28, 2018** immediately following worship. Please plan to participate in this important event in the life of your church.



### Annual Reports are due for 2017 Annual Meeting

If you are the chair or leader of any church group, including commission, choir, etc., please submit a report summarizing what your group did during 2017. Please submit your information no later than **Monday, January 8, 2018**, so that we can have Annual Reports available for review two weeks prior to the annual meeting. Please email to Elena at [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to let us know. Thank you!

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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!



## On the Way - December 2017

Here's the link to the December issue of *On The Way*, e-News from the Central Pacific Conference UCC. <http://cpcucc.org/wp14/on-the-way/>

May there some day be peace.

## **Forest Grove UCC Staff**

### **Pastor**

Rev. Jennifer Yocum—[jennifer@fgucc.org](mailto:jennifer@fgucc.org)

### **Coordinator of Spiritual Formation**

Kristy Haines—[kristy@fgucc.org](mailto:kristy@fgucc.org)

### **Office Manager**

Elena Parker—[elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org)

### **Sexton**

John Davis—[sexton2862@gmail.com](mailto:sexton2862@gmail.com)

### **Parish Nurse**

Deva Harris-Williams—[fguccparishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:fguccparishnurse@gmail.com)

### **Stephen Ministry**

Jeannine Murrell—[wyzone@aol.com](mailto:wyzone@aol.com)

Renee Mills—[millsrenergy@yahoo.com](mailto:millsrenergy@yahoo.com)

### **Director of Children's Choirs**

Geneva Houx—[geneva.houx@gmail.com](mailto:geneva.houx@gmail.com)

### **Director of Gospel Choir**

Ellen Fiscus—[ellenfiscus@mac.com](mailto:ellenfiscus@mac.com)

### **Director of Sanctuary Choir**

Laura Frye—[lajanafrye@gmail.com](mailto:lajanafrye@gmail.com)

### **Director of Strong Wings**

Robert Lacock—[robert\\_lacock@beaverton.k12.or.us](mailto:robert_lacock@beaverton.k12.or.us)

### **Director of Jubilate Handbell Choir**

Kira Sorensen—[kirasorensen@gmail.com](mailto:kirasorensen@gmail.com)

### **Organist and Piano Accompanist**

Paul Minor—[Pminor@easystreet.net](mailto:Pminor@easystreet.net)

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

**FGUCC Moderator:** Terri Wyborny—[tlwyborny@gmail.com](mailto:tlwyborny@gmail.com)

**FGUCC Librarian:** Royce Hostetler—[fgucc.library@gmail.com](mailto:fgucc.library@gmail.com)

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