



The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove United
Church of Christ

June 2022

Walking Each other Home.

“For ‘In God we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are God’s offspring.’ - Acts 17:28

Dear friends,

This beautiful line from the book of Acts invites us to remember that God dwells outside and all around us but also at the core of our being. We are told that Spirit dwells within us and that we are a small part of that greater whole. Our faith invites us to see our little beginnings and endings, meetings and partings, joys and pains as flashes of divine expression; flashes of the eternal Spirit called the greater Life, “in which we live and move and have our being.” In times of heartache when we feel lost or don’t know where to turn, we can remember how we can always return to that Spirit which is our true, unchanging, and everlasting home.

We are all mourning the loss of our dear brother Ralph Brown. We are breathing a collective sigh having found closure after him going missing for a year and being found, even as we all grieve together. As I recently spoke with Ralph’s wife Carol, she reminded me how the last thing Ralph said before he left and went missing was that he was, “going home.” I think of how the spiritual teacher, Ram Dass, said that, “birth, death, and suffering all bring us to the very edge of what our minds can understand,” and how in the process of moving through these cycles together throughout life, “we are all just walking each other home.” We guide each other back to that true and everlasting home our scripture and tradition name, “the love in which we live and move and have our being.”

In all the ways we practice showing up for each other in Love, we are walking each other home in a world where it seems it has become so easy to get lost. During this past year when we first discovered Ralph was missing the whole community rose to the occasion to search for him. We drove over hills and walked through forests and all kinds of places together to look for our friend. We held vigil together. We clasped each other’s hands and wiped each other’s tears. We carried the confusion and the uncertainty together. There were music concerts and events like “Ralph’s Run,” to lift each other’s Spirits. Sue Fleskes coordinated a volunteer search effort. The Brown family modeled courage and grace for all of us. Even in the midst of tragedy

and uncertainty, in all these ways, we were walking Ralph and each other home to that great Love in whose embrace Ralph now dwells forever. These are heavy times, and yet in the midst of it all, I want to express how grateful I am for the privilege we have every day of sharing this journey together of walking each other home.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Brendan

Visioning Team Update—May 2022

Hello! First, the Visioning Team expresses their gratitude for your support. In hopes of improving communication and the congregation's awareness of what's happening, we have elected a Chairperson—Tori Eaton. Tori will write monthly updates for the team, and place requests for help and support to the congregation as needed.



Accomplishments

We had a few setbacks upon Kristy's announcement of leaving, and so want to share a few highlights of what the team and Visioning process have accomplished so far:

Assessment has been completed, and we've learned that the Congregation would like to see:

- ✓ Re-engagement with Pacific University
- ✓ Re-engagement with community partners
- ✓ Invigorated church sustainability
- ✓ Interest in commercial kitchen

Brendan has started to rebuild connections with Pacific University: teaching a class, supporting spirituality group, is in the process of exploring how to heal the hurts our ancestors caused the local and surrounding tribes with the Tualatin Academy, which became Pacific University.

Brendan and other congregation members are rebuilding relationships with community groups; focus has changed from homelessness to broader community-wide needs—especially food (and so there will be more information in the future about recommendation for commercial kitchen)

Visioning Team met with Learning Community teachers and leader to learn what they would like in a new, focused position of Learning Community Coordinator. Job description has been written, approved by Exec Board, and search is currently taking place

Visioning Team explored other needs of church for new, COVID-19-influenced life. There is a draft job description for a Tech person (apologies—I forget the actual title at the moment). This continues in development.

We realized that we, as a community, need the opportunity to grow in our communication so we can discuss past experiences, gather hope, and innovate together with language that supports listening, healing, acknowledging, and growth.

So...What now?

HEALTHY COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP!

When: Friday 6/10 (7-930PM); Saturday 6/11 (9-1; some food provided); Sunday 6/12 (10 AM, during worship)

Why?—so we can ALL have the opportunity to grow. Even if you've had trainings before, it never hurts to brush up. Sometimes we get little nuggets when information is repeated.

