



The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove United
Church of Christ

November 2021

Still Shining!

“Your acts of kindness are iridescent wings of divine love, which linger and continue to uplift others long after your sharing.” -Rumi

Well friends, after another wild and crazy pandemonium of a pandemic year we can rejoice that, together, we are “still shining!” Indeed, “still shining,” is appropriately the theme of our annual auction this year! We are all invited to support our auction this year and celebrate how we are, “still shining,” even as the November fog rolls in, and the dark winter months approach. In this season of giving and thanksgiving we can celebrate how we experience the divine in all the ways we share. Truly, we share everything! We are sharing the water, the air, the soil, with all other forms of life. Indeed we borrow this life from future generations in the ways we steward and care for creation. We even share life in the Spirit! Our faith tells us we see God’s life in acts of sharing like breaking bread. We have our life only in relationship with all other forms of life! We affirm and celebrate the truth of our interrelatedness in all the ways we share, and we practice sharing in so many ways together at Forest Grove United Church of Christ!

This week we are completing our annual stewardship campaign that will sustain the life of our church for the coming year. This month we bless a beautiful new organ brought to us by an enormous sharing effort! This year we have started sharing our space with Second Home and Home Plate, two organizations that provide services to youth in need. Our auction will share some of its proceeds with several groups doing good in our community. Care Partners is an affiliate of the Oregon Nonprofit Hospice Alliance. GG’s House has a food pantry and provides various resources for individuals and families in need in our community. New Narrative Integrative Mental Health is an organization that offers mental health and recovery services. Since the start of 2021 I have been on the board of Home Plate Youth Services. “Home Plate envisions communities where homelessness is a short-term circumstance, not a long term or chronic condition, and youth are supported in their communities!” In the past year our church’s winter shelter became, “The Coalition on Rural Housing Insecurity,” under the Forest Grove Foundation. They continue to serve the needs of the unhoused in western Washington County. All these great community organizations will be our benevolence recipients this year in our, “Still Shining” auction! In all the ways we share, and join in efforts of sharing with our neighbors, we see the light of God, “still shining,” in our world. Thank you! The light of Christ in me sees the light of Christ in you! Keep Shining!

Namaste, Brendan Curran

Organ Dedication November 7



The new Walker organ console and digital voices are now fully installed at Forest Grove UCC! It is lovely and exceeds our hopes for visual and musical enhancement of the sanctuary. We are only beginning to explore the capabilities it makes available – so many new tone colors and textures. The new organ will be dedicated during worship **Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 10:00 am**. You are cordially invited to attend. Music will be provided by several of our church accompanists and musicians.

The FGUCC Organ Story

In April of 1979 the Balcom & Vaughan pipe organ was dedicated along with the new UCC sanctuary and stained-glass window. Featuring three divisions, 33 ranks and 1,720 pipes, this impressive organ was beautifully maintained through the years and has supported congregational singing and worship music ever since.

As the years passed, organ technology advanced and the organ console gradually developed normal signs of wear. In about 2014 Warren Lancaster established a dedicated fund to modernize and expand the organ. Enabling wider sound variety, nuance and new capabilities to our organ would be a wonderful contribution to worship. Inspired by Warren's vision, several families closely associated with the music ministry supported the project with legacy gifts.

In 2017 an organ committee was formed. Its members realized the cost of adding pipes would be prohibitive, and more ranks could not be added without an expensive remodel of the sanctuary. The existing console's small size was also a barrier to the expansion and constrained the organist; a larger console with modern digital technology would provide room for the organist to maneuver and control a seamless integration of existing acoustic and new virtual pipes.

After several years of evaluation, it became clear that Walker Technical Company in Philadelphia, PA offered the best solution for our church. Throughout the process, the Finance and Property Committee was regularly advised, and once the finances were solidly in place, the Executive Board gave the project final approval.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic stalled the project for about a year, but finally the installation was completed in late September of 2021. The Walker hybrid organ now graces our sanctuary! The console features a beautiful oak exterior matching the pews, and rosewood detailing for functional contrast in the organists' work area. Three manuals control the 37 new digital voices using computer technology to integrate with the existing ranks of pipe. New features for the organist include the ability to record and play back, 200 memory levels, melody and bass coupling, the ability to add MIDI voices, and much more - features that organists today and in the future will want and expect in a fine instrument.

