



# The Viewpoint

News From the Forest Grove United  
Church of Christ

August 2019

## From the Pastor

For my study time participating in Summer Fishtrap at Wallowa Lake I was part of a workshop led by the wonderful Perrin Kerns. Our focus and practice was “The Lyric Essay”—something largely defined by not being the classic linear declarative essay. The explicit content of a lyric essay may include stories, information, word paintings, etc. But whatever that content may be, the essay is also about opening spaces and juxtapositions that invite the reader in. The lyric essay hopes to engage the reader in dialogue and questions.

Our call to worship or invocation prayer invites us to be fully present as we gather on Sunday mornings. It reminds us that our unity is a gift of God’s grace. It asks and readies us for the Spirit opening us to new possibilities, new creations arising from our choice to be together in this time and way.

Lyric essay can be written around many different structures. One we worked with is the “braided essay.” In this, two or more distinct strands weave in and out, perhaps never explicitly connected, but chosen and arranged to invite the reader to explore the space between.

In our tradition, music is always a part of worship. The hymns and anthems may be chosen to echo some words or theme from the day’s scripture. Those words or themes set in this different context offer angles on God’s word different from the sermon. They offer space for dialogue below the level of words alone—interaction with our breath, our emotions, even our bones when the organ pours on the bass notes!

Probably the best writing takes the reader to some vantage point. It says, look there and over here. Do you see...? At this point a traditional essay might feel done, look here and no further. Or it might go on to direct you how to respond. The lyric essay offers a view of the territory—the stories, information, questions, then opens the space even wider, inviting you to look all the way around, to respond in ways as varied as its readers and sometimes as consequential as the choice at a fork in the road.

Sermons may have many modes and goals. It’s good to take us deeper into the historical setting of the text. From that, certain parallels to our times and lives may jump out. Others may take more probing. Our faith is in a God both intimate as the incarnate Jesus and also transcendent

and utterly beyond the limits of our comprehension and imagining. This faith asks for sermons that dwell in both clear witness to our experience and in unknowns and possibilities. Our faith invites open-ended response.

The workshop offered a great gift of doing lots of writing together with a dozen other gifted writers from varied and fascinating backgrounds. Perrin's great gift was inviting and stretching us with marvelous writing prompts. We didn't do much critique, but we did read drafts to each other and I delighted to hear such fine writing and to receive good encouragement for mine.

Our offering of prayers, of money, of all the cards with wonderful gifts we ponder, choose, and place in the plate, all of this is a celebration of God's presence throughout our daily lives. As we've been invited into the always open-ended questions of our faith, so we also offer concrete specific commitments and practice in response.

The Summer Fishtrap week also included "craft talks" offered to everyone by some of the workshop leaders. Perrin's husband, Kim Stafford (current poet-laureate of Oregon) worked us through some insights from Ursula K. LeGuin's book on writing *Steering the Craft*. One of his comments as I recall was that a start at writing simply aims at or hopes for "a promising draft." I feel deeply blessed to have come away with several promising drafts and renewed commitment to the practice that refines those drafts and keeps more coming.

Worship closes with benediction. Our time together has not solved the world's problems. We ourselves are not so much transformed in this hour together as we are newly able to see the ways God's Spirit has been and is at work constantly working toward transformations both large and small. Our worship is one step, one stop to survey the territory, and one step more on our journey. We return into our daily lives blessed and bearing God's blessing for all we meet.

Blessings always, Pastor David

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## Pastoral Search Update

The search committee is moving forward with our task of finding FGUCC's next settled pastor. We have received a total of 18 applicants. The committee has been meeting every other Monday to review these applicants. At this point we have separated them into those that we like, those that are not a good fit and those that we are still undecided about. We are starting to schedule interviews with those that we like and are reaching out to get more information for those few where we are undecided. The search committee humbly requests your continued prayers for God's grace and clarity as we interview our candidates.



If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to members of the FGUCC Selection Committee: Eric Murphy, Ken Prickett, Leo Barrett, Myra Beeler, Winnie Beu, Val Evers and Terri Wyborny.

## Senior Lunch and Program, Monday, August 12 at noon



You are invited to our Summer Senior Lunch and Program on **Monday, August 12 at noon**. Our guest speaker is Sherry Logan, an avid hiker and retired teacher from Forest Grove. The program is entitled: “Madagascar, Poorest of the Poor.” Sherry will be sharing her personal story about her visit to Madagascar and how it changed her life. It's not too early to let us know you plan to attend. **Please sign up in the narthex today.** Otherwise, call Elena at church **503-357-9121** or email the church office to make your reservation **elena@fgucc.org**.