****Can you attend just 1 day? Yes—**we'd love any and all of you to attend all of it, of course—but that's not feasible for everyone.

We're blessed with partial days and “shorter” times (4 hours the longest). Please attend any part of the workshop that you are able.

****There will microphones for individuals who live with difficulty hearing.**

****Gluten-free food available, kept separately from gluten-full and prepped in opposite areas of kitchen**

****Good communication doesn't just help life at church—it can help relationships, friendships, work, and community interactions.**

****Childcare provided (Saturday ONLY).**

That's a lot for an update. We're working on better communication. We hope you'll join us with this awesome opportunity to grow together as a community. The July update will focus on a recap of the healthy communication workshop and with more information on commercial kitchen potential.

I'm excited! Are you?

In service, and with gratitude,

Tori Eaton (Chair), Rich Burk, Elaine Foy, Matt Hoekstra, Gini Peterson, & Ken Prickett—and Brendan Curran and Gregg Carlson of Convergence

Healthy Communications Workshop

People are complicated, and as we relate to one another, we open ourselves to misunderstandings, miscommunication, and strong emotions. These misunderstandings and even open conflict are not bad, but rather present tremendous opportunities for personal and congregational transformation when handled well. Unfortunately, unhealthy communication in churches all too often tears congregations apart rather than making them stronger. This 1.5 day workshop will walk our group through how to become skilled in healthy communications. You will learn skills that will reshape your interactions with present and future congregational conflict and equip you in your work and personal life.

Together, we will explore the following topics:

- What does healthy communication look like?
- What skills do we need for healthy communication?
- How can we manage difficult conversations and emotions?
- How do our individual styles affect how we communicate during conflict?
- How is conflict healthy?
- What does healthy conflict look like?
- How can we build structures for healthy communication into our congregational life?

In addition to presentations on each of these topics, there will be opportunities for practicing healthy communication using case studies and role playing.

Schedule:

Friday

7:00-8:15pm – Introduction to Healthy Communication, Communication Skills

8:15-8:20pm – Short Break

8:20-9:30pm – Discovering Your Individual Style for Communicating During Conflict

Saturday

9:00-10:30am – What to Do When People Are Angry: Levels of Conflict, Family Systems, Triangles, Scapegoating, Listening and Self-Differentiation

10:30-10:45am – Break

10:45-11:45 am – Introduction to a Process for Healthy Communication - How it all Works

11:45am-12:00pm – Break

12:00-1:00 pm – Practicing A Process for Healthy Communication - Role Play and Debrief

Sunday

10:00am Worship with guest Rev. Dr. Anna Mitchell Hall

Congratulations to our 2022 Graduates!



Zane Harter—Zane was born July 4, 2004, and is the son of Chris and Sheila Harter. He has a twin brother, Quinn. Zane was baptized and raised at FGUCC. Zane has attended Gaston School since kindergarten and has participated in soccer, basketball and track. Zane is the salutatorian of his graduation class. He enjoys playing soccer, D&D, and spending time with his pets. After graduation, Zane will attend University of Oregon where he will study Business/Economics.

Quinn Harter—Quinn was born July 4, 2004, and is the son of Chris and Sheila Harter. He has a twin brother, Zane. Quinn was baptized and raised at FGUCC. Quinn has attended Gaston School since kindergarten and has participated in soccer and basketball. He enjoys playing basketball, Magic: The Gathering, Rubik's cubes, hanging out with friends and playing video games. After graduation, Quinn will attend Oregon State University where he will study Engineering.

Kendra Vann—Kendra has a 4.16 Weighted GPA and will be graduating with an Honors Diploma and as Valedictorian. She will graduate with several Dual Credit, Honors, and AP classes under her belt as well as with pathways in both *Education* and *Construction Technology and Cabinet Manufacturing*. Kendra won the M.V.P. award for her work on this year's Viking House and won several scholarships for all of the volunteer work she has done over the last few years. Kendra will be attending Portland State University's Honor College in the fall and hopes to study Pre-med. Until she leaves for college though, she will continue working at the Forest Grove Aquatic Center as both a Lead Lifeguard and a Swim Instructor.

