



The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove United
Church of Christ

October 2022

Pastor Brendan's Message

"I came that they might have life and have it abundantly." -John 10:10

It's in the company of each other and in the embrace of Spirit that we discover the abundant life that Jesus brings to us. In the company of each other we discover the greatest gifts of life in abundance through the many opportunities we have as a faith community to share and learn together. It's such a joy to see old and new faces joining together as we move into the Fall. It feels like a new chapter in this season of changes.

I wanted to take some time to thank the FGUCC visioning team for their work this past year and celebrate their accomplishment of helping guide us through a visioning process even during a pandemic. Over the Summer we learned about the vision of seeing the church as being more than an institution and the sum of its members but also as a movement for justice, community, joy, and love that includes and engages the broader community in a variety of dynamic capacities. We engaged a, "healthy communication workshop," that continues to help us open our minds and hearts to this emerging vision. We developed listening and communication skills together in a way that will help us continue to foster creativity and growth and the sort of open dialogue that will nurture and ensure our flourishing.

We are practicing manifesting the vision of church as a movement as we move forward in a variety of ways. Our visioning team helped us identify our new staffing needs. During the middle of our visioning process our Spiritual Formation Coordinator moved on from FGUCC and our team helped us discern the new position of, "Learning Community Coordinator." Adrienne Klein is off to a great start in this position facilitating a rich learning environment for children and youth. She is also offering meaningful youth activities and events in collaboration with the Rural Youth Support Coalition that started working out of our church during the visioning process. This approach of working in collaboration with community organizations is part of the vision that emerged during our process. We are currently in the process of hiring a tech specialist to help us expand our on-line ministry and get our message out to the broader community through creative ministries like a progressive faith and spirituality podcast! We have deepened our connection with Pacific University by providing employment opportunities for Pacific University students in our nursery and offering spiritual care to faculty and students through a monthly spirituality group, and in my teaching a class during the winter term. In

addition, our Community Dinners continue to support our Community Refrigerator/Blessing Box/Food Justice initiative and provide opportunities to welcome and nurture community, partner with organizations like the Oregon Food Bank, learning about local food systems and various issues, as well as fun times to eat delicious food together! The team has also brought forth the vision of our church taking on the project of upgrading our kitchen to being a commercial kitchen to support both our institutional sustainability as well as our emerging purpose and mission in the community. The visioning team is in the final process of assembling another team that will help guide our church through this process of upgrading our kitchen to being a commercial kitchen. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please contact Tori Eaton, the chair of our visioning team! As we live into this vision of, “church as a movement,” we continue to be an oasis of empowerment, welcome, and love to the LGBTQ community and others who have been marginalized and/or alienated by biblically inaccurate and spiritually backward misrepresentations of the gospel! We continue to be a vital and prophetic presence and witness in our little corner of God’s world. I want to thank the visioning team and CONVERGENCE for all their hard work. It’s such a joy to discover life in abundance together as a faith community in all the ways we help each other live into this emerging vision that the Spirit has placed on our hearts and in our hands.

Love, Pastor Brendan



Community Dinner at FGUCC

Please join us for our Community Dinner **Friday October 14, 5-8PM**. We will be showing a short movie about Ruth Stout (American author born in 1884, best known for her "No Work" gardening books and techniques). The movie will be followed by a panel discussion and dinner, of course, delicious homemade chicken tortilla soup. This dinner is in honor of the farmers in our community.

Please RSVP to Elena at elena@fguc.org

Learning Community News

Childcare for Nursery—Childcare is available from 9:30-11:30AM for children ages 5 and younger in our church nursery. Our nursery attendants are Pacific University students Katie Gillam and Kelsey Harty.

Busy Bags for our Children—We have “busy bags” in the basket on the table at the entrance to the narthex. The busy bags contain activities to keep children busy during worship.

Halloween Candy Donations Request

We need Halloween candy for our Halloween Party on Friday, October 28. Please bring bagged candy to the church (marked “Halloween Party Candy”). Thank you so much for your support of this fun event! (See party details below.)



Halloween Party Volunteers Needed!



FGUCC Youth Ministries and Rural Youth Support Coalition are hosting a community-wide **Halloween Party on Friday October 28th 4pm-8pm**. As part of the youth ministries outreach, this party will feature trick-or-treating stations, carnival-based games, costume contest and will be open to the Forest Grove Community to enjoy. We need volunteers to help decorate and occupy trick-or-treating stations (3 tables), run carnival games, and decorate the fellowship hall. We would also

love donations of Halloween candy and other small prizes to hand out. Help us make this a success! Sign-up or donate by emailing Adrienne at adrienne@fgucc.org. Also, you can sign up to volunteer at this link: <https://form.jotform.com/222686884152162>

Women's Spirit Group Gathering on October 15

Let's go for a nature walk! Join us at the new **Chehalem Ridge Nature Park** in Gaston, just a few miles from Forest Grove. The trails are well groomed and there are beautiful views of Hillsboro. Let's meet at the park at

1:00PM, Saturday, October 15th. If you would like to carpool, plan on meeting at the church and leaving around 12:40 PM. Let us know if you have any questions.



Sheila (sheilaharter@hotmail.com) and Melissa (4melissatimm@gmail.com)

Blessing Box Needs



We are currently asking for boxed potatoes, stuffing mix and Rice-a-Roni. Please place your donations in Elijah's Barrel in the narthex and we will place these in the Blessing Box at the Main Street entrance. In addition, the Blessing Box Fridge and Freezer are always in need of food. If you have any food or prepared meals you can share, please do! The community thanks you!

