



The Viewpoint

News From the Forest Grove United
Church of Christ

January 2019

From the Pastor

Friends, when I asked the Executive Board for a congregational gathering to happen well before our Annual Meeting I called it a “Come to Jesus” moment. Our church finances are calling us to ask some fundamental questions about who we are, whose we are, and the possibilities the Spirit will help us name and live into.

Again this year our income has fallen short of expenses and we are “borrowing” heavily from our designated funds to cover the operating budget. And right now the year ahead looks like an even larger deficit. It’s a sobering moment, but by no means a time for despair. You all are offering tremendous ministries and bring so many gifts to our life together. The future is full of possibilities to continue to grow in spirit, service, and also committed membership.

I cannot tell you the best, most faithful path forward. I can say that, for countless reasons quite apart from dollars and cents, the church will look different in the years ahead. That’s a blessing—living, growing things always change.

What I can also do is offer good process for moving together into the future. Most fundamentally that’s about building a strong sense of belonging. It’s about the newest individuals and families knowing they are as important as those who’ve lived long lives as part of this congregation. It’s about the free choice to be here—no guilt trips—and about commitment that still respects dissent. It’s about conversations, especially with folks you don’t know as well, that value everyone’s voices and each one’s naming of the possibilities they see and the gifts they recognize, offer, and receive in others and themselves.

Our worship **January 6th** will be one step in this process. It won’t be problem solving or heavy with numbers. That will come later. For this gathering, this worship time, we’ll be in conversations that invite us to live into an ever fuller belonging shared with all comers. Your choice to be present, to be engaged, will be a powerful declaration of belonging and possibility. I hope you will make that choice and join me in these first steps into the new year together.

Blessings always,

Pastor David

Annual Meeting set for January 27, 2019

Our Annual Meeting for the year 2018 has been scheduled for **Sunday, January 27, 2019** immediately following worship. Please plan to participate in this important event in the life of your church.



Annual Reports are due for 2018 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 2018. Please submit your information no later than **Monday, January 7, 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. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to let us know. Thank you!

Budget 2019 is Under Construction

It is budgeting time for 2019, and this is a friendly reminder to return your Pledge Card for 2019 if you have not turned it in to date. Pledges are a vital part of our planning for the next year. Your help with this is very much appreciated. Thank you!



—Your Stewardship Team

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!

To Keep Up on the Happenings of FGUCC

- Check out our webpage for up-to date information, classes and activities at www.fgucc.org
- Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fgucc
- Subscribe to “This Week at FGUCC” (just send an email to elena@fgucc.org to indicate you’d like to subscribe)

Passing the Torch: TES Site Coordinator to retire in March 2019



Our Temporary Emergency Shelter has grown from an infancy that provided overnight shelter on scattered nights of temperatures below freezing to a nineteen week operation which includes additional continued off season investments in fund raising, training, planning, and coordinating with other shelter partners. We have become an employer of record of a staff with a budget built from at least three granting agencies during this current season. The TES is also coordinating with multiple community partners and other

shelters providing additional nights in other churches.

Many previous shelter leaders have invested love and life into serving people experiencing homelessness in Forest Grove. Now is the time to again pass the torch to coordinate both the needs of providing shelter and the needs of this church. Pastor Jennifer previously passed the torch as she reported her commitment of serving people experiencing homelessness had become about 20 percent of her ministry time. The life circumstances of the current torch bearer have now changed and it is time for a new representative of the congregation to carry the flame. To whom does the current Site Coordinator now pass the torch in retiring?

Visiting another church I met new shelter leadership transitioning in for this season. Despite a long and successful program, their new shelter coordinator reported to me no overlap in the lead responsibility. They were frustrated trying to catch up to find fundamental materials necessary for shelter operations and reported feelings of loss and confusion despite bringing a substantial professional background to the moment. Hopefully our TES can instead go forward with overlap and a smooth transfer of coordination.