Sunflowers for Ukraine!



This project was brought to us by Karri Robison. Karri has been an active member of FGUCC, including a former Stephen Minister. She's also an artist and asked if we would share her idea for fundraising with "*Sunflowers for Ukraine.*"

If you would like to help in the effort by purchasing Sunflower notecards, we have a small supply of these in the church office, or you can contact her directly at KarriRobisonArt@gmail.com. (The cost is \$16 for one 6-pack of blank Sunflower notecards with envelope.) All proceeds will be donated to Together Rising.

Together Rising is a recommended charitable organization run by Glennon Doyle, New York Times Bestselling Author of *Untamed* and *Love Warrior*. [Together Rising](#) is already in place and currently providing funds to the Ukrainian people for food, water and medical supplies. You can read about their [story](#), their [board of directors](#), their [finances](#) and the [Ukraine](#) effort at these links. It sounds like some outstanding people run the place!

— Karri Robison

Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests

- Please remember Craig Moritz and his family. For the next 9-12 months Craig will undergo Chemotherapy and Radiation treatments every other week at OHSU. After 2-years of battling Multiple Myeloma Cancer and having that go into remission, he was diagnosed with a second exceedingly rare Cancer called Ewing's Sarcoma, which is intertwined with the soft tissue in his back and spinal cord.
- Prayers for Lorren Fletcher's wife, Beverly Fletcher, who is currently in rehab at EmpRes Hillsboro Health and Rehabilitation Center.



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, Jean Nixon, Stella Schrag, Yvonne Stacey, Holly & Sherri Vann and their family, and any other friends and family of our church, not named here.

Sympathy—Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to Elena and Grayson and their family and friends upon the death of their beloved Dashiell on May 21, 2022. A private service to be held later. Dashiell's passion since a very young age was the violin and he also loved baking. Memorial gifts can be made to the Forest Grove UCC Strings or to FGUCC Kitchen project.

Thanks have been received from Laura and Jerry Frye—Thank you for the words of comfort you gave to us during my brother Hugh James' illness and passing. Your support in prayers and thoughts gave us strength. We are moving forward with beautiful memories and lasting peace. Laura and Jerry Frye

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Sharing prayers in worship—Dear friends, we are releasing the prayer chain. If you would like your personal prayer concerns shared with the community during worship service on Sunday mornings, please submit them to the church office by 4:00PM on Thursday afternoons via email to elena@fgucc.org with the title "prayer request" in the subject line. For private prayer requests, please reach out to Pastor Brendan or a Stephen Minister.

Recent Baptisms here at Forest Grove UCC—Congratulations to Renee Mills and her family on the recent baptisms of her adorable grandsons, Oliver and Evan. Oliver's parents are Chris and Kat Gallo and Evan's parents are Jen Mills and Timothy Day.

Prayer Shawls—Do you, or someone you know, need a prayer shawl? Please call or email 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 June 1 and 15, 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.

Music Opportunity



We are seeking “special music” offerings for worship services from June 19 – July 24 and August 7 through September 4. Vocal or instruments solos or ensembles are welcome. This is a fine opportunity to share your talent or the talent of friends or family with an appreciative, loving congregation. Vocal or instruments solos or ensembles are welcome. Flute, brass, piano, accordion, guitar, soprano, alto, tenor, bass, quartet, trio, duet, organ, violin, cello, recorders, bells – gospel, classical, Christian pop, hymns — let’s have variety! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex of the church or you can contact the church office. If you have questions contact Laura Frye at 503 550 1709 or lajenefrye@gmail.com.

Blessing Box Needs

We are requesting donations of any kind of breakfast cereals and shelf stable, canned or powdered milk. Please place your donations in Elijah’s Barrel in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity!

Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for volunteers to help with regular maintenance of the Blessing Box area. This involves taking regular turns to check that fridge and freezer and dry goods shelves are clean, and also that the general area is tidy and clean. Please contact Elena if you’re interested or if you’d like more information. There’s a sign-up sheet in the narthex on the Welcoming Table.

