



The Viewpoint

News From the Forest Grove United
Church of Christ

March 2021

“Hallelujah! I give thanks to GOD with everything I’ve got-- Wherever good people gather, and in the congregation.” –Psalm 111 (the message.)

Gratitude Journal Entry, 2/21/21.

I am not going to write yet another sermon or newsletter about the practice of keeping a gratitude journal. It’s been done a lot. Oops! Too late. During this season of Lent we are exploring a variety of spiritual practices that we can all try on as we try to deepen our spiritual lives during the season of Lent. We are looking at, “The Tree of Contemplative Practices.” During these pandemic times, counting and noticing our blessings becomes a necessary survival tool. I imagine we have all been maintaining our well-being throughout this pandemic by practicing gratitude for things we will never take for granted again, and by appreciating the blessings for which we can always give thanks. Making lists and writing about the things we are thankful for in a gratitude journal is a great contemplative practice. It’s definitely on the tree of contemplative practices, but I don’t want to write about gratitude journals right now. I want to take this moment to just say thank you!

Thank you for showing up for each other! We had a record turn-out at our annual meeting. Thank you for staying connected and showing such love and care for each other in so many ways. Thank you for gathering around the fire together at the beginning of Lent and sharing your beautiful intentions. Thank you to those of you who worked tirelessly in helping with the transition to the zoom live platform. Thank you to our musicians who put in countless hours to bring us music recordings that fill our hearts with heavenly harmonies. Thank you for being a church that looks outward to the community and the world, for always being willing to ask real questions about what it means to be the church in our time. This congregation has established such deep roots in the community. This past year I’ve been able to form connections with Pacific University, recently having the opportunity to speak to a class about faith and civic engagement. In January I began serving on the board of Home Plate Youth Services. Attending weekly Homelessness task force meetings has connected me to groups in the community who are caring for the people who need help the most. It’s been easy, in some ways, to form these connections because of all the work this congregation has done over the years. Thank you for being each other’s “secret buddies.” Thank you for creating spaces for growth and enlightenment where we can grow spiritually. Our book study right now is reading, “The

Wisdom Jesus.” Our next book will be, “Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God.” We are having really important, transformative, relevant, and enriching conversations in our study group. All are welcome and encouraged to read along with us! Thank you for being a community so committed to creative engagement and life-long learning. Thank you for the ideas and visions you often share with me of how you think we can best serve the community, especially the underserved. Most of all, thank you for your enormous hearts and for being the hands and feet of Christ in this town. I feel like I could fill a whole gratitude journal with all the ways you are all cause for inspiration and deep gratitude! So I won’t write you another letter about the gratitude journal, but I will let you know that you fill its pages. Keep up the good work church! God loves you so much.

Love, Brendan

Message from your Past Moderator

Hi Congregation!

I’m now past moderator and as stipulated in our constitution I am a member of what we refer to as the HR Team. The HR Team recruits people to the various commissions and ministries of our church. This team has been inactive, but we’re starting up again. As we have seen, even in a pandemic, activities within the church have continued. The world is a place that offers us lots of opportunity to roll up our sleeves and help out, or to care and listen and encourage, or to arrange loving responses, or to touch people’s hearts. For some the calling is to make music, or do errands, to recycle, or gather warm clothing and/or food, or to garden. The HR Team is thus on the lookout for those (YOU!) willing or wanting to become involved. Being unable to gather has disrupted contact between us. We don’t see each other like we did before, but we are finding ways to connect and work together nonetheless. If there’s a group or activity that is calling to you, would you let the HR Team know? We are an open and affirming church, and that applies to activities and service. We want and need YOU! Almost all of what we do is open to everyone, so don’t be hesitant. We’d love to include you in whatever may be calling you. Please let us know.

Eric Canon
(503) 357-3282
canonmetals@gmail.com

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
- Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fgucc
- Subscribe to “This Week

Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests

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- Prayers for Bob Browning as he faces major surgery on Friday, March 5, and will have a long recovery ahead. After surgery he will continue to recover at the EmpRes Hillsboro Health and Rehabilitation Center, and would welcome and appreciate cards. The address is 1778 NE Cornell Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97124
- Prayers of healing for Melissa Turner who recently broke her femur and is facing a difficult recovery.
- Please remember Alice Hoskins as she has some new health concerns. She appreciates calls and cards. (390 East Main Street, Hillsboro, OR 97123, Cell: 503-781-0154.)
- Ruth Holznagel continues to make excellent strides in her recovery and has moved to her own apartment in assisted living. She appreciates remaining in contact through cards and letters. Her new address is: 2181 Ambleside Dr., Ambler Court Apt. 414, Cleveland, OH 44106



Continued Prayers—Prayers of healing and comfort for all who have ongoing concerns, including Winnie Beu, Carol Benner, Marcia Bickford, 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, and any other friends and family of our church, not named here.

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 by Friday at 6pm with the title "prayer request" in the subject line. You can also text him prayer requests at 401-318-2447.

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!

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.

Prayer Shawl Knitting—Please join us for knitting this month via Zoom on **Wednesdays March 3 and 17, 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.