**All are welcome!** We hope that those younger than 50 will also attend—you do NOT have to be a senior to join us for lunch and/or programs! For those who join us for the lunch, we appreciate a donation of \$5.00. Lunch is at 12:00 noon and the program will begin at about 12:40 PM. If you'd like to share lunch and future programs with us, please call Elena Parker at 503-357-9121 so we can add you to the calling list.

**NOTE:** If you want to attend only the program, come at 12:30 PM. The program is FREE!

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Our Lunch is on a Monday this time, not our usual Tuesday!

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## Forest Grove Peace Village

**August 13-16 at Forest Grove UCC**

This is a wonderful opportunity for students entering 6-9th grades!



Peace Village will take place at **Forest Grove UCC Tuesday-Friday August 13-16 from 8AM-3PM**. Peace Village teaches skills in conflict resolution, empathy, creating inner peace, connecting with the natural world, and collaborative leadership through engagement in fun daily activities with music, art, nature, mindfulness, non-competitive play, and exploration of media. Cost: \$135 (**Scholarships available.**)

This event is hosted by the two Rotary Clubs of Forest Grove. To apply please visit: [http://bit.ly/FGPV\\_App](http://bit.ly/FGPV_App). For more information contact Ali Hudson at [FGPeaveVillage@gmail.com](mailto:FGPeaveVillage@gmail.com). **Volunteer Opportunities available!**

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you! Elena

## Vacation Bible School Week Starts August 5!

**VBS is August 5-9, 9AM-Noon** for children ages 5-12. The week will be filled with songs, games, crafts and several activities that will center around the theme, *Let's Go Camping!* Snacks will be provided for all participants.

**COST:** The cost is \$25 per child, and \$50 max per family. Checks can be made out to FGUCC. (Please make note in check memo line: "VBS".) All participants are required to fill out a registration and liability form.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Teen volunteers (ages 13-18) are welcome to help. Also, adult volunteers will be needed as well. Please sign up with Kristy in advance.

We're all looking forward to another FUN VBS week here at Forest Grove UCC! Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you! Kristy Haines, Coordinator of Spiritual Formation



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## Service music for Sunday, August 25 will be provided by

Classics A La Carte. The group consists of Annette Ewing on keyboard, Phyllis Brinkerhoff on tenor and alto recorders, and Jane Romig on flute and tenor recorder. They specialize in early music of the Baroque and will play selections from J. B. Loeillet's "Sonata in g minor Op. 1" and "Sonata a tre con Fluto e Hautboy." Please join us for worship and this special music on Sunday, August 25 at 10AM.

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## Choral Concert to be presented Sunday, September 22, 4:00 PM

The Lutheran Choral Association continues its 82nd season with a concert directed by Sue Thompson Armentrout here at Forest Grove UCC on **Sunday, September 22, 4PM**, with a reception to follow. The repertoire is broad, with music from traditional choral to down home gospel, from tender to majestic, with a variety of talented composers. There is no charge for admission. (A free will offering will be taken.)

The choir has members from more than 80 churches and several denominations from the Vancouver/Portland area. It has sung continuously since 1938. Sue Thompson Armentrout directs the choir, accompanied by Karl Jurisons. Four other area concerts will be given through October 6 in the metropolitan area, so if you're unable to attend the September 22 concert, you will have several other opportunities. (For dates and times, check the schedule on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.)



For more information call Elena in church office at 503-357-9121 or the choir president at 360-690-6940. For more information about The Lutheran Choral Association, go to [www.lutheranchoral.org](http://www.lutheranchoral.org).

## UCC Central Pacific Conference Annual Gathering 2019

We're excited to let you know that this year's Annual Gathering will take place at Pacific University and will conclude with worship on Sunday morning here at Forest Grove UCC. All are encouraged and welcome to attend and participate in this Annual Gathering the weekend of September 27-29. The theme of this year's event is "Though Many Parts, We're One Body." For complete information and to register, go to: <https://mailchi.mp/cpcucc/2019-cpc-annual-gathering-july-2019-1-3015041?e=fb9e8ea40c>

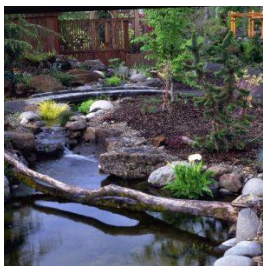
### Would you like to be a Bed & Breakfast Host for our Annual Gathering?

