



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger July 2020

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WORSHIP THIS JULY

July 5th, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
"I Will Go"

July 12th, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
"The Indiscriminate Farmer"

July 19th, The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
"Let Both Grow Together"

July 26th, The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Romans 8:26-39
"Who Will Separate Us?"
Blessings, *Pastor David*

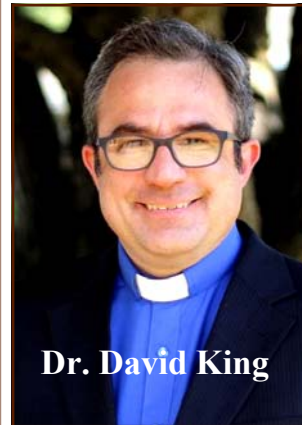
REOPENING, TASK FORCE

The Church Council has elected a Reopening Task Force to work with Rev. Dr. David King on creating a plan to resume gatherings and activities at the church. The Conference, and your leaders, will continue to take a cautious approach and make plans with a mind toward doing no harm. The reopening plan will adhere to guidelines set forth by The Bishop for resumption of activities in a phased sequence, beginning with very small groups who may assemble at the church for limited activities. At present, regular gatherings and activities at the church continue to be suspended pending the creation, and approval by the Conference, of a reopening plan.

The Reopening Task Force is comprised of these persons:

Rev. Rhoda Fuentes, Brian Hawkins, Janet Hummel, Rev. Dr. David King, Doug Scott, and Liz Swenson.

Submitted by: *Church Council*



Dr. David King



Kiahla



Melissa Mimier King



Kaylah



Karthik

OUR NEW PASTORAL FAMILY

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

There is a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens... a time for crying and a time for laughing, a time for mourning and a time for dancing, a time for throwing stones and a time for gathering stones, a time for embracing and a time for avoiding embraces.
Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4-5

Members and Friends of Forest Grove United Methodist Church,

This is a pastoral change unlike any I have experienced before. As a pastor, or as a lay person, I have never seen a change of pastors in the midst of a global pandemic. And yet, that is precisely what we are doing right now.

Usually this would be a time for potlucks, house meetings, and other get-to-know-you events. We might invite you all over to the parsonage for a barbecue. We would be finding all kinds of ways to get together in person to get to know each other.

But of course, these are strange times. Through none of our choice, this is a time not for embracing, but for refraining from embracing. This is a time not for gathering in person, but for keeping our distance.

And that is very challenging for the church to endure. Our great commandment is to love God and our neighbors. Paul said the church is the actual Body of Christ. But it is hard to love our neighbors and to function as Christ's body when we can't get together. We are an organization built on intentional community building. We serve a God who became incarnate in the world, who continues to be incarnated in our lives, in our gatherings, and in our sacraments. There is definitely something missing when we cannot rely on these practices. There is no way of getting around that.

And yet, even in this strange time, we are called to be the church. And that means that we are called to find ways of connecting with each other even when the ways we have relied upon are not currently available. We are called to be creative as we live out the reality that we are the Body of Christ together.

Fortunately, God has provided some amazing technologies to help us. Early Church and many other church groups have been using Zoom as a tool for meeting, and we will continue and expand our use of this tool. It's very flexible. Those of you with computers, tablets, or smart phones can download and set up the app. If you don't want to download the app, you can join a Zoom meeting through your web browser. You can even join a meeting with nothing more than your conventional telephone. Early Church will continue meeting on Sunday at 8:30am through Zoom, we'll be conducting other meetings and gatherings through Zoom, and I'll be offering digital office hours through Zoom.

We'll also be offering another online worship opportunity at the regular 10 a. m. time on Sundays. You'll be able access it live at www.facebook.com/forestgroveumcoregon/live/. It's hosted on Facebook, but you don't need to have a Facebook account to view it and participate. By Sunday afternoon, these services will also be posted on the church website. A text version of my sermon will be posted to the church website as well and mailed out to those of you who don't have internet access.

Melissa has created a quick video introducing you to our family. You can find it at:

<https://youtu.be/KQpKIhaw7-8>.

Thank you so much to those of you who have sent cards and letters of introduction. It is really good to begin to get to know you, even from afar.

There will be a time when we can get back together in person. There will be a time when we can share meals together and offer hugs to one another. There will be a time when we can give Pastor Dan and Laura the in-person send-off they deserve. And when we can, we will do all those things.

