



# The Viewpoint

News From the Forest Grove United  
Church of Christ

January 2021

## 2020 is in the past.

*“O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.” -Psalm 96:1*

Beloved Community! Robust followers of Jesus! Resilient good news people far and wide! People of all identities no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey! Hallelujah, 2020 is over!!! I'm sure we can all agree in singing hallelujah about that! Let's say it again! Let's sing it from the rooftops! 2020 is over! It's a new year and we rekindle our sense of moving forward into an open future with new possibilities. We get to sing a new song! We embrace the possibility that 2021 will be a little bit lighter on the heart and soul than 2020. We don't know yet, but we embrace that hope and courageously imagine together how to move forward as a community of God. We get to begin anew!

Beginnings are a bit funny. In some sense they're arbitrary. If you look at the church calendar, for instance, it's filled with beginning moments throughout the year, not just at the New Year. The birth of Christ marks a beginning. Easter marks a new beginning. Pentecost marks a beginning. Every moment we receive grace, and that's all of them, there's a new beginning! Maybe that's the point. The reality is that grace is always overflowing! It's always there for us. We can always begin anew, but we forget that. So we have many markers and points in time to wake us up to the truth that we are always being made into something new through the grace always available to us. No matter how difficult last year was, we can still sing a new song as we face into the new year together! We all might have heard the famous Agnes De Mille quote. Truthfully, I forget if I've shared it with you already, but I always think of it in times of new beginnings. She wrote, *“Living is a form of not being sure, not knowing what next or how. The moment you know how, you begin to die a little. The artist never entirely knows. We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap in the dark.”* This is how we move forward into a new beginning. We help each other have courage to take the next leap! If we are using the language of the psalmist, I guess we would say we help each other have courage to sing the new song. When we do that for each other, when we sing that new song going forward, we join our Creator in the work of creation and bringing her new and greater beauty, truth, and Life into the world.

This month we still need everyone's help wrapping up the work of 2020 as we move into 2021. We will be having our annual congregational meeting over zoom on Sunday, January 31. We really need everyone's presence at this meeting so we can sing a new song into the new year. So please mark your calendars! You might also be wondering where I am the first half of this month! I am part of a program called the *Next Generation Leadership Initiative*! This is a 6 year program sponsored by the UCC Pension boards that supports and funds clergy professional development opportunities. I will be away benefiting from a week of professional development from January 5-11 learning team building skills. I continue to be grateful to the NGLI program for connecting me with a cohort of supportive colleagues and programs that strengthen and expand my skills for ministry. I look forward to living into the new beginning that God has in store for us in 2021.

God bless you all and your new beginning!

Love, Brendan

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## Annual Meeting set for January 31, 2021

Our Annual Meeting for the year 2020 has been scheduled for **Sunday, January 31, 2021** via Zoom. Please plan to participate in this important event in the life of your church. (More details to follow in future publications.)



## Annual Reports are due for 2020 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 2020. Please submit your information no later than **Monday, January 11, 2021**, so that we can have Annual Report Books 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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## Budget 2021 is Under Construction

It is budgeting time for 2021, and this is a friendly reminder to return your Pledge Card for 2021 if you have not turned it in to date. Pledges are a vital part of our planning for the year. This is a great time to offer generous support for the future of this church!



Thank you — your help with this is very much appreciated!

—FGUCC Stewardship Team

## \*\*\*A Special “Thank you!” for Auction Success\*\*\*



Thank you, all, who had a part in making our auction successful. Special thanks go to those who donated money to enhance our church.

**Kristy's MacBook:** Wendy White, Robert and Kathleen Lacock, Susan Shepard and Michael Colvin, Myra Beeler, Bonnie McDowell and Phil Zapf, BJ and Dick Bower, Laura and Jerry Frye, Melissa and Blake Timm, Geneva and James Houx, Deva Harris-Williams, Sheila and Chris Harter, Val Evers, Michael and Linda Terhorst, Gail and Rod Burrus, Mary and John Welch, and Yvonne Stacey.

