



# The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove United  
Church of Christ

February 2022

## Seeking the Vision

*For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. - Habakkuk 2:3*

The prophet Habakkuk speaks of there being a vision for the appointed time! That's good news for us living in what continue to seem like unprecedented times! In 2021 we have been seeking a vision for these times in a variety of ways. In the early part of the year we supported each other in learning different contemplative spiritual practices during Lent to help us maintain wholeness, wellness, and direction. In all the ways we continue to show up for each other, support one another, and reach out to the community around us, we manifest and live into a vision of God's wisdom and compassion for these changing times.

This past year we entered a "visioning process," with Convergence. The vast majority of the congregation participated in the survey and we formed a, "visioning team," to help us determine how we will foster vitality, growth, and transformation as we move into the future as a church. Our assessment report from Convergence determined that we are being called as a church to, "increase financial stability, build change skills, know our neighbors and make sure they know us, and to look for strategic partnerships." Our visioning process continues as we move into 2022, and we have already started taking action on these recommendations throughout the course of this past year. When the intensity of the pandemic softened as a result of the availability of vaccines, it became possible for us to rent our building and/or share the resource of our space with community groups and organizations that are aligned with our mission. Boys and Girls Aid, Second Home, and Home Plate Youth Services, a coalition of youth service organizations, started renting space from us and are developing one of our classrooms into a youth drop-in center. Efforts like these not only allow us to serve and get to know our neighbors but they also contribute to our financial sustainability. A new pre-school also started renting space from us this past year.

We have also been practicing mutual aid and support with community groups and developing relationships with community partners that offer opportunities for inter-spiritual dialogue and cultural exchange. This is another way we are manifesting a vision of "Beloved Community," in our often divided society. Danza Azteca, an indigenous tradition of Mexica folkloric dance and ceremony began holding their practice in Fellowship Hall on Monday nights. The danza community showed up in full force to help with our church fall clean up. We have also shared

our space with people offering complementary skill shares like music lessons! Realizing the broad range of spiritual needs in these times, we began offering small group ministry/meeting opportunities like our Sunday night meditation group. Developing and expanding our small group ministries and community partnerships will continue to enrich our community and contribute to our flourishing as a church going forward. Another example of how we practiced mutual aid and support with the broader community is our food fridge. During the Spring, a grant was written for us to have an outdoor refrigerator by our Main Street entrance. Church and community members and groups, including a children's environmentalist group from the Tom McCall elementary school called "Roots and Shoots," have cooperated to keep this refrigerator stocked with fresh local produce and healthy meals for all!

We have supported each other through transitions and tragic loss in 2021. Ralph Brown, a much loved pillar of our community and our church, went missing in the Spring. The church and the community came together to love and support each other, especially the Brown family, in this time, and Ralph and his family continue to be in all our hearts while his whereabouts remain a mystery. Toward the end of the year, Kristy, our beloved Spiritual Formation Coordinator moved on to work in the field of elder care. Kristy will be deeply missed. We pray for her joy and future success as she moves on, and we incorporate all the wisdom she brought to the church into our ministry as we move forward.

The pandemic continues to be our main adaptive challenge. An "adaptive challenge," is defined as "a situation where there are no known solutions to the problem or cases where there are too many solutions but no clear or concrete choices." Throughout 2021, responding to constantly changing circumstances and information with regard to the pandemic, we have been on again/off again with zoom, recording services or not, meeting in person or not, singing and/or not-singing, debating about masks and protocols, and otherwise figuring out what it means to be church and create safer and lower risk space for gathering during a global pandemic! We are also being challenged to explore how we expand our technological capacity to have an on-line ministry. Having an on-line ministry will be imperative to our ability to offer at-home worship options as the pandemic continues and will also expand our reach to the community even looking beyond the pandemic.

The pandemic has challenged us to have hard conversations and make difficult decisions in discerning together what actions are circumstantially necessary in taking mutual responsibility for the common good, and our collective health and well-being in these times. At the end of 2021, we formed a "COVID committee," to help guide our church's decision-making process regarding COVID protocols going forward as we continue to face this, "adaptive challenge," together. In responding to any adaptive challenge, we know there are no perfect or ideal solutions. As we did in 2021, we will continue to act out of consideration for the well-being of the whole. We will continue living into the call to practice patience, understanding, and compassion, and to offer grace for each other as we figure this out together one day at a time. We are all being called to respond in this way and show up for each other in this way. We will continue adapting to changing circumstances and being creative in the ways we discern how we maintain as open, low-risk, and low stress a form of being in community during a pandemic as possible. The good news is that throughout 2021, there was a vision for the appointed time! We found it together. In all our abundant trials and blessings we will continue to seek and find a

vision together for these appointed times, through the grace of God, the Love of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

May God continue to bless us with vision in 2022!