Until then, empowered by the creativity of the Holy Spirit, we will find all the ways we can to connect, to know God, build community, and impact the world.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor David

+ Pastor David

From the Altar to the World

Some day in the not too far distant future we will once again be able to gather as an in-person congregation. On that grand and glorious day, we will be seeing friends and fellow worshippers in person for the first time in months. We will be meeting a new pastor as worship leader. I can picture the arms eager to hug and shake hands. It will still be important to be cautious as we not only open the church, but open our arms. We are an older congregation so there are lots of people who have fragile immune systems and not all of them are oldsters. Here are a few hints of how we can hug one another in the safest manner possible. First some don'ts:

Don't hug face to face with people of vastly different heights. There's too much opportunity for breaths to mingle.

Don't hug cheeks together facing the same direction (side by side). If you're looking in the same direction there is a high risk of the other person's exhaled breath being in your breathing zone.

Do hug facing in opposite directions. Turn your faces in opposite directions and be wearing a mask.

Do let children hug you around the knees or waist.

Do kiss your grandchild on the back of the head. (If you're like me, it will have to be the grandchild kissing the grandmother on the back of the head – my over 6-foot guy blows a kiss in my direction as he leaves. That works too.)

While I've aimed these hints toward the future, they are safe to use right now as well. But do remember that getting too excited about returning to what we think of as normal social interaction, can set the whole community backward. Be careful and always ask the other person if you can hug them in a safe manner.

We will be following guidelines formulated by our bishop with the expectation that all churches will be wise in opening and finding ways of expressing our joy at being together. Keep your masks close by and be sure you bring it to church – I'm sure we will provide for those who do not have masks or forget to bring them.

Here's to being together and happy hugging . .

Retired deacon, *Rhoda Pittman Fuentes*

CASCADIA DISTRICT GRANT

This spring every United Methodist church in the Cascadia District received a \$500 grant from the Cascadia District Church Extension Society to be used to help needy folks affected by the pandemic. After deliberation, the Church Council agreed to distribute this grant in the form of \$50 gift grocery cards to persons connected with our parish, to be identified and given by the pastor.

These distributions were made, confidentially. The recipients were, primarily, un or underemployed part time and gig economy workers in various industries who had not, at the time, received any unemployment assistance from the state, along with several additional people in immediate need of food assistance. These recipients, without exception, expressed deep gratitude for the gift cards, and several promised, in the future when they are able, to pay the gift forward.

Submitted by: *Church Council*

The People of the United Methodist Church

Who We Are

Constitutional Structure:

The United Methodist Church does not have a central headquarters or a single executive leader. Duties are divided among bodies that include the General Conference, the Council of Bishops and the Judicial Council. Each of these entities is required by our Constitution, a foundational document, to be part of our structure, and plays a significant role in the life of the church.

General Conference:

The General Conference, the primary legislative body of The United Methodist Church, is the only body that speaks officially for the church. Meeting once every four years to determine legislation affecting connectional matters, it is composed of no fewer than 600 and no more than 1,000 delegates.

Working within the boundaries of the Church Constitution and General Rules, the General Conference defines and fixes the conditions, privileges and duties of church membership; the powers and duties of elders, deacons, diacanal ministers and local pastors; and the powers and duties of annual conferences, missionary conferences, charge conferences and congregational meetings. It authorizes the organization, promotion and administrative work of the church. The General Conference also defines the powers and duties of the episcopacy, authorizes the official hymnal and book of worship, provides a judicial system and procedures, initiates and directs all connectional enterprises of the church and enacts other legislation for the operation of the church. [Learn more.](#)

Council of Bishops:

The Council of Bishops gives general oversight of the ministry and mission of the church and spiritual leadership to the entire church connection. Composed of all active and retired bishops, the council meets as a group at least once a year.

Bishops are elected by Jurisdictional Conferences and assigned to a particular area, made up of one or more annual conferences. Each bishop provides oversight of the ministry and mission of annual conferences in his or her area and appoints all clergy to their places of service.

Through its Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, the council builds and maintains ties with other Christian denominations as well as other faith groups. [Learn more.](#)

Judicial Council:

As the denomination's highest judicial body or "court," the Judicial Council's nine members, made up of laity and clergy, are elected by the General Conference and normally meet twice a year to consider whether actions of the various church bodies adhere to the constitution and follow the rules outlined in the Book of Discipline.

Their cases are generally referred to them by action of the Council of Bishops, the annual conferences or the General Conference. According to the Constitution, decisions of the Judicial Council are final (Paragraph 57, Article III). [Learn more.](#)

Submitted by: www.UMC.org

“FEAR TURNS TO HOPE”

Pentecost, which was celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter Sunday, May 31st, is the beginning of the longest season of our church calendar, with Sundays designated as the 1st... 2nd... 3rd... (and so on).

The Sunday after Pentecost, ending with the first Sunday of Advent, is the longest season of our church calendar, sometimes referred to as the ‘Ordinary Season’. Calling it “ordinary” in year 2020 seems a major incongruity, but we forget that there were major incongruities from the beginning with the first Pentecost.