**Completion of handbells repair/refurbishment:** Carol Pauli, Maggie Dickerson, Susan Shepard and Michael Colvin, Melissa and Blake Timm, Sue Armentrout, BJ and Dick Bower, Jane Romig, Laura and Jerry Frye, Melissa and Blake Timm, Heather and Rich Burk, Myra Beeler, Deva Harris-Williams, Sheila and Chris Harter, BJ and Dick Bower, Gail and Rod Burrus, Robert and Kathleen Lacock, Yvonne Stacy, Debi Knox (in honor of Elaine Bohlmeier), Maggie Dickerson.

**John's power washer:** Mary and John Welch, Kathleen and Robert Lacock, Sheila and Chris Harter, Molly Siebert, Ellaine and Steve Whisler.

**175 Envelopes:** Myra Beeler, Deva Harris-Williams, Sandy Freeman, Kathleen and Robert Lacock, Dottie and Loren Waltz, Laura and Jerry Frye, Deva Harris-Williams, Sandy Freeman, Ellaine and Steve Whisler, Wendy White, Sheila and Chris Harter, Maggie Dickerson, Val Donley, Val Evers, Bette and Ken Prickett, Elena Parker, Kelley Brand, Mary and Lily Mullen, Renee Zapf.

**Other donations:** Mike and Pan Moore, Yvonne Stacey, Marcy McDowell, Lurie Kimmerle, Elaine Bohlmeier, Charlotte Bolden, Sandy Freeman, Val Evers, Barbara and Ben Lawrence.

We appreciate each and every one of you for keeping our church the wonderful place that it is.

— **Bonnie McDowell and Deva Harris Williams, Auction Coordinators**

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## To Keep Up on the Happenings of FGUCC

- Check out our **NEW\*** website 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)

\* We are so grateful to Michael Colvin for the many hours spent creating our wonderful new website! Thank you so much, Michael!!!

## Organ Enhancement Project is Underway



A new phase was launched in December of 2020 as we formalized our commitment with Walker Technical, Inc. of Centerville, PA. This culminates several years of gradual, diligent progress by the organ committee. We ironed out the final details and the contract was enthusiastically signed by our moderator Eric Canon. It will take about 10 months to build a new three manual console, add digital voices and then install our project.

The idea was planted in 2014 when Warren Lancaster asked about and offered a gift to consider enhancing our present pipe organ. The most feasible solution was to consider adding digital voices to complement our existing pipe voices. After a company search of six firms, we narrowed the list to three candidates. We visited examples of instruments in California, Texas, and Pennsylvania with our final selection being Walker Technical, Inc. of Pennsylvania.

At several points along the way, the organ committee presented ideas and plans to the Finance and Property Commission and the Executive Board to keep the church informed of the direction of the project and the financial underwriting. Discussions were detailed and discerning, and they have been supportive throughout. The funding is outside the regular budget: 47% came in the form of memorial gifts or in honor of previous members of the congregation, and 50% are gifts made by current members who are organ enthusiasts in addition to their regular pledges. Of the total projected expense (\$179,828) there is 3% remaining to be raised (about \$6,000).

The enhanced organ will have three manuals (keyboards), MIDI capability, new digital ranks of pipes, up-to-date digital memory levels, and control features that ease the organist's work. Antiquated wiring will be replaced. The digital voices will noticeably expand the tonal or color palette. This will enable nuanced, tailored support for worship services, including service music, hymn singing, and choir accompaniment. Organists will be equipped to practice and perform classical organ literature as well as contemporary arrangements. It will serve as a wonderful teaching and concert instrument for the community, church, and university.

We are deeply grateful to numerous individuals whose support makes this possible. We feel it is a "loaves and fishes" experience, a starting with just "five loaves and two fish" from the Lancaster family, increased by the Shotwell and Rauscher memorials, expanded by many other generous members until we DO have the financial resources to make this dream come true. The organ's completion will be a jubilant contribution to the life of our church family after we resume normal gatherings in the building.

