



The Viewpoint

News From the Forest Grove United
Church of Christ

March 2019

From the Pastor—A few thoughts on Lent and Prayer

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, falls on March 6th this year; Easter will be fairly late—April 21st. Lent is the traditional season of the church for introspection and re-commitment in preparation for the great celebration of Easter. Many of us were raised with the words, if not the practice, of “giving up something for Lent.” Some of us have also found it helpful to “give up” laziness and lack of discipline and instead “take on something for Lent”—perhaps a particular prayer practice or other spiritual/physical/mental exercise.

For the first five Sundays of Lent this year I’ll be offering a sermon series on prayer. The scripture lessons will be from Psalms—sometimes called “the prayerbook of the Bible.” The first sermons will look at three great themes of prayer, those so elegantly summarized by Anne Lamott as Help! Thanks! Wow! The remaining Sundays we’ll look at a couple particular prayer practices: lectio divina and daily examen.

Prayer is sometimes a stumbling block for progressive Christians. If all we know of prayer is getting some superpower to do what we want then a stumble is a good thing. Let’s get up and shake off the dust of that limited and limiting notion. Prayer is not magic; it’s not an incantation that will grant your wish if you just do everything right.

One of the first blessings of realizing this is knowing that there’s no “right” way to pray. (Perhaps I’ll tell the story of sailing, swearing and prayer...) It also frees us from the harmful judgments that come with imagining some people’s prayers are answered and others are not.

The idea that prayer is about influencing God, or that God somehow needs our prayers of praise is almost exactly backwards. The work of prayer is primarily an opening of ourselves to God to influence us, to meet our very deepest needs, as individuals in prayer and as communities praying together.

And that is a particularly appropriate stance for Lent. I’m looking forward to sharing these sermon times with you and to hearing your responses.

Blessings!

Pastor David

Times and Seasons

Lent, Holy Week
and Eastertide

Ash Wednesday Service March 6th, 6:00 pm



We'll mark the beginning of Lent this day with the traditional mark of the cross smudged in ashes on forehead or hand. Come join in this brief service recognizing our need for God's grace and setting our intention for opening to that grace through the Lenten season.

Lenten Sermon Themes and Scriptures

March 10 Wow! - Praise
Psalm 148

March 17 Help! - Petition
Psalm 42

March 24 Thank You! - Gratitude
Psalm 126

March 31 Lectio Divina
Psalm 139.1–12

April 7 Daily Examen
Psalm 131

April 14 *Palm Sunday!*

April 18, 7:00 PM *Maundy Thursday*—Please join us for our Maundy Thursday worship service.

EASTER DAY, Sunday, April 21:

- ◆ **Easter Sunrise Service at 6:00 AM**—Please join us for a special Easter Sunrise worship service at Thatcher Park (on the corner of Thatcher and David Hill Roads). We will “break fast” together with a small meal after the service. If you are able, please bring breakfast picnic items to share.
- ◆ **Easter Day Worship at 10 AM**—Please join us Easter morning for a jubilant service of worship filled with music presented by the Sanctuary Choir and Pacific University Brass. Following worship we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

EASTER TULIPS



We are now taking orders for Easter Tulips. These can be purchased in honor and/or in memory of loved ones and will be used to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Day, Sunday, April 21. These plants may be taken home after church on Easter Day. The cost is \$10 each. **[Order deadline is Sunday, April 14]**

Your Name: _____

Number of Tulips: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Library-By-Mail for Homebound and their Caregivers

In case you missed this article in last month's issue of The Viewpoint, I thought I'd run this one again:

Did you know that Washington County residents of any age who are unable to visit their local library can apply for mail delivery service of library materials and information free-of-charge? Reading helps the homebound participate in current events and promotes brain wellness.



To qualify for this service, the person must be homebound due to a physical/mental impairment of 6 months or more, be the caregiver of a homebound person, or reside in a residential, assisted living or nursing care facility.

For more information call 503-648-9785 or visit wccls.org/homebound.