Will the next torch bearer please step forward! As Site Coordinator you will already have a strong team of partners behind you not only in our TES, but also in Forest Grove, in Washington County, and in the sheltering community. Internally, you will experience the deep multi person support of the Forest Grove United Church of Christ congregation.

Now is the time to get up to speed by knowing the people, the partners, the processes, and the deep resonant joy of this rapidly growing and life enhancing service. Join the TES team now, during this season. In doing so you will surround yourself with effective teams of caring people like you who each celebrate, in their own roles, service to people experiencing homelessness.

Michael Terhorst

Site Coordinator

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 to help with cooking, support mornings and evenings, and loads of other services during shelter season. We are especially in need of volunteers to help with overnight hosting. Here's the link for volunteer sign up: <https://oldtownfg.com/shelter>. The Forest Grove Temporary Emergency Shelter (TES) is open through March 28, 2019. Shelter

is held at FGUCC on Mondays and Tuesdays and at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Cornelius on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7PM-7AM.

If you have any questions pertaining to volunteering, please contact Matt Dowty, Volunteer Coordinator, at 503-709-8846 or email mddowtyemail@gmail.com.

If you have any shelter questions, please talk to Mike Terhorst, TES Site Coordinator. You can also reach Mike via email: miketesfgucc@gmail.com, or call (503) 985-7806.

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

Are you a knitter or do you crochet?



We would love to add a few more knitters and also anyone who prefers to who crochet to our group. Please join us to make prayer shawls in 2019 beginning on **Wednesdays, January 2 and 16 from 2-4PM**. If you'd like to learn how to knit, we can show you how. Knitting is not hard to learn and the pattern is very easy. The Prayer Shawls are such a wonderful gift—A gift from the heart that touches the hearts of others. Come and join us and we will get you started.

We meet year round on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 2-4 PM in Fellowship Hall (except for July and August we meet only on 1st Wednesday of the month). Also, we always welcome donations of yarn. Typically we use Homespun Lion Brand Yarn, which can be purchased at Fred Meyer, Joanne's or Michael's.

—Blessings, Dottie Waltz

Prayer Requests and Concerns

- Our hearts go out with love to Ruth Holznagel and her sons, Hans and Ryan and their families. Bob Holznagel, a member of Forest Grove United Church of Christ for nearly 50 years, died Monday, Dec. 17, at age 90. A longtime Sanctuary Choir member, he also served as moderator, on a pastoral search committee, and on the Central Pacific Conference Committee on Ministry. As a teacher, assistant principal and principal in the Forest Grove School District, he worked at Lincoln Junior High, Joseph Gale Elementary, Neil Armstrong Junior High and Gales Creek Elementary, and was the district's special education director. Many will remember his and Ruth's dramatic portrayals of Forest Grove founders Harvey Clark and Tabitha Brown, and Bob's many roles at Theatre in the Grove. A celebration of Bob's life was held on Saturday, December 22.
- Our hearts go out with love to Susan Armentrout upon the death of her mother, Ann Thompson on Saturday, November 24. Ann's memorial service will be held in the Sanctuary on **Saturday, January 26 at 2PM** with a reception to follow.
- Prayers of strength and comfort for all those who live in fear of violence
- Prayers of support and gratitude for our community of caregivers
- Prayers of comfort for all those in hospice care or who are homebound
- Prayers of healing and comfort for all who are facing health issues or who have other ongoing concerns, including Els Abma, Eldon Bartlett, Jack & Winnie Beu, Carol Benner, Jordana Bowen, Rusty Bradford, Bob Browning, Tori and Ruben Eaton-Heredia and their baby daughter, Emberly, Stephanie & Paul Edwards, Lillian Gimre, Sue & Max Groszmann, Cleata & Steve Hibbs, Ruth Holznagel, Alice Hoskins, Dick & Lois Johnston, Richard & Christine Kidd, Carlene & Herb Krueger, Jobina Lacock, Betty Lancaster, Stephanie Lind, Renee Mills, Paul & Linda Minor, Jean & Bob Nixon, Stella Schrag, Susan Shepard, Holly Vann and her family, Ralph, Robin & Megan Vasey, Tom Wallsteed, Dottie & Loren Waltz, Betty Wedell, John & Mary Welch, Patt Zerger, and other friends and family of our church, not named here.

