



The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove United
Church of Christ

January 2022

Open a new window! Open a New Door!

“No one lights a lamp, then hides it in a drawer. It’s put on a lamp stand so those entering the room have light to see where they’re going.” -Luke 11:33

“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart.” -Howard Thurman

As a faith community we are called to carry the light we kindle at Christmas forward into the new year. It’s a new world, a new vision, and a new day. Our task becomes doing the “work” of Christmas and making sure the light moves forward and doesn’t get stuck under a bush. We do that together by collectively wondering, “How can we carry the light to the community and world around us?” We do that work together by remembering that we exist as the church to serve the community, humanity, and the new world that God is creating. Churches are not clubs. Everything we do together is a ministry to the community. Our programs and services aren’t just for us but for all! Remembering that helps us keep our light out from under the bush and helps us keep it moving forward. The good news is that there are many ways that we are actively doing that! Here are just a couple examples!...

While we live in a time when many have come to associate Christianity with judgement, exclusion, and narrowmindedness, our church acts as the Christian voice in Forest Grove lifting up the open and affirming message of justice and love for all at the heart of the gospel. In a time when our nation is polarized and divided, this January, our religious study group is trying to understand how it got that way by reading the book, “Caste: the origin of our discontents.” We are reading this book in tandem with other groups in the community reading the same book to create opportunity for collective learning, healing, and dialogue. In all the ways we connect what we do here with enriching and healing action “out there,” we keep our light out from under a bushel and keep it moving forward. We are currently stewarding the resource of our space in service to the community! Boys and Girls Aid, Home Plate Youth Services, and Second Home currently rent rooms from the church and are developing our space as a center for youth enrichment activities, service, and outreach. We operate as a place of community, cultural sharing and exchange. Beginning on January 9, a group of Scottish bagpipers will hold their

monthly practices in fellowship hall, and “Titlakawan,” an Aztec Dance group holds their practice in fellowship hall every Monday! Just recently they turned out in full force to help with our church clean up! We are also keeping our light out from under the bushes in our process with Convergence. Our visioning team continues to be in active dialogue with community members outside our congregation to learn more about the needs of our neighbors and all the people we are called to serve.

We face change within and without. It becomes possible in times like these to see light coming in from new directions when we open new windows. We need to grow. Indeed we are called to grow in this work of carrying the light to the community and world around us. We do not grow necessarily only by trying to multiply ourselves as we are, as we were, or by treading familiar paths. We grow by looking out the new windows that are opening. We grow by coming into relationship with the ones we are called to serve. We grow by living into our calling to do the work of Christmas and carry that light forward to others. God is always doing something new. Let’s make keeping the light out of the bushes and moving it forward all of our shared new year’s resolution in 2022 as we go forward into the new year and the new day.

Happy New Year light-bearers!

Love, Pastor Brendan

PLEASE NOTE: My regular Wednesday afternoon gatherings at Bella Donna’s will be on pause until February.

Our Holiday Donation Drive continues through January 9



For our holiday donation drive we continue to invite you to purchase baby items and place them by the stable on the chancel in the Sanctuary until **Sunday, January 9th**. The items will be donated to Adelante Mujeres's family engagement program at the end of the Christmas season. We are also accepting donations of essential items for women. Thank you for supporting our holiday donation drive!

- ♥ diapers
- ♥ wipes
- ♥ diaper balm
- ♥ onesies
- ♥ pajamas
- ♥ pants
- ♥ swaddle blankets
- ♥ Feminine hygiene products including menstrual cups, pads, tampons, etc.

Thank you for supporting our holiday donation drive for babies and moms!

Christmas “un”decorating party

Please join us immediately following worship on Sunday, January 9 to un-decorate the church. Thank you—many hands make light the work!



Annual Meeting set for January 30, 2022

Our Annual Meeting for the year 2021 is on **Sunday, January 30, 2022** immediately following worship. Please plan to participate in this important event in the life of your church.