Give a gift to your community: Sign up to Volunteer at TES

This is our final month of shelter and we'll be open through March 28. We continue to rely on volunteers and need help with cooking, support mornings and evenings, and loads of other services during shelter season and we're especially in need of volunteers to help with overnight hosting. Shelter is held at FGUCC on Mondays and Tuesdays and at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Cornelius on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7PM-7AM (through the end of March). Please contact Miranda Sommer, Volunteer Coordinator, to sign up via email at fgtempshelter@gmail.com or call 503-329-7019. You can also sign up directly at <https://oldtownfg.com/shelter>. If you have any shelter questions, please talk to Mike Terhorst, TES Site Coordinator.

Women's Spirituality March Gathering

We had a grand time at the "Stars in the Grove" last week, supporting some of our FGUCC members. Now let's try supporting a new Forest Grove business. We will be meeting **Wednesday, March 13th at 6:30 PM** at Guidetti's Kitchen (2311 Pacific Ave.) to make pasta from scratch! Deva will provide her famous tomato sauce. We can bring our own wine, spirits or beer and enjoy our culinary delights that we will be creating ourselves! This comes with a discount price of **\$20** per person.



Please **RSVP** to Sheila Harter by March 10th (e-mail: sheilaharter@hotmail.com). If you have any questions, let us know.

For more information about Guidetti's Kitchen, check out Guidetti's Kitchen at <https://www.facebook.com/guidettiskitchen/>

— Sheila Harter

March 16th: FGUCC Brewery Tour

It is time for our Annual Brewery Tour, brought to you by our Nurture Ministry Team. We will be meeting at the church at **1PM, Saturday, March 16th and the event will go from 1:30-5:30**. Transportation is provided on our church bus for the first 14 to sign up. Childcare will be provided. Please sign up for this event in the Narthex. Hope to see you there!

March 17th: St Patrick's Day Potluck



Our Nurture Ministry Team is hosting the annual St. Patty's Day Potluck and Party, on **Sunday, March 17**, immediately following worship. Bring your favorite main dish or dessert to share. Be sure to stick around after the potluck for fun-filled activities such as the Hunt for the Pot of Gold!

Latourell Falls Day Hike

Join Kristy on **Saturday March 23rd, 10AM** for a day hike at Latourell Falls (located in the Columbia Gorge.) The hike is approximately 2.5 miles. We will meet at the trailhead of Latourell Falls. After the hike we will enjoy some food and drink at McMenamins Edgefield. Please sign up if you are interested.

Your Help Is Needed!

There are several events coming up for the month of March and we are in need of some helping hands. Please look for the **NEW** sign-up board located in the narthex. If you are interested in helping with any of the events posted, please sign up with your name, email or phone number under the area of interest. We will contact you immediately to give you more details on the event. It takes a village and we look forward to doing ministry together with you!



Youth Bowling Trip

All youth K-12 are invited to go bowling, **Sunday, March 10th after worship**. Lunch and transportation will be provided. This event will go from Noon-2PM. Cost is \$8 per child. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. For more information or if you have questions, contact Kristy.

VBS 2019—Mark Your Calendars!

We have decided on a date for Vacation Bible School. Please mark your calendars for August 5-9, 2019. Ages 5-12 are welcome to participate. We are in need of Adult & Teen Volunteers. Please contact Kristy if you are interested in helping.

Volunteer Opportunity with Hosting Family Promise



Our next Family Promise hosting will be **the week of March 10-17**. If you are interested in participating as a dinner host, overnight host or driver, please contact Myra Beeler to volunteer.

Contact Information: Home Phone: 503-648-1274; Cell: 503-260-6405; Email: mymiperi@comcast.net

A Special Volunteer Opportunity



Their Rights, Your Voice! Who advocates for seniors who can no longer advocate for themselves? Certified Ombudsman Volunteers! Please join Oregon Long-Term Care Ombudsman as they advocate for the rights and dignity of residents in long term care. Volunteers enjoy the flexible hours and local training. They

work independently and advocate for the resident, educate families and staff about resident rights, and resolve quality of care issues. Find out more about this meaningful and important program. Volunteers are needed in our community. Contact Sally Carter, Certified Ombudsman Volunteers at 503-469-8353 or visit www.oregon.gov/lcco.