Do you have a guest room? Would you like to host folks from our UCC Central Pacific Conference for the Annual Gathering the last weekend in September? Before we started meeting in Pendleton (where we don't have a UCC presence) our Conference meetings always offered the option of home stays with church families. As Annual Gathering comes to Forest Grove this year, hosted at Pacific University, we're resuming home stays, with a slight twist. We're asking those who are able and willing to treat this as a paid B&B stay, \$50/night, as a fundraiser for the host church. That would be us, if you are able and willing to host! Please talk to David or Elena if you're interested. **Thank you to all the families who have volunteered to date!**



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## Northwest Regional Women's Retreat: Wade in Water November 1-3 at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton, Oregon

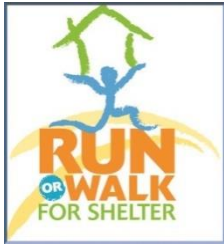


This year the Northwest Regional Women's retreat will be held at the **Oregon Gardens in Silverton, Oregon November 1-3**. You are especially going to love our keynote speaker — a God-loving dynamo named Kristy Haines, and worship will be led by Pastor Jennifer Yocum. There will be nine workshops to choose from and this retreat takes place in a lovely setting — we have the entire 80 acres. This is a wonderful opportunity to get away to a lovely place, get inspired through words, worship and workshops, and meet other amazing women from UCCs all over Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

To register go to [www.nrwr.us](http://www.nrwr.us). To make your room reservations call the Oregon Gardens Resort at **503-874-8100 or 877-674-2733**. Last but not least, find an FGUCC buddy to carpool with. Questions? Speak with Sandy Freeman (503) 840-8289 or Amber Hoodenpyl (503) 201-3648.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If you need transportation or can provide transportation, please sign-up in the Narthex. Also, if you need a roommate or are sharing a room with a buddy, please let us know this information on the sign-up sheet as well.

## Run or Walk for Shelter



Save the date for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 5k or 1 mile Run-Walk for Shelter on **Saturday, October 5, 9:00 AM** at Forest Grove High School. This is a good opportunity to connect with friends, family and neighbors as we come together in support of the Winter Shelters in both Forest Grove and Cornelius. Registration is FREE. Donations welcome. Register to participate, volunteer or sponsor at [www.runorwalkforshelter.com](http://www.runorwalkforshelter.com)

Interested in helping out in other ways at the event? Talk to Elena or check for more information at <https://communityconnectionwest.org/events>

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## Prayer Requests, Concerns & Joys



Please remember Betsy and Rob Foster as Betsy is dealing with some new health concerns. Please remember Ken and Bette Prickett as Ken faces surgery for a heart valve replacement. Please remember Carol and Ralph Brown as Carol recovers from recent back surgery. Please remember BJ and Dick Bower as BJ continues recovery from shoulder surgery. Continued prayers for Stephanie and Paul Edwards and their daughter, Sherry, as she continues treatment for multiple myeloma cancer; and for Bob Browning as he's recovering from recent surgery.

Please continue to remember Herb Krueger as he navigates long term health concerns and is still in hospice care at the Forest Grove Marquis. Herb's family is open to support and prayer, and visits are very welcomed and encouraged!

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, Stephanie & Paul Edwards, Lillian Gimre, Sue & Max Groszmann, Ruth Holznagel, Alice Hoskins, Dick & Lois Johnston, Jobina Lacock, Dick Lane, Renee Mills, Paul & Linda Minor, Peg Nigbor, Jean & Bob Nixon, Yvonne Stacey, Holly Vann and her family, Tom Wallsted, Betty Wedell, John & Mary Welch, and any other friends and family of our church, not named here.

- 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

**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!

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

## Prayer Shawl Knitting Summer Schedule

We are looking for new people to knit or crochet prayer shawls with us, and men are welcome to participate too! For the month of August we meet only once on **Wednesday, August 7 from 2-4PM** in Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to learn how to knit, we can show you how. 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



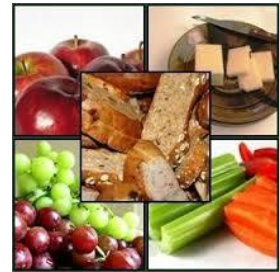
## Reiki Circle

Our next Reiki Circle gathering will be on **Friday, August 2 at 6:30 PM** in the Choir Room. Please let Renee Mills know if you're planning to attend. She can be reached on her cell by text or voice mail at 503-314-4855.

## Simple Summer Fellowship Hour

We need hosts for fellowship hours August –December. Fellowship hour is pretty simple to manage and we'd love to help if you're interested but have never hosted before. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

**Snacks & Coffee for Fellowship Hours**—We need coffee and snacks for fellowship hours, i.e. crackers, cookies, etc. You can bring to church anytime during the week or on Sundays. If you're interested in hosting one Sunday, please sign up in the narthex. Thank you!



## First Sunday for Elijah's Barrel



**New:** For the month of August we are focusing on the collection of pasta, sauces and boxed pasta meals for Elijah's Barrel to bring in each Sunday during the month of August. We will also continue to accept at any time other types of food donations and non-perishable items and paper products (toilet paper, tissues, and paper towels). Please place them in Elijah's Barrel in front of the bulletin boards in the Narthex. Your donations are taken monthly to the Food Pantry at St. Anthony's Catholic Church as they help supply food boxes to low income families in the Forest Grove Community.