The organ committee, with broad-based congregational support, is pleased to offer the Walker hybrid organ as a musical gift to the future generations at Forest Grove UCC, for partnering with Pacific University and for the surrounding community. The dedication will be held during worship at 10:00 am on Sunday, November 7, 2021.

Caring for our Community Auction

Still Shining!!! (Hopefully Hybrid)



Our Caring for Our Community Auction is going to be even better than last year! Silent items will be auctioned online as they were last year. But we're hoping for a modified in-person music, food and live auction event at the church on Saturday, November 20. If Covid doesn't allow that, we will go back to last year's all-virtual model. Please stay tuned for more information as this unfolds.

Get involved!

- **Saturday, November 13**—Final day to purchase tickets for in-person event at charityauction.bid/fgucc2021. Numbers will be limited to 56. (We ask that only fully vaccinated people plan to attend.)
- **Sunday, November 14**—In-person viewing of items is available in the chapel on Sunday after church until 1 pm.
- **Wednesday, November 17**—Bid on silent items starting from 8am to Saturday, November 20, 4 pm.
- **Saturday, November 20**—Noon-2 pm second in-person viewing of items is available in the chapel.
- **Saturday, November 20**—Attend the live auction, 5-7 pm
- **Pick up your winnings**—Check out with the cashier at conclusion of live auction event

Attention!!! Special Instructions

- **Peruse our auction site and register to bid** at charityauction.bid/fgucc2021
- **Tell your friends:** share our emails and Facebook posts.

Can & Bottle Collection Fundraiser



Thanks to everyone for your continued enthusiastic support of the Can & Bottle Collection for our FGUCC Youth Ministry. As of October 29 we have raised \$1,186.70! If you want to participate in this easy fundraiser, blue bags are available for you to pick up at church. For any additional questions please contact the church office. Thanks again!

Having the Conversation!

On **Sunday, November 14 from 11:30-12:30** Rev. Marsha Dempsey, former hospice chaplain, will facilitate an after church learning session and conversation about memory care. All are welcome! This is information we can all benefit from learning!



Marsha was born and raised in Oklahoma. Graduated with a B.A. in history and religion from Austin College in 1971. Graduated with a M. Div. from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 1974. Was ordained by the Presbyterians in June, 1974. Served small churches in Illinois, Indiana and Texas. Did two years of Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, in Houston, Texas.

Transferred my credentials to the Metropolitan Community Church in 1998. Served on staff at the Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Returned to Oregon in July 2001.

Worked as Spiritual Care Counselor for Signature Hospice from 2003 until my retirement in October 2019.

Marsha loves sports, especially football.

Pledges and Contributions



Thank you all for continuing to keep your pledges current. 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!

Year-round Fundraising made simple via Amazon Smile!



If you are interested in a simple way to benefit the church when you shop on Amazon, you can shop directly via the church's Amazon Smile account. In doing so, the church gets credited directly for any purchases you make. The following link will direct you to shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0419356) and automatically generate donations for Forest Grove UCC. We also encourage you to bookmark this, so all your eligible shopping will benefit the church: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0419356>. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let us know. Thank you!

Blessing of Our Pledges for 2022: Carrying the Vision: Lighting the Way Together



On *November 7th*, at the end of our stewardship campaign, we will bless the pledge cards during worship. This consecration of pledge cards will be in gratitude for our shared life with each other and God and for the vision we carry together that lights our way and gives life to our world. Please Mail/Deliver your pledge card to the office by November 5th or bring your pledge card with you to church on Nov. 7th.

Help us to create our 2021 Advent Devotional Booklet

We are compiling an Advent devotional booklet for this Advent season, which begins on Sunday, November 28. This is something we can do together to make Advent more meaningful and special this year. You are invited to contribute brief written reflections, poems, and/or art, to correspond with each daily scripture. This year we have simplified and streamlined the process of selecting a daily scripture, and you can choose one day or several days to create a devotional.