Love, Pastor Brendan

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## Livestreaming now available



For the first time on Sunday, January 23 we were able to livestream highlights of our worship service, i.e. scripture reading and message on our Facebook page. If you want to join us live on Sunday mornings in the future, the scripture reading and message will be broadcast live at approximately 10:30AM at Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fgucc](http://www.facebook.com/fgucc), and will be

uploaded to our Facebook page at the conclusion of the service for later viewing. (This last Sunday's message is available for viewing now.)

We are working towards livestreaming the entire service in the future, and will keep everyone posted on this news. If you have any questions, please let us know.

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## 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

**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!



**Congratulations!** Lily Mullen is off to Highline College, DesMoines, Washington. Thank you for playing a big part in her foundation that makes this leap into adulthood possible. If you know of anyone in the Kent/DesMoines area who would be coming to Forest Grove on a Thursday afternoon or anyone who would be leaving Forest Grove on a Sunday going to the Kent/DesMoines area and would have a seat for Lily, please let me know. 503 608 0805. She will be living in the dorm and will be coming home for 3 day weekends until she is more sure-footed. Meanwhile, when you read this on Sunday, we will be at the Wayside UCC church and then have lunch with a family who lives near Highline College who will support her when needed. Blessings on the wide circle!

**Thank you!** Your thoughts and prayers, cards and calls, soups and breads - even biscotti- have sustained my first two weeks post-surgery. Thank you. Now I want to join Susan Shepherd in the 'new knee all-star team.' Our church as community is a blessing. Sandy Freeman

- Please keep Carol Benner in your prayers as she is in the hospital after a recent fall and will be having surgery soon.
- Please remember Craig Moritz and his family as Craig is recovering from recent surgery
- Please remember Jobina Lacock as she recovers from recent surgery.
- Please remember Sandy Freeman as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.
- Please remember Paul Minor as he recovers from recent surgeries.
- 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 continue to remember Stella Schrag as she recovers from a broken left 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 (503)-781-0154 and cards, 390 East Main Street, Apt. 205, Hillsboro, OR 97123.

**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, 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](mailto:elena@fgucc.org).

**Prayer Shawl Knitting**—Please join us for knitting this month via Zoom on **Wednesdays February 2 and 16, 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.

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

Rod Burrus—12  
Renee Mills—14  
Sydney Molin—16  
Alice Hoskins—17  
Lily Lind—17  
Evan Butler—26  
Ava Bichsel—27



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## Organ Concert to be presented



**Forest Grove UCC presents Bruce Neswick, concert organist  
Saturday, February 19 at 3:00 PM here at FGUCC**

Bruce Neswick enjoys immense popularity and is in demand throughout the country as an organist, improviser, choral conductor, and composer. His playing vibrates with energy, is full of radiant color, and is always expertly crafted. He is the Canon for Cathedral Music at Trinity Cathedral (Episcopal) in Portland, Oregon.

The 90-minute recital will include a wide variety of works for solo organ, selections with strings and solo trumpet, and audience-wowing improvisations created by Mr. Neswick

Admission is by Donation (\$20 suggested; \$10 Students) Proof of COVID vaccination and Face Masks are required.

Bruce Neswick is represented by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists [www.concertartists.com](http://www.concertartists.com)



## Camp Adams Summer 2022

Registration is open for youth summer camp programs at Camp Adams this coming summer. Scholarships are available through Camp Adams as well as Forest Grove UCC.

### Session Dates-

Taller and Smaller (completed K-3rd w/ adult) July 5-8, 2022

Exodus (completed 9th-12th) July 10-16, 2022

Sojourners (completed 7th-8th) July 24-29, 2022

Discoverers (completed 5th-6th) July 31-August 5, 2022

Genesis/Seekers (completed 2nd-4th) August 7-12, 2022



There is a registration button at the bottom of the [campadams.org](http://campadams.org) home page that will take interested campers to the online registration system.

Scholarships will once again be available. Please have those interested complete this form and return it to me (Natalie Becker- [campadams.om@gmail.com](mailto:campadams.om@gmail.com) or 18499 S. Hwy 211, Molalla, OR 97038). As always, please contact me if you have any questions and THANK YOU for your support of Outdoor Ministries and Camp Adams! Here's the link for the scholarship: [Camp Adams Scholarship Form 2022.pdf 146 KB • Download](#)

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## 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](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!

## Can & Bottle Collection Fundraiser



Thanks to everyone for your continued enthusiastic support of the Can & Bottle Collection for our FGUCC Youth Ministry. As January 28 we have raised \$1,475! 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!

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## Sunday, February 6 is FIRST Sunday with BEST for Recycling

### Reminder regarding Batteries!



A few months ago Eric Canon took the 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.

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## **Parish Nurse**

The Omicron variant continues to drive COVID-19 case counts higher in Oregon. To ensure people have the guidance and resources they need to help keep themselves and those around them safe, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has launched a new Test Positive website <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-covid-19-positive-test> and hotline.