## BEST Team News

**The Sharing Table**—The BEST Team (Be Earth Stewards Today) will continue to set up the sharing table on Sundays. Bring in any surplus produce to share with other members of the congregational community. Some produce has been brought in! Any unclaimed produce will be taken to the Forest Grove Food Bank.



## Welcome Garden Update (as of July 25)

The following details what is in each garden box and what is ready to harvest: The **Walker Box** (also known as the Herb Box) has lavender, rosemary, sage, Greek oregano, English thyme (all ready to pick) and some broccoli and mint ready to pick. In the **Standup Box** (the tallest garden box) are Chioggia beets which are ready to harvest, an eggplant, a couple of tomato plants with lots of little green tomatoes and broccoli. The **Wheelchair Box** has chives ready to harvest, snowball cauliflower, tomato super fantastic with a small one ready to pick, lettuce (red sales), cilantro, Chinese red cabbage, Greenleaf lettuce (ready to pick), Brussel sprouts and collards. The **Sit Down Box** is planted with summer squash with lots of flowers, pole beans growing like crazy, eggplant, yellow zucchini, strawberries almost ready, several different kinds of tomato plants and green zucchini. As you can tell the garden boxes were configured as an accessibility demonstration for the Forest Grove Community. All are "Welcome" to harvest produce as they ripen. We will attempt to keep a few produce bags attached to the Welcome Garden sign.

— Paul Edwards for BEST Team

## First Sunday Recycling With BEST Team



Please bring your Styrofoam and all #6 plastics to us on the first Sunday of the month (August 4 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. For the complete list of other items we will recycle for you please check the sheet in the narthex or go to [www.fgucc.org](http://www.fgucc.org)

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

- 1—Kristin Ludwig
- 2—Winnie Beu
- 2—Phoebe Edwards-Leeper
- 4—Pamelajean Myers
- 5—Zoe Bichsel
- 6—Carol Benner
- 6—Rob Foster
- 10—Elaine Bohlmeyer
- 14—Stephanie Edwards
- 23—Eric Murphy
- 25—Brandi Frye
- 26—BJ Jones
- 26—Naomi Frye
- 30—Nathan Lawrence
- 31—Caia Bowen





## 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!



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



Thank you to everyone for faithfully 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. Every 10 cents redeemed per bottle/goes to the Senior High Mission Trip Fund. Thanks for your ongoing support of our youth!

**DON'T FORGET!** Before you recycle or throw out that bottle — since the Bottle Expansion Bill that went into effect in 2018 we are also able to redeem almost any bottle 1.5 liters or smaller (except for wine bottles).

— Kristy Haines

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## Save these Dates for Upcoming Events!

- Vacation Bible School: **Monday-Friday, August 5-9**
- Choral Concert with Lutheran Choir, Sue Armentrout conducting, Sunday, **September 22, 4:00 PM** in the Sanctuary
- Central Pacific Conference Fall Gathering (September 27-29 at Pacific University and Forest Grove UCC)
- Run-Walk for Shelter on **Saturday, October 5** at FGHS
- Movie + Noodles: Life is Fruity, at FGUCC, **Saturday, October 5, 5:30 PM**
- Caring for our Community Auction **Saturday, November 23**



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## To Keep Up on the Happenings of FGUCC

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

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## Summer Office Schedule

Office hours June-August are Monday-Thursday from 9AM-4PM. The office is closed on Fridays.

# **Forest Grove UCC Staff**

## **FGUCC Moderator**

Sandy Freeman — sfreeman@teleport.com

## **Interim Minister**

David Zaworski—ddzinterim@gmail.com

## **Coordinator of Spiritual Formation**

Kristy Haines—kristy@fgucc.org

## **Office Manager**

Elena Parker—elena@fgucc.org

## **Sexton**

John Davis—sexton2862@gmail.com

## **Parish Nurse**

Deva Harris-Williams—fguccparishnurse@gmail.com

## **Stephen Ministry**

Jeannine Murrell—wyzone@aol.com

Renee Mills—millsrenergy@yahoo.com

## **Director of Sanctuary Choir**

Laura Frye—lajanefrye@gmail.com

## **Organist and Piano Accompanist**

Paul Minor—Pminor@easystreet.net

Joannah Ball—joannahball@gmail.com

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

Geneva Houx—geneva.houx@gmail.com

## **Director of Gospel Singers**

Open

## **Director of Strong Wings**

Open

## **Director of Jubilate Handbell Choir**

Cameron Heilman—heil6014@g.pacificu.edu

## **FGUCC Librarian:** Open

## **Contact Information**

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Website: [www.fgucc.org](http://www.fgucc.org) ♦ Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fgucc](http://www.facebook.com/fgucc)