Lay Readers needed for Zoom Live Worship

Since we are now holding worship via Zoom, lay reading will happen live during worship from the comfort of your home. If you're interested in lay reading, let us know so we can schedule a date with you. Thanks!

Call the church 503-357-9121.

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Please join us for Virtual Fellowship Hours!

Michael Colvin and Susan Shepard continue to host fellowship hours. 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 following our Zoom live worship service, 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=SW05LzhDMDJINzkrR3I1bIA2V2FFdz09>.

Best wishes to all of you celebrating birthdays in March

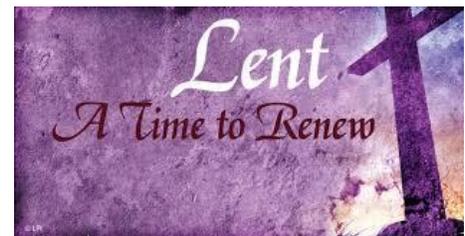
Tori Eaton—3
Jimmy Houx—7
Yvonne Stacey—9
Peggy Alexander—10
Drew Horn—11
Kristy Haines—14
Lois Johnston—16
Ben Lawrence—16
Michael Colvin—18
Craig Karge-Moritz—22
Hannah Timm—22
Paul Edwards—26



Do you want to fast this Lent?

Below is a list, attributed to Pope Francis, of suggested items for fasting this Lent. It is never too late to give something up, nor is there a rule that prevents us from changing our fasting objects during Lent.

- ♥ Fast from hurting words and say kind words
- ♥ Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
- ♥ Fast from anger and be filled with patience
- ♥ Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
- ♥ Fast from worries and trust in God
- ♥ Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
- ♥ Fast from pressures and be prayerful
- ♥ Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy
- ♥ Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
- ♥ Fast from grudges and be reconciled
- ♥ Fast from words and be silent so you can listen



EASTER TULIPS



We are taking orders for Easter Tulips. These can be purchased in honor and/or in memory of loved ones. The cost is \$10 each. **[Order deadline is Sunday, March 28]** More details to follow as to delivery or pickup options.

Your Name: _____

Number of Tulips: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Can & Bottle Collection Update



Thank you everyone for your enthusiastic response to the new Can & Bottle Collection for our FGUCC youth ministry. We have found this to be wildly successful! We are nearing \$300 in our account at this time. Thank you again to everyone participating and contributing to our youth fund. If you are wanting to contribute, blue bags are available for you to pick up at church. For any additional questions please contact the church

office. Thank you!

Kristy Haines, Coordinator of Spiritual Formation (kristy@fgucc.org)

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

For sale

Elaine Bohlmeyer will be moving back to Arizona sometime in April and has the following gently used items for sale, to be viewed and picked up the last week of March/first week of April. 25% of proceeds from anything purchased by a church member (or referred by a church member) will be donated to the church. Will text pictures upon request. Call, text or email Elaine, 503-277-0644, delelaine@comcast.net to discuss.



<u>Item</u>	<u>Suggested price</u>
Baldwin piano and bench	\$400
Stearns & Foster hide-a-bed couch	200
5 1/2' office table	125
Recliner loveseat	100
Maxi-Climber exerciser	75
Mini snow blower	50
desk chair	25
2 two-drawer night stands	35 each
coffee table	30
3-shelf bookcase	50
4 padded folding chairs	10 each
4' folding table	15
card table	10
cedar chest	25
4-drawer file cabinet	35
2-drawer file cabinet	20
shop vacuum	20
snorkeling equipment	10
2 large duffle bags	5 each
1 large duffle bag with wheels	10
wooden retractable pet/baby gate	5
3 garden hoses	5 each
Deck furniture--has some paint chips, but sturdy. Metal crisscross design:	
2 round tables, with glass top	35 each
umbrella that will fit one table	25
4 chairs	20 each
2 lounge chairs	30 each
2 rocking chairs	25 each
12 small end tables	8 each

One Great Hour of Sharing 2021



The theme for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) for 2021 is *“Let love flow”*

Although the 2020 OGHS offering was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Church of Christ, like you and our congregation, pivoted to new ways to remain engaged in our mission.

The COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes and flooding have ravaged communities in the United States and worldwide, leaving families and communities in desperate need of assistance. Some of these disasters have occurred in our hometown, or in nearby communities or to friends and neighbors in countries thousands of miles away, across the globe.

The gifts you give to OGHS are leveraged with those of others across the United Church of Christ bringing a greater impact to the work being done with local and global partners. Your support enables us to respond to a variety of global and local concerns by addressing advocacy, sustainable development, refugee and asylum issues, migration, and disasters, and assisting those most in need and vulnerable among us.

When you share your gifts, you *“Let love flow”* and your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of God’s love continues to change lives here and around the world, as together we build a just world for all.

Together, we allow God’s love to flow through us into the wider world. Thank you for your commitment and gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) which provides assistance to communities both near and far.

How You Can Help:

- You can send a donation to FGUCC to P.O. Box 265, Forest Grove, OR 97116, with a note in the memo line: OGHS 2021. When all donations have been received we write one check to the UCC Central Pacific Conference for distribution to UCC offices in Cleveland.

Forest Grove UCC Staff

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Cameron Heilman—cameronheilman@gmail.com

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