### **Organ committee:**

Paul Minor  
Sarah and John Ball  
Loren Waltz  
Myra Beeler

## Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests

- Sympathy—Our hearts go out to the family of Betty Lancaster who passed away on November 20 in Minnesota. Betty and her husband Warren were long-time members of FGUCC. If you'd like to send a message to her family, here's the link to Never-Gone Mortuary in Minnesota: [never-gone.com/Memorials/bettylancaster](http://never-gone.com/Memorials/bettylancaster)
- Prayers for Lois Johnston who has been diagnosed with Covid and is in the hospital.
- Prayers for Lois Ebel who had a major stroke Friday, December 18 and is in hospice care.
- Prayers for Bob Browning who has been in rehab for almost a month following a serious infection in his knee that required surgery several weeks ago.
- Prayers of gratitude for Holly Vann as she tested negative for Covid and is beginning to slowly recover from her illness. Please keep the entire Vann family in your prayers.
- Elaine Foy requested prayers for Benjamine Foy who is going to be spending Christmas alone at the Lemore Naval Air station on lockdown. Prayers for Benjamine and Elaine and the whole family. Thank you!
- Ruth Holznagel—She continues to appreciate contact from us through cards and letters. Ruth is continuing to make slow but steady progress in her recovery. Mailing address: Judson Park Health Center, 2181 Ambleside Dr., Room. A603, Cleveland, OH 44106.

**Continued Prayers**—Prayers of healing and comfort for all who have ongoing concerns, including Winnie Beu, Carol Benner, Marcia Bickford, Bob Browning, Ann and Russ Dondero, Paul and Stephanie Edwards, Lillian Gimre, Max Groszmann, Lois Johnston, Christine & Richard Kidd, Carlene Krueger, Jobina Lacock, Jean & Bob Nixon, Yvonne Stacey, Holly & Sherri Vann and their family, Tom Wallsted, Betty Wedell, and any 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](mailto:fguccpray@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Sharing prayers in worship**—If you would like your personal prayer concerns shared with the community during our on-line worship service on Sunday mornings, please submit them to Brendan via email at [brendan@fgucc.org](mailto:brendan@fgucc.org) by Friday at 6pm with the title "prayer request" in the subject line. You can also text him prayer requests at 401-318-2447 by Friday at the same time.

**Prayer Shawls**—Do you, or someone you know, need a prayer shawl? Please call Elena in the church office to make a request at 503-357-9121 or [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org). The Prayer Shawls are such a wonderful gift—A gift from the heart that touches the hearts of others.

**Prayer Shawl Knitting**—Please join us for knitting this month via Zoom on **Wednesdays January 6 and 20, from 2-4PM**. The link to Zoom will be sent to everyone in the prayer shawl knitting group via email. If you'd like to participate, please call or email Elena.

# Women's Spirit Virtual Book Exchange

Please Join Us for the Women's Spirit Virtual Book Exchange Wednesday, January 6th 6:30pm!

This is always a favorite event, and this year should be nothing different...although it is EVERYTHING different.

Typically this is an in person event where people bring a wrapped book that they have owned and enjoyed and the gift exchange proceeds white elephant style.

We are adapting it to be virtual. Those local and those far away can participate!

To participate please:

1. Find a book that you would like to pass on through the book exchange.
2. Think about 5 "nouns" that this book reminds you of. (One of these nouns will serve as a "vague clue" about the book, just like during the in-person event it is fun to choose a gift by the wrapping paper.)
3. **Email Melissa Timm the title and author of the book AND the 5 "nouns" by December 31st to "[4MelissaTimm@gmail.com](mailto:4MelissaTimm@gmail.com)" Subject line "BOOK EXCHANGE"**
4. Melissa will put together a google slideshow with book covers, "wrapped" with one of the nouns.
5. Log into the Zoom meeting (Link is below)
6. People participating will be numbered, will choose a book by the "noun" wrapping, and then books can be "virtually" stolen twice before they are frozen.
7. When a person "opens" a book, the person who "brought" that book will chime in during the zoom meeting and share a tiny bit about it and why they brought it.
8. After the gathering, it is the person who "brought" the book that will be responsible to get the book to the person who ended up with their book. (You will be emailed who this is). You can do a porch drop off or mail it. If you need help making this delivery, reach out to Melissa for help.

Melissa Timm is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Woman's Spirit Virtual Book Exchange Time: Jan 6, 2021 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting <https://fgsdk12.zoom.us/j/88100603789?pwd=anFjb0lQbW9RczZMeWJJSnVTRjN5Zz09> Meeting ID: 881 0060 3789 Passcode: 197660



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

Lillian Gimre—2	Kent Mueller—4
Lorin Karge Moritz—4	Stella Schrag—6
Ethan Jones—6	Sharon Ronan—8
Tom Epler—12	Gini Petersen—15
Kathleen Lacock—20	Jordan Vann—22
Dottie Waltz—23	Brian Lacock—23



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### Please join us for Virtual Fellowship Hours

Michael Colvin and Susan Shepard are going to continue to be the hosts. A check in time for all will be done at the beginning of fellowship, then "break out room" will be available to discuss the sermon. If interested in hosting, contact Michael who will do a tutorial. This will be an ongoing meeting on Sundays at 11AM, and the room will be open around 10:50. Here's the Zoom link inviting everyone who'd like to join in:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81437926497?pwd=SW05LzhDMDJINzkrR3I1b1A2V2FFdz09>.