Annual Reports are due for 2022 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 2021. Please submit your information no later than **Monday, January 10, 2022**, so that we can have Annual Reports available for review two weeks prior to the annual meeting. Please email to Elena at elena@fgucc.org. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to let us know. Thank you!

Elijah’s Barrel for Emergency Food Bank

We are collecting food and other dry goods for our Elijah’s Barrel, now located in the narthex. Each month the food collected will be donated to St. Vincent De Paul at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church for their Emergency Food Box Program for low income families in the Forest Grove Community.



The following is a list of items that people can really use:

- ✓ Non-perishable milk
- ✓ Cooking oil
- ✓ Salt, Pepper and other commonly used spices
- ✓ Tea and coffee
- ✓ Sugar and flour
- ✓ Tuna and crackers
- ✓ Mayo, ketchup, mustard
- ✓ Cake mix and frosting (kid's birthdays!)
- ✓ Dish and laundry soap
- ✓ Stove top stuffing (evidently very popular)
- ✓ Women's hygiene products

Thank you for supporting Elijah’s Barrel with your ongoing donations.

Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests

Newborn! Congratulations to the family of Shannon Neuwirth on the birth of their first granddaughter on December 2. Ophelia Lorelai Neuwirth was born to Amber and Jonah and weighed 5 pounds and 12 oz.



- Please keep Melissa, Blake, Sydney & Hannah Timm, Peggy Alexander, Malinda and Liam Alexander and Kim Chattelier in your prayers as they readjust after losing our dad (and my mom's husband of 56 years, Bill Alexander).
- Please remember Stella Schrag as she continues to recover from a broken arm and a rib.
- 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 Lorren Fletcher's wife, Beverly Fletcher, who is currently in rehab at Hillsboro Health and Rehabilitation Center.
- 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.)

Continued Prayers—Prayers of healing and comfort for all who have ongoing concerns, including Deena Barrett, Ann and Russ Dondero, Paul and Stephanie Edwards, Lillian Gimre, Max Groszmann, Lois Johnston, Carlene Krueger, Jobina Lacock, Kristinoel Ludwig, Jean & Bob Nixon, Yvonne Stacey, Holly & Sherri Vann and their family, and any other friends and family of our church, not named here.

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 January 5 and 19, 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.

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



Sympathy—Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to Susan Shepard and her family upon the death of her mother, Mary Alice Shepard on December 12. Please remember all of Mary’s family and friends during this time. Below is a summary of Mary’s life and work.

Mary Alice Shepard 9/17/1925 - 12/12/2021



Born in Otaru Japan to Frank and Rosamond Cary. Mary Alice was the youngest of four. She attended Japanese school for her primary education. When the war broke out, she and her mother returned to the United States. Mary Alice resumed her education at Northfield Seminary for Girls (class of ‘44). She then studied at Wellesley College and graduated in 1948.

On June 15, 1948, Mary Alice was married to Frederick D. Shepard in Bradford, Massachusetts. They moved to Phoenix, Oregon where Mary Alice was an elementary school teacher for three years. While there they had three children.

In 1954 Mary Alice and Frederick Shepard were commissioned as missionaries for the United Church Board for World Ministries and were assigned to Aleppo, Syria. In Aleppo, their fourth child was born. Mary Alice taught at the Aleppo School for Girls. She also homeschooled her own children.

Their work as missionaries took them to Syria, Turkey, and Cyprus. During those years (1954-1983) Mary Alice was predominantly a teacher, but she also worked on publications and various other projects at the mission centers and schools.

In 1983 they returned to the United States to Ashland, Oregon where they continued to teach part time at the college level. Their final move was to Uplands Retirement Village in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee in 1997 where an active and loving community surrounded them. Though Frederick passed away in 1998, Mary Alice continued as an active member of the community until her recent passing.