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. Thank you!

The Mission of the FGUCC Visitation Ministry: Helping all of our church family stay connected.

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 & Elaine Bohlmeier, Visitation Ministry coordinators.

Senior Lunch & Cabaret: Tuesday, January 15 at 12PM

Please join us for a fabulous lunch and program on **Tuesday, January 15, at 12 noon.** Program details to follow in upcoming publicity. We ask for a donation of \$5 for lunch. The program is FREE and begins at about 12:30 PM. If you'd like to be on the senior calling list, please contact Elena at (503) 357-9121 or elena@fgucc.org. (P.S. You don't have to be a "senior" to attend senior luncheons & cabaret.)

Best wishes to all of you celebrating birthdays in January!

Lillian Gimre—2

Lorin Karge—4

Dot Cooper— 6

Sharon Ronan—8

Tom Epler—12

Kathleen Lacock—20

Dottie Waltz—23

Kent Mueller—4

Stella Schrag—6

Ethan Jones—6

Peg Nighbor—10

Gini Petersen—15

Jordan Vann—22

Brian Lacock—23



We are requesting donations of store-bought cookies, crackers, pretzels, etc. to store in the cupboards for Sunday fellowship time. Fellowship time is an opportunity to meet, greet and encourage one another over coffee or tea and snacks following worship. In order to make this work, we also need hosts each Sunday to help with this opportunity. All that is needed is to set out a few plates of snacks that are stored in the kitchen. Please sign up on the schedule 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 David, Kristy or Elena know.

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



Thank you to everyone for continuing to bring your empty cans and bottles to the church for us to recycle at the Bottle Drop Redemption Center here in Forest Grove.

DID YOU KNOW? With the Bottle Expansion Bill that went into effect in early 2018 we are also able to redeem almost any bottle 1.5 liters or smaller (except for wine bottles).

Every penny redeemed goes to the Senior High Mission Trip Fund. Thanks for your ongoing support of our youth! —Kristy Haines

Elijah's Barrel



First and foremost, THANK YOU for continuing to make this ministry a success! The Food Pantry at St. Anthony's Catholic Church helps supply food boxes to low income families in the Forest Grove Community.

You can place donations anytime into Elijah's Barrel in front of the bulletin boards in the Narthex with canned food and non-perishable food items and paper products (toilet paper, tissues, and paper towels).

First Sundays Recycling With BEST Team

Please bring your Styrofoam and all **#6 plastics** to us on the first Sunday of the month (**January 6 is our next event**) so that we can take them to Agilyx in Tigard for recycling. #6 Plastics include things such as Solo bowls and some cups, coffee lids, plastic ware and cookie trays. **It's okay to mix your plastics with Styrofoam. Please be sure all your plastics are clean and have the #6 recycling symbol.**



These are the items we will recycle for you:

- Real block and food Styrofoam, colored and dyes are okay
- #6 plastics, such as Solo cups, coffee lids and cookie trays
- 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)

We accept any time (in the boxes over the coat racks):

- Cell phones – can also go back to the store where purchased
- Printer cartridges – the church gets cash for them or they can go back to the store where purchased



PlanetCon: A Community Recycle & Swap Event (January 12)

Join us in January 2019 for a community recycle and swap event in Hillsboro, at Quatama Elementary School, 6905 NE Campus Way, Hillsboro from 11AM to 2PM.

BYOB: Bring Your Own Bag to take home some free items from our Swap, but **you do not need to bring something to take something.**

Donate: This event is free, but we're accepting donations of warm winter clothes for those in need, including children and adults. We'll accept small cash donations (\$5 or less) to help with event costs.

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