Prayer Requests, Concerns & Joys

Thanks have been received:

Dear Friends, Thank you so much to all who attended and those who helped with the memorial service for my mom, Ann Thompson, especially Pastor David, Elena, the musicians and reception crew. I am very grateful for your prayers, and for the kindness you showed to her and continue to show to me. — Blessings, Sue Armentrout

Dear Folks, Thank you for inviting, and giving us the opportunity to provide information about the Shelter Box organization. Knowledge is the beginning and seed to grow from our community to the world. We gratefully accept the donations given at the luncheon and have used it to bless others. — Sincerely, Pamelajeane and Jeannine

- Continued prayers for Yvonne Stacey's recovery. She's now home and is open to limited and short visits (**please call first to make arrangements.**) Cards are always appreciated as well. (223 S. Linden Street, Cornelius, OR 97113)
- Our hearts go out to Louise Rose and her family upon the death of her husband, Doug Rose, on Wednesday, February 13. Doug was our associate pastor here at FGUCC from 1974-1979. His memorial service is next **Saturday, March 9, 3PM** at Parkrose UCC. Cards to the Rose family can be mailed to 2343 N.E. 148th Place, Portland, OR 97230. Please keep the Rose family in your prayers.
- 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, 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, Ruth Holznagel, Alice Hoskins, Dick & Lois Johnston, Carlene & Herb Krueger, Jobina Lacock, Stephanie Lind, Renee Mills, Paul & Linda Minor, Jean & Bob Nixon, Stella Schrag, Holly Vann and her family, Tom Wallsteed, Dottie & Loren Waltz, Betty Wedell, John & Mary Welch, 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!

FGUCC Visitation Ministry: The mission of our FGUCC Visitation Ministry is to help 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 Bohlmeyer, Visitation Ministry coordinators.



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? Please join us to make prayer shawls this month on **Wednesdays, March 6 and 20 from 2-4PM** in Fellowship Hall. 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.



—Blessings, Dottie Waltz

Best wishes to all of you celebrating birthdays in March!

Christine Kidd—2
Tori Eaton—3
Sue Groszmann—4
Jimmy Houx—7
Yvonne Stacey—9
Peggy Alexander—10
Drew Horn—11
Kristy Haines—14
Georgia Carey—15
Lois Johnston—16
Ben Lawrence—16
Michael Colvin—18
Craig Karge-Moritz—22
Hannah Timm—22
Dick Johnston—25
Paul Edwards—26
Piper Ramirez—30



First Sunday for Elijah's Barrel



THANK YOU for making this ministry a success! Anytime during the month you can bring donations such as 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 and we deliver your donations to them at the beginning of each month.

PLEASE NOTE: We are looking for volunteers to help with this ministry, so if you are interested, please talk to Elena. Thanks to all who continue to make sure that this important ministry continues!

First Sunday Recycling With BEST Team

Please bring your Styrofoam and all **#6 plastics** to us on the first Sunday of the month (**March 3 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

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Lenten offering will begin soon! This year's theme is *"More than we can imagine."* Watch the bulletin and website for ideas. Offering will be taken on Palm Sunday, April 14.

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

Help Wanted for FGSD Students!

We need food or cash donations to provide food Backpacks for food insecurities of Forest Grove School District students. We have 101 students in the project and we serve these students each week throughout the school year.



Food Donations Needed:

Milk (shelf-safe, 1 quart carton)
Peanut butter (10 oz. plastic jar)
Jelly (18 oz. plastic bottle)
Spaghetti pasta (1 lb. package)
Rice A Roni (10 oz. box)
Canned veggies* (15 oz. can, including green beans, corn, kidney beans)
Applesauce (4 oz. cup)
Fruit snacks (1 oz. pouch)
Granola Bars (2-bar pouch)
Mac & Cheese (2 oz. cup)
Vienna Sausage (4.6 oz. can)
Potato sides (4 oz. packet)
Raisins (1 oz. pack)
Chunk light tuna (6.5 oz. can)
Canned Chicken (6.5 oz. can)
Cheese crackers (.75 oz. bag)

Contact Alice Custodio amcust@gmail.com (Forest Grove Elks Lodge, 503-357-2440.)

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)

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