Known for her organization, sense of aesthetics and dedication Mary Alice found herself involved in a variety of tasks such as organizing the textbook sales, designing and planning campus garden areas, researching and writing publications and working with displaced village women in Istanbul. She enjoyed singing and performed in choirs all her life starting in high school. Drawing, sketching, and painting were also passions. She will be remembered as a loving, dedicated mother, a loyal, equal partner to Frederick and a devout Christian. Always ready for a new adventure, book to discuss or project to tackle, she had boundless energy and was a life-long learner.

She is survived by her four children and their spouses: Susan Elizabeth Shepard (Michael Colvin), Margaret Shepard Mahoney (Robert), Lorrin Cary Shepard (Leslie), Whitman Otis Shepard (Bengü) and seven grandchildren and their spouses: Jennifer York (Matthew), Nazey Güleç, Kathryn Schuback (Jon), Serin Leas (Rodman), Cary Shepard (Teresa Doubet-King), Adrian Mahoney and Jamie Shepard and five great grandchildren: Ian York, Luke Leas, Hannah York, Beau Leas and Logan Schuback.

A few of Mary's projects after her retirement from the mission:

Chair of committee to plan the Whitman Mission Sesquicentennial Observation 1986
Served on the UCC Historical Council - coordinated the Oral History Project
Served on the UCC Executive Council

Institutions where Mary Alice Shepard served:

- 1948-1954 Phoenix -Talent School District - Phoenix, Oregon, USA
- 1954-1964 Aleppo College - School for Girls - Aleppo, Syria
- 1964-1965 The Talas American College - Talas, Turkey
- 1967-1970 The American Board Near East Office - Istanbul, Turkey
- 1971-1977 American Collegiate Institute - Izmir, Turkey
- 1977-1982 The Girls' Service Center (YWCA) - Istanbul, Turkey Üsküdar American Academy - Üsküdar, Turkey
- 1982-1983 Ayia Napa Conference Center - Ayia Napa, Cyprus

Organ Concert to be presented



Bruce Neswick, organist will present a concert on Saturday, February 19 at 3:00 PM.

The FGUCC organ committee is pleased to announce the inaugural organ concert featuring our recently enhanced Walker/Balcom and Vaughn hybrid organ. The performance will be top-notch and provide a sampling of what our new instrument can do!

Mr. Neswick is the organist at Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Portland and is nationally known for his hymn improvisations as well as his interpretations of organ literature. Here are some reviews:

“Bruce Neswick’s talented performance rewards listeners: Neswick played strongly, securely and sensitively.... [In his improvisation] the craftsmanship was expert, and there was no lack of flair.” (The Kansas City Star)

“Bruce Neswick brings out the humanity in Bach’s music more strongly than your usual recitalist....little short of brilliant in both registrations and execution.” (The Birmingham News, Alabama)

We can’t wait to share this music with the congregation, as well as our community including Pacific University and other organ enthusiasts! Please watch for further information.

By Sarah Ball for the FGUCC Organ Committee



Budget 2022 is Under Construction

It is budgeting time for 2022, and this is a friendly reminder to return your Pledge Card for 2022 if you have not turned it in to date. Pledges are a vital part of our planning for the next 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



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!

Can & Bottle Collection Fundraiser



Thanks to everyone for your continued enthusiastic support of the Can & Bottle Collection for our FGUCC Youth Ministry. As of December 22 we have raised \$1,355.10! 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!

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!

Sunday, January 2 is **FIRST Sunday in 2022 with BEST for Recycling**

News Flash regarding Batteries!



Eric Canon recently took the First Sunday batteries and fluorescent bulbs into Metro to dispose of them and learned something new and important: alkaline batteries can be placed in the trash. They are not considered toxic waste. Other batteries are considered toxic and should not go into the trash. But if your battery says "alkaline" on it, Metro recommends you simply put it in the garbage.