Dew Drop Workshops with Jeane Canon (in person and hybrid)



Jeane Canon offers workshops that include an Essential Oils Introductory Class a few times each month; they are held on occasional Tuesday evenings and one Saturday afternoon (the workshop schedule varies; see current calendar*). These workshops are great for beginners and often include make & take projects. Please contact Jeane right away to let her know if you would like to join a workshop via Zoom; Jeane will provide you with the Zoom link, workshop materials and supplies for projects in advance. *You can find the most current calendar of upcoming Dew Drop Workshop sessions on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, or contact Jeane for more information: jeanecanon@yahoo.com or 503-997-7228. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Camp Adams Summer 2022

Registration is open for youth summer camp programs at Camp Adams this summer. Scholarships are available through Camp Adams as well as Forest Grove UCC. (Please contact Elena for FGUCC scholarship information.)



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 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 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](#)

— Natalie Becker, Camp Adams

Best wishes to all of you celebrating birthdays in June!

Melissa Timm—1
Amber Mather—4
John Welch—7
Sydney Timm—8
Armani Garfias—10
Dick Lane—14
Jobina Lacock—15
Ivan Edwards-Leeper—17
Ann Dondero—25



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)

Pledges and Contributions



support!

Thank you for continuing to keep your pledges current. You can sign up for electronic giving with Vanco, which is a very simple option and setup, and fees are very low. (Please let us know if you'd like more information). You can also 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

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!

Can & Bottle Collection Fundraiser



Thank you for your steady support of the Can & Bottle Collection for our FGUCC Youth Ministry. To date we have raised \$1,971. If you want to participate in this easy fundraiser, blue bags are available to pick up in the church office. For any additional questions please contact Elena at 503-357-9121 or elena@fgucc.org.

Welcome!

The light of Christ in us sees the light of Christ in you! Following the teachings of Jesus, we heartily welcome everyone into God's beloved community. Whatever your race, ethnicity, nationality, age, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, spiritual understanding, socioeconomic or marital status — whoever you are and wherever you come from, we celebrate you and welcome you into the full life and ministry of our church!

First Sunday with BEST Team is on June 5



Here's recycling we welcome:

- 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!

We can no longer take any packing materials except air pillows. Also, we are not accepting wine corks or planting pots at this time.

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.)

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.

Reminder regarding Batteries!

Alkaline batteries can be placed in the trash as they are not considered toxic waste. So if your battery says "alkaline" on it, Metro recommends you simply put it in the garbage. Other batteries are considered toxic, so please do not throw them in the garbage, but instead bring them to your FGUCC BEST Team for proper disposal at Metro. We will accept other batteries that are considered toxic, including hearing aid, lithium, normal and heavy duty as well as rechargeable. If in doubt, bring all batteries to us on first Sunday and we will sort them out.

Strengthen the Church offering:

Please join us in common mission, vision, and purpose by supporting the 2022 Strengthen the Church offering.

Dear FGUCC Friends,



The Holy Spirit gathers us “All Together.” From across the country and the spectrums of human experience, we become united in Christ. And, united, the Spirit commissions us to work for a more just world for all.

The Strengthen the Church Offering supports congregations and leaders across the United Church of Christ as they respond to the Spirit’s call to be united in Christ for a more just world for all. The challenges our congregations face vary:

- ♥ Some seek ways to strengthen youth ministry
- ♥ Some hope to start new congregations
- ♥ Some look for innovative ways to renew existing congregations
- ♥ Some need help developing leaders

The giving in our congregation can ensure congregations get the help they need from their conference and the national ministries of the UCC.

Strengthen the Church donations will help the United Church of Christ continue as a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement. We will continue to benefit from best practices, insights, and innovations across the life of the UCC. Once again thank you for continuing to help the UCC expand its light by supporting the 2022 Strengthen the Church offering.

We will receive donations through the end of June. Please make checks payable to FGUCC with note on memo line: **2022 Strengthen the Church Offering**. Thank you for your support of UCC offerings.

Additional information about the Strengthen the Church all church offering can be found at www.ucc.org/stc.

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