Prior to the descent of the spirit in a spectacular way on the Apostles and followers of Jesus, things were also far from normal. Prior to the coming of the Spirit the followers of Jesus were gathered in sequestered locations fearful and confused, not knowing what the future would bring. But the spirit came in such a way, as to bring them out of the state of confusion and to speak confidently of Jesus and His teachings.

The word spoken by Jesus the night before His arrest, recorded in scriptures, were spoken to His faithful Disciples a number of days before Pentecost, but I am sure as they spoke to the crowds on that day these words were ringing in their collective memories.

*“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.
In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
John 16:33*

With the confusion and feelings of isolation in this extraordinary time of the “Covid 19” virus and the demonstrations and the riots. It easy to feel confused cut-off and fearful. Remember the words spoken by Jesus, he has overcome the troubles of this world so that we might take heart and have inner peace. When we take to heart the words of Jesus that He conquered the world, even in death, we come to our own Pentecost and confidently declare our own hope even in the face of fear.

Peace and hope to all of you!

Submitted by: *Rev. Dexter Danielson* (Ret.)

ON SITE AT FGUMC, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Working toward partnerships with community groups, we have a growing list of organizations meeting at church facilities. If you come by the church buildings at any given time this summer, you may have opportunity to smile and greet folks from:

- Yoga Class (Room 8A) Mondays 4:00 p.m.
- Harmony Masters Barbershop Chorus, (Sanctuary) Tuesday evenings
- Guy Talk Conversation (Garden Room) 9:00-10:00 a.m. Wednesday
- Senior Exercise, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall) Wednesday and Friday
- Music Bridge activity for July will be to continue to serve Memory Care units by conducting Zoom music video calls. And starting, once a month an offering that could serve the Forest Grove community via Zoom, a sing and play along.
- Born Again NA, support group, (8B) 7:00 pm Saturday
- Forest Grove Montessori School (Classrooms), summer interim prep for fall
- Food Pantry Garden (Garden), daytime, elves and gnomes among the vegetables
- Community Playground, daytime any day of the week

Also, please note that we have changed our office hours to Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Submitted by: *Editor*



<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78092131808?pwd=cjlvTHRJTnFIYm9DTE9tR0lxd0YwUT09>

MUSIC BRIDGE

SECOND FRIDAY OF
THE MONTH ON-LINE
ZOOM SING AND
PLAY ALONG



MUSIC BRIDGE
CONNECT TO HEALTH AND COMMUNITY

MUSIC BRIDGE IS OFFERING A ONCE A MONTH SING AND PLAY ALONG ZOOM MEETING

Music Bridge, continuing to build health and community connections through music engagement, is beginning a free once a month Community Sing and Playalong on Zoom. We will be offering this 35-minute group on the first Friday of the month, starting on July 10 from 1:30-2:05pm. The way to attend this group is to click on this Zoom meeting link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78092131808?pwd=cjlvTHRJTnFIYm9DTE9tR0lxd0YwUT09> at the top of the page.

screen on or off, depending if you want to be seen or not. I will be able to unmute folks in the beginning and end of the singalong for greetings and closing comments. During the singalong, however, I will mute everyone, except for myself so that everyone can hear my accordion and voice leading each song. People are encouraged to singalong, playalong or just listen. The lyrics and chords will be shared on the screen to make it easy to participate in the comfort and privacy

be muted, you can sing or play as you like, without fear of being heard. The focus and goals of this singing group are to have fun, feel good and see some friendly faces!

Add this link to your calendar! Friday July 10th, 1:30 - 2:05 p.m.

Please use the link at the top of the page.

Password: 3yis1i

Here are some of the benefits of singing:

- ❖ Singing can boost the immune system.
- ❖ It is an excellent form of exercise for your lungs.
- ❖ Singing strengthens your diaphragm and stimulates blood circulation.
- ❖ Improving blood circulation, singing assists more oxygen to reach the brain. This improves mental alertness, concentration, and memory.
- ❖ Singing is known to release endorphins, the feel-good brain chemical that makes you feel uplifted and happy.
- ❖ Singing is fun and can help our minds, hearts and bodies feel more playful!

2020 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Forest Grove United Methodist Church will award three college scholarships this year from our Education Scholarship Fund. Each student will receive \$1000.00.

The recipients are: **Dylan Gunther**, *Oregon State Beaver*; **Matthew Hampton**, *Oregon Duck*, and **Krista Thompson-Aue**, *Wisconsin Badger*. Congratulations to all!