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### Would you like to participate in worship?



We continue to miss our congregation's presence and participation in worship, and your involvement would be very appreciated at this time! You are encouraged to record videos of yourselves delivering children's messages, giving the invitation to offering, reading the scripture passage, or providing special music (singing or instrumental). If you're called to enrich our worship services in this way, please

contact Elena, Kristy or Pastor Brendan for more information and to coordinate for the coming Sunday.

### Option for participation in worship

During Phase 1 we continue to offer the opportunity for people to come in to church during the week (Mondays and Tuesdays only) for Kristy to record scripture readings, music etc. If this option appeals to you, please let us know so we can coordinate timing. Otherwise, just send your recording(s) to Kristy by Wednesday mornings at 10AM, so she can edit these into our worship service (kristy@fgucc.org). Thank you!

## Can & Bottle Collection is up and running successfully.



We thank everyone for your enthusiastic response to the new Can & Bottle Collection for our FGUCC youth ministry. Blue bags are available for you to pick up at church. Due to COVID and other safety restrictions that come with returning cans and bottles, we set up an account with the BottleDrop Center which makes it more efficient and easy to donate, and this has been very success for us to date.

Thanks again everyone, for your enthusiastic response to this fundraiser for our youth! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to let us know.

Kristy Haines, Coordinator of Spiritual Formation ([kristy@fgucc.org](mailto:kristy@fgucc.org))

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## Pledges and Contributions



Thank you all for continuing to keep your pledges current during this time. If you normally make contributions or pay your pledge by check, please continue using this method. (Mail checks to FGUCC at P.O. Box 265, Forest Grove, OR 97116.) You can sign up for electronic giving with Vanco, which is a very simple option and setup, and fees are very low (let us know if you'd like more information). You can use PayPal on our church's website at [www.fgucc.org](http://www.fgucc.org).

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Elena at [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org) or (503) 357-9121. Thank you for your generosity and support!

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## Community Blessing Coat Rack is Back!

The coat rack is back up for this winter! The rack is at the Main Street entrance of FGUCC under cover behind the Blessing Box. We are accepting donations of coats, gloves and scarves.

*If you need one, take One – If you can, leave one.*



## We are being called to serve the unhoused

"Open Door," is a day center for our unhoused neighbors in Cornelius that provides morning coffee, a mid-day meal, showers, a place to rest, and other services on a daily basis. They are very much in need of volunteers! Please contact Jeff Shapiro at 503-707-9308 for more information about how and when to volunteer. Thank you!

## Warm Blankets Needed for the Unhoused!

Open Door is in need of blanket donations for our unhoused brothers and sisters as colder weather has arrived. Donations can be dropped off at church or directly to Open Door, M-F from 3-5. Questions, please call or email Elena at (503) 357-9121, [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org). Thank you!

# **Forest Grove UCC Staff**

## **FGUCC Moderator**

Eric Canon—[canonmetals@gmail.com](mailto:canonmetals@gmail.com)

## **Minister**

Pastor Brendan Curran—[brendan@fgucc.org](mailto:brendan@fgucc.org)  
Phone: 401-318-2447

## **Coordinator of Spiritual Formation**

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

## **Office Manager**

Elena Parker—[elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org)  
[503-357-6960](tel:503-357-6960)

## **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 Sanctuary Choir**

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

## **Organist and Piano Accompanist**

Paul Minor—[pminor@easystreet.net](mailto:pminor@easystreet.net)  
Joannah Ball—[joannahball@gmail.com](mailto:joannahball@gmail.com)

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

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

## **Director of Jubilate Handbell Choir**

Cameron Heilman—[heil6014@g.pacificu.edu](mailto:heil6014@g.pacificu.edu)

## **Contact Information**

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