If you are interested in participating, please call or email Elena (503-357-9121 or elena@fgucc.org.) **Submission deadline is Friday, November 19.** We look forward to seeing what we create together!

Christmas Poinsettias

We are taking orders for Poinsettias for Advent **from Sunday, November 7 through Sunday, November 21.** Poinsettias can be given in honor, memory or celebration of loved ones, and will be available for pickup on the first **Sunday of Advent, November 28.** Please complete and drop this form off at the church office, mail it to us at P.O. Box 265, Forest Grove, OR 97116, or you can email your order to elena@fgucc.org. Contact Elena Parker with any questions.



SIZE	RED	WHITE	PINK	MARBLE	PRICE
4 Inch					\$5
6 Inch					\$10
8 Inch		Not available	Not available	Not available	\$25
TOTAL					\$

Your Name: _____

In Memory of: _____ In Honor of: _____

Check box below to indicate if you want to take your poinsettia home or leave in the Sanctuary

Leave poinsettia in Sanctuary for Advent I want to take poinsettia(s) home

Grubby Sunday: November 21 following worship

It's fall clean-up time! Please join us for our annual **Grubby Sunday on November 21** after worship. We will start the big church grounds clean up after worship, and our focus will be raking all those fall leaves! Please bring your rake and gloves. No Chili Cook Off this fall, but maybe by fall 2022 we can bring that fun church social event back.



Best wishes to all of you celebrating birthdays in November:



Ryan Elle Mead — 6
Bette Prickett — 8
Max Groszman — 11
Bob Browning — 24
Marcia Bickford — 26
Dick Bower — 27
Sandy Mueller — 28
Heather Burk — 29

Dew Drop Workshop with Jeane Canon

Please join us in Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays, starting at 6:30pm for Fun Make & Take Projects using Young Living Essential Oils. Contact Jeane for the upcoming calendar for a list of the projects on specific dates or check the calendar posted in the Fellowship Hall. The upcoming events include mixing up a Lip Balm using the YL DIY kit, making a variety of personal care items, aroma gemstone and wood bead bracelets*, macramé and felt ornaments, loofah sponge soap*, and participants will decide their favorites to repeat in our Santa Workshop (making gifts).*Some activities include a small fee. Please remember to contact Jeane Canon to reserve your spot at 503-997-7228 or jeanecanon@yahoo.com. [Social distancing is observed and masks are required. Participants are encouraged to bring their own essential oils but it's not required. New to essential oils? Jeane has an information packet available for people who are not familiar with essential oils and want to check it out on their own first.]

For the month of November these are the projects Jeane is offering:

November 2021

3: *(RSVP required) **Gemstone and/or Wooden Aroma-Bead Bracelets.** FEE = \$5/bracelet
(YLEOs bring your favorites or may be added at home)

10: **Macramé Project and Wood Ornaments.** (YLEOs bring your favorites or may add at home)

17: *(RSVP required) **DIY Soap: Loofah Soap** FEE = 3.25/each; **Glycerin Soap.** FEE = \$2.00/each. Contact Jeane ASAP if you wish to make multiples to allow time to get supplies
(YLEOs bring your favorites)

24: *We are not meeting this evening; no workshop this week*

Blessing Box Expansion Continues

The humble cupboard with two shelves in it that was donated in 2017 to share food with our neighbors and lovingly called the Blessing Box has become the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

You have probably noticed the new freezer and refrigerator under the awning at the front of FGUCC on the Main Street side. They are full of local produce donated by local gardeners, and oftentimes cheese, a great addition to nutrition for people who need easy 24/7 access to free food. A swanky new shelf has also been put under the awning to make plenty of room for canned goods, rice, cereals, etc. The old bookshelf will be repainted and used to store produce that does not need to be refrigerated such as potatoes, onions, and squash.

‘Our plan is to have the food move in a circle from ingredients in the fridge to soup and entrees that get put back in the fridge or freezer for people to enjoy as needed,’ said Charlene Murdock, newly appointed coordinator of the *Free Fridge* program. ‘It’s all about cooking with what you have. Everything is going very well, people contribute great produce and people bring it home to cook.’