FGUMC Scholarship Committee: **Marion Gustafson, Jerry Hoerber, Karl Swenson, Laura Thompson-Aue, Dan Thompson-Aue**

Submitted by: The *Scholarship Committee*

UPDATE FOR FAMILY PROMISE

A lot has changed over these past months. I will be glad to get back to some normalcy - although I am not sure what that looks like.

I am tired of the isolation and social distancing and look forward to creating some new routines. I am also more grateful for neighbors and friends.

We are just starting to imagine what the new vision for the Family Promise Shelter Program going to look like but we know we will need your support.

There will be changes - some easy and others more complicated as we look at ways to again care for homeless families and their children in a safe supportive environment. Many have found renewed relationships with family and friends. But many are still homeless - and we are looking for ways to begin to accommodate their need for shelter.

I am sorry that we can't invite you into our temporary space YET as we also practice social distancing.

Many of you know that we have re purposed - leased the Shelter House temporarily on a month to month contract for use as a drop-in resource center for Homeless Adults (no children allowed) between the hours of 9 and 5. Monday - Friday. Our Shelter Guests (adults only) come to the day house, sign in, get a hot meal, take showers, do their laundry and often leave with a bag lunch. They are very appreciative of the assistance and referrals provided for them.

This is a temporary situation as we restructure and learn how and where to safely house families and children overnight. Shelter will slowly open again as we re-build a safe, caring community of support.

We have begun to seek grants and funding as we start a new fiscal year on July 1st.

We miss you and hope to be able to be in community shortly and provide for families in need of our care - till then stay connected. We are making a difference in our community.

As soon as we know what our plan looks like we will let you know and invite you into our circle of friends.
Prayerfully, *Annie Heart*

BIRTHDAYS

Fletcher Johnson	July 2 nd
Derek Rose	July 7 th
Ann Ulum	July 14 th
Beth Connell	July 14 th
Cecilia Brungard	July 26 th
Jean Aull	July 28 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Matt & Terri Jones	July 21 st
Matt & Leah Henriksen	July 26 th

CAR PARADE OF GRATITUDE FOR DAN AND LAURA THOMPSON-AUE

Despite the drizzling rain and chill wind, many of FGUMC's congregation decorated their cars and drove into the church parking lot to drop off cards and gifts, sample goodies from Slow Rise Bakery and take their turn speaking to our retiring pastor and wife from their driver's window.

Thirty+ cars (and a number of pedestrians) made their way by with multiple balloons flapping wildly in the breeze. Sherry and John Hayes presented Dan and Laura with the \$250 garden supply certificate and envelope of cash members had contributed. The heartfelt thanks and regrets for losing the Thompson-Aue's, expressed their way into Dan and Laura's hearts. Their seven years with us have seen so many changes, including these odd months requiring social distancing and masks. It certainly was not the end Dan was expecting to his nearly forty years in the ministry. But it was a time to let them know how much their leadership has meant to so many.

Submitted by: *M.J. Nordgren*

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please be sure that the church office has your new address as soon as possible. Thank you.

Submitted by: *Noelle Voepel*
Church Administrative Assistant

CHURCH CORNER

CALVIN GUNTHER

Calvin will be a 10th grader this fall in Forest Grove. He loves science, but was a bit disappointed when his wood-shop class was lost in the Covid-19 lock down. The students had been promised that they would be making a wooden box, and he'd looked forward to that. He had also really enjoyed an art class that taught sketching and the basics of color – what it is and how pigments and colors intermix. And a culinary class. He's not ruling out becoming a chef, he chuckles.

Calvin was born in Portland to Angi and Tim Gunther, the second of their three children: Dylan (just finished his freshman year at OSU), Calvin, and Sadie (who will enter 7th grade this fall). Calvin went to pre-school and kindergarten in Portland before the family moved to Forest Grove. The family enjoys doing things together, such as camping. They don't get to travel far, but they have been to Mexico once. Calvin really enjoyed that.

An avid reader, Calvin especially likes the Harry Potter series. He is an active skateboarder. A special joy is the fun he's had with a video camera his photographer Dad gave him. "It was sort of learn as I go" with the camera, but he has developed his skill to the point that he was asked to create a video of the parsonage and church for our incoming pastor since visiting was a problem for them. For the outdoor shots, Calvin rode his skateboard so he could get a gently moving image of the exteriors. Well done, Calvin! Much appreciated.

Submitted by: *M. J. Nordgren*

SERVING IN JULY

Lay Leader	John Hayes
Altar Guild	Valerie Hawkins
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Nursery Supervisor	TBD
Kitchen Elves	Jan Schrock & Janet Hummel
5 th	
12 th	
19 th	
26 th	

MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.
Build Community.
Impact the World.

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS

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