We will accept other batteries that are considered toxic, including hearing aid, lithium, normal and heavy duty as well as rechargeable, and dispose of property at Metro. If in doubt, bring all batteries to us on first Sunday and we will sort them out.

Here's recycling we welcome

We can no longer take any packing materials except air pillows. Also, we are not accepting wine corks or planting pots 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
- ✓ 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 Eric: If you're dropping off batteries, CFL's, fluorescent tubes or items for Metro please fill out the sheet provided for Metro.

Lift Every Voice Oregon



Lift Every Voice Oregon is now collecting signatures to place two initiative petitions on the 2022 Oregon ballot in order to do the following:

The initiatives promote common sense safety measures such as requiring a permit to purchase firearms, issued after completing a basic gun safety training and passing a background check. No more loopholes allowing purchase of a gun after 3 days, even if the background check isn't completed (which is happening today)! The initiatives also

limit ammunition magazine capacity to 10 rounds. No more 20, 50 or 100 rounds, which are commonly used in mass shootings (like recently in Michigan) and in many other circumstances involving guns. Semiautomatic assault weapons will also be banned in future sales. Those currently owned may be retained provided they are registered, in order to allow tracking of the owner when used in crimes. These changes have been shown to make a difference by reducing the proliferation of weapons and reducing the deaths and injuries from such weapons.

This is a grassroots effort. Eric Canon is collecting signatures and serving as a satellite base for the forms. He can also answer any questions. We need your signatures and the signatures of your friends and family. And if you'd like to pitch in and provide voters with the chance to make a safer Oregon, safer schools, safer theaters and malls and streets, visit:

<https://www.lifteveryvoiceoregon.com/>, and sign up! Together we can get this done!

By Eric Canon



Spring 2022 Dew Drop Workshops, with Jeane Canon

Jeane offers workshops that include an Essential Oils Introductory Class that will focus on a Special Topic, with at least one Make & Take project. Workshops are offered either on a Tuesday evening (one project) or a Saturday afternoon when multiple projects will be available.

When: Tuesday evenings (dates listed below) Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Saturday afternoon (dates listed below) Time: 1:30pm – 4:00pm

Where: Fellowship Hall, Forest Grove United Church of Christ, 2032 College Way, Forest Grove, OR. Enter at the corner of 21st Avenue and College Way (brick courtyard; wheelchair access)

NOTES: Social distancing is observed and face masks are required.

January 2022

- 8: Intro Class/Special Topic with Make & Take projects on Saturday afternoon
- 11: Intro Class/Special Topic with a Make & Take project (Tuesday pm)
- 25: Intro Class/Special Topic with a Make & Take project (Tuesday pm)



February 2022

- 8: Intro Class/Special Topic with a Make & Take project (Tuesday pm)
- 19: Intro Class/Special Topic with Make & Take projects on Saturday afternoon
- 22: Intro Class/Special Topic with a Make & Take project (Tuesday pm)



March 2022

- 1: Intro Class/Special Topic with a Make & Take project (Tuesday pm)
- 12: Intro Class/Special Topic with Make & Take projects on Saturday afternoon
- 15: Intro Class/Special Topic with a Make & Take project (Tuesday pm)
- 22: Intro Class/Special Topic with a Make & Take project (Tuesday pm)



Jeane Canon will be using Young Living Essential Oils (YLEO). Participants are encouraged to bring their own Young Living essential oils, but are not required (samples provided).

Some projects will require a fee to cover the cost of supplies; class descriptions will be update on Jeane's website: www.MyYL.com/jeane-canon (look in the "Events" section).

Please contact Jeane if you have any questions.

Jeane Canon, Young Living Brand Partner
Education/Zoom Classes & YLEO Samples Available  Sponsor/Enroller # 23612028
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www.MyYL.com/jeane-canon

To Keep Up on the Happenings of FGUCC

- Check out our webpage 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 at FGUCC" (just send an email to elena@fgucc.org to indicate you'd like to subscribe)

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