The website includes information about what to do if you test positive or have been exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19, and how to find resources if you're isolating at home and need support.

What if I test positive?

- Stay home and away from others for at least five days so you don't spread the virus to others. <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2388a.pdf>
- Tell your close contacts and people you've had direct contact with. <https://tellyourcontacts.org/>
- Have questions or need help? Call 866-917-8881 to speak with a public health professional.

Thank you for doing your part to keep you and your community safe by practicing COVID-19 safety measures and getting vaccinated and boosted.

To find a vaccine provider or testing site located near you visit <https://getvaccinated.oregon.gov/#/locator>

By being a Get Vaccinated Oregon (GVO) subscriber, you get messages about testing locations, vaccine clinics and providers in your area. You can also find providers and testing sites near you by using the GVO locator map available here: <https://getvaccinated.oregon.gov/#/locator>

More than 200,000 people have also signed up to receive Oregon Health Authority's Coronavirus Update. This email newsletter will keep you current on vaccines, new safety

guidelines, emergency preparedness and more. You can sign up at:

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDHS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=ORDHS\\_816](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=ORDHS_816)

If you have not had the opportunity to get vaccinated or have questions, we can help. Text ORCOVID to 898211 (English and Spanish), email [ORCOVID@211info.org](mailto:ORCOVID@211info.org) (language help available), call 211 or 1-866-698-6155, toll free, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, including holidays.

To your good health.

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## Family Promise Update



The two separate Family Promise organizations in our county have united to become a single organization: Family Promise of Washington County. They are currently providing direct services mainly in Beaverton, but are working to get the Family Promise House in Hillsboro up and running again.

Our Congregation has been asked to provide meals during the week of February 20-26, so I will be checking with people who have volunteered in the past to see if they are still interested in participating in this worthwhile charitable opportunity.

The program has changed significantly, but it seems to be running efficiently and has the potential for helping more unhoused people in our county.

Myra Beeler, Family Promise Coordinator

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## 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 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and College Way (brick courtyard; wheelchair access)

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

**Workshops are available virtually\* upon request; contact Jeane if interested.**

*\* When we decide to offer the workshops virtually via Zoom, Jeane notifies participants who have contacted her in advance to provide the Zoom link, workshop materials and supplies for projects).*

## February 2022 (Virtual): Valor EO

- 8: Intro Class/Special Topic with a Make & Take project (Tuesday pm) via **ZOOM**
- 12: **Raindrop Kit** Special Topic on Saturday afternoon via **ZOOM**
- 22: Intro Class/Special Topic with a Make & Take project (Tuesday pm) via **ZOOM**



## March 2022: Citrus Fresh EO

- 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)
- 29: 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).*

*You can also find the most current calendar of upcoming Dew Drop Workshop sessions on Jeane's website: [www.MyYL.com/jeane-canon](http://www.MyYL.com/jeane-canon) (look in the "Events" section).*

*Please contact Jeane to let her know you plan to attend. If the workshop is held virtually via Zoom, Jeane will provide you with the Zoom link, workshop materials and supplies for the projects in advance.*

Jeane Canon, Young Living Brand Partner  
Education/Zoom Workshops & YLEO Samples Available  
[jeanecanon@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanecanon@yahoo.com) | 503-997-7228 cell  
YL Sponsor & Enroller # 23612028  
[www.MyYL.com/jeane-canon](http://www.MyYL.com/jeane-canon)  
[www.youngliving.com](http://www.youngliving.com)

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## To Keep Up on the Happenings of FGUCC

- Check out our webpage 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)
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- 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)

# **Forest Grove UCC Staff**

## **Moderator**

Blake Timm — [blakertimm@gmail.com](mailto:blakertimm@gmail.com)

## **Pastor**

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

## **Office Manager**

Elena Parker — [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org)

## **Sexton**

John Davis — [sexton2862@gmail.com](mailto:sexton2862@gmail.com)

## **Parish Nurse**

Deva Harris-Williams — [fguccparishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:fguccparishnurse@gmail.com)

## **Stephen Ministry**

Renee Mills — [millsrenergy@yahoo.com](mailto:millsrenergy@yahoo.com)

Ken Prickett — [qkenbettp@gmail.com](mailto:qkenbettp@gmail.com)

## **Director of Sanctuary Choir**

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

## **Organist and Piano Accompanist**

Paul Minor — [Pminor@easystreet.net](mailto:Pminor@easystreet.net)

Joannah — [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 — [cameronpheilman@gmail.com](mailto:cameronpheilman@gmail.com)

## **Contact Information**

2032 College Way ♦ (Mail) P.O. Box 265  
Forest Grove, OR 97116

Phone: (503) 357-9121 ♦ FAX: (503) 359-1462

Office email: [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org)

Website: [www.fgucc.org](http://www.fgucc.org) ♦ Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fgucc](http://www.facebook.com/fgucc)