Charlene and Kristy are talking of plans to involve the youth of our church to help in this effort. Jane Goodall’s Roots and Shoots Club for 5th and 6th grades will also become involved with the Free Fridge project pending approval from the Forest Grove School District.

Val Donley is keeping the community of Forest Grove included by making sure social media is up to date. Please join the Facebook group called *Friends of the Blessing Box* for current updates and calls for help.

If you are cooking extra food at home and would like to put it in the Free Fridge, thank you and here are the stipulations: please tape a note on the container with brief ingredients such as meat or milk (possible allergens) and a best used by date. (We have food fairies who check the dates and move things from the fridge to the freezer based on these dates.)

Meanwhile, please thoroughly wash and save any take-out containers so we can fill them with soup or entrees later. Also save plastic silverware and napkins. We will hear more from Charlene in the near future about winter food activities. Feel free to call her or Elena with questions and ideas.

We are always thankful to Val Donley, Glaucus Donley, Jennifer Yocum and three Forest Grove High School students who took this on as their senior project in 2016-17. The current Blessing Box committee members are Charlene Murdock, Val Donley, Susan Shepard, Mary Mullen and Elena Parker.

— by Mary Mullen

Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests

- Newborn—Congratulations to Renee mills upon the birth of her grandson, Evan Orion Day, on Friday, October 29. Orion was born to Renee's daughter Jenne Mills and her partner, Timothy Day.
- Sympathy—Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to John Davis upon the death of his niece, Tracy Robison. Please keep John and his family in your prayers.
- Please keep Carol Brown and her entire family in your prayers, especially her children Laurie, Darryl & Gretchen, as the search for Ralph continues.
- Prayers for Bob Browning as he continues recovery at the EmpRes Hillsboro Health and Rehabilitation Center, and would welcome and appreciate cards. The address is 1778 NE Cornell Road, Hillsboro, OR 97124
- Please remember Alice Hoskins as she deals with ongoing health concerns. She appreciates calls and cards. (390 East Main Street, Hillsboro, OR 97123, Cell: 503-781-0154.)



Thanks have been received—Thanks to everyone at Forest Grove UCC for the blessing of your prayers, notes, cards, prayer shawls, pie (!) and attendance at my mother's funeral in Eugene, Oregon this past week. Being held in your loving care has helped bear Ellen and me through this time of grief. I continue to keep you in my prayers. —Jennifer Yocum

Continued Prayers—Prayers of healing and comfort for all who have ongoing concerns, including 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, 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. 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 November 4 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.

Sunday, November 7 is **FIRST Sunday with BEST for Recycling**

We can no longer take any packing materials except air pillows. And we are not accepting wine corks at this time. Here's what we "do" welcome on the First Sunday at FGUCC:

- ✓ Real block and food Styrofoam, colored and dyes are okay
- ✓ #6 plastics, such as Solo cups and bowls, "to go" coffee lids, and some cookie trays
- ✓ Air pillows (Bonnie takes to UPS)
- ✓ Fluorescent light bulbs
- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ **PLEASE NOTE:** Ken and Bette Prickett are no longer accepting planting pots.
- ✓ Candle wax (the Prickett family will use)



PLEASE NOTE: #1 plastic tubs can go curbside. Other #1 plastics can now be recycled at events such as James' Recycling, but not on First Sunday. Be sure to check recycling # on your plastics before delivering them to church, and make sure everything is CLEAN. THANK YOU!

PLEASE NOTE: Ken and Bette Prickett are no longer accepting planting pots.

We accept any time (in the boxes over the coat racks):

Cell phones – (You can also take phone back to the store where it was purchased.)

Printer cartridges (the church gets cash for these or they can go back to the store where purchased.)

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Special Notes:

Message from Bonnie: I will provide lots of paper and plastic bags from previous recycling, and I'd love for people to take those for their future garbage and/or recycling needs, so please help yourself to as many as you want! Thank you!

Message from Eric: If you're dropping off batteries, CFL's, fluorescent tubes or items for Metro please fill out the sheet provided for Metro.

Forest Grove UCC Staff

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