If you have any questions or need more information, please talk to Elena, Adrienne or Pastor Brendan.

Stephen Ministry



Are you a caring, compassionate individual that loves helping others? The Stephen Ministry group is looking for you to join in our ministry to those that need a compassionate ear. We are planning on starting a training class after the first of next year so that you can help us help others. Through the training that is provided, you will be able to journey with your care receiver through the trials that they are facing in a supportive and loving manner. We are not there to "solve" the issue but to listen and be present. Your faith will be strengthened through this process and you will be providing a valuable service to

those in need. Join us in sharing Gods love and compassion to others. If you are interested, or have questions contact Pastor Brendan, Reneé Mills, or Ken Prickett.

— Ken Prickett, Stephen Ministry Leader



Volunteer Opportunity: Ushers needed

Ushers are part of our frontline at FGUCC to make sure we greet and welcome people arriving with joy and courtesy and that we do our part to fight COVID-19. Please talk to Kevin Young if you'd like to sign up to usher. For more information you can call or email him at 503-781-6202, and: kevinyoung52@yahoo.com. Thank you!

We are holding in-person fellowship hours!



We need people to “host” Fellowship (i.e. make coffee, put out and serve water, juice, packaged snacks, glasses, cups and napkins) All supplies are provided and ready for our hosts to use in the church kitchen, so you don't need to prepare or purchase anything to host fellowship. If you are interested in helping us restock some supplies, the item we currently need the most is ground coffee. We're serving individually wrapped snacks and will accept donations of snacks as well. If you have any questions, let us know. Thank you!

Parish Nurse Vacation

Our Parish Nurse, Deva Harris Williams, will be on vacation through October 30. If you need any assistance during Deva's absence, please let us know with a call to Pastor Brendan at (401) 318-2447, or Elena Parker (503) 357-6960.

Caring for Our Community Auction 2022

Build-a-Bus Project

Due to the generous donation of \$20,000 from Lois Johnston, we now believe our next bus is funded. We are so grateful to you, Lois! No more wondering if the lift will break mid-wheelchair or if the youth will make it back from Portland in one piece. Your legacy will live on.

Our next steps will be to find a reliable bus in our budget and to sell the old bus. Inventories may still be low due to the pandemic but we will pursue avenues. If you have any knowledge or willingness to help in these areas, please let Bonnie know (chiroqueen704@msn.com) – this is not her area of expertise!

We are now looking forward to a new Fund-an-Item for this year's auction. Stay tuned.

Bonnie McDowell and Ken Prickett

Auction Details

Mark your calendars! Saturday, November 19. Our big event of the year is coming up! “Join Us on the Red Carpet for Our Caring for Our Community Auction.”

- **Donate!** Please send your donation ideas to Bonnie at chiroqueen704@msn.com. All items should be delivered to the church or Bonnie by **Sunday, November 6**.
- **Volunteer!** Sign up at (signupgenius link) or talk to Bonnie (chiroqueen704@msn.com) or Kathleen (kathleenlacock1@gmail.com).
- **Saturday, October 22**—Tickets for in-person event go on sale for \$15 each at (charityauction.bid/fgucc2022).
- **Saturday, November 12**—Ticket sales end.
- **Sunday, November 13, after church**—in-person training for anyone who would like help with online bidding. Please bring the device you will be using. Laptops and tablets preferred; phones are not ideal.
- **Sunday, November 13, after church**—in-person viewing of items in the chapel.
- **Wednesday, November 16, 8 am**—online bidding for silent auction begins.
- **Saturday, November 19, noon to 2 pm**—in-person viewing of items in the chapel.
- **Saturday, November 19, 4 pm**—online silent auction ends.
- **Saturday, November 19, 5-7:30 pm**—in-person food, entertainment and no-host beer and wine, followed by the live auction. Childcare will be provided. Tickets may be purchased on the auction website: (charityauction.bid/fgucc2022).

— Bonnie McDowell, Auction Coordinator

We are ready for your auction donations!



We will be accepting donations from October 9 through November 6. Consider intangible items. We love events and experiences. Be creative. Donate something that you would enjoy sharing with others. Do you have a cabin you'd like to share? A special dinner you'd like to prepare? Do you bake yummy pies? Do you have a friend with a boat?

Please bring your items to the chapel or Elena's office with Donation Form attached and completely filled out, especially the value of your donation.

For intangible items, please email Bonnie at chiroqueen704@msn.com. See you on the red carpet!

— Bonnie McDowell, Auction Coordinator

Join our Auction Team!

God bless Bonnie and Deva who have co-chaired the auction for so many years that nobody really knows how much they do – Now we know! Our annual church auction is less than two months away – we're busy getting ready and we need your help, please.

We are looking for people to run the following mini-committees:

- ❖ Volunteer Coordinator
- ❖ Bar Coordinator
- ❖ Movers and Shakers (furniture, table coverings)
- ❖ Kitchen Cleanup Coordinator

If you are considering volunteering but are concerned about physical ability, please consider one of these positions as they mostly involve communication and organization. You can sign up to volunteer at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044DADAD23A1FC1-fgucc>

If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Lacock at kathleenlacock1@gmail.com.

Wine Glasses Needed



Do you have more wine glasses than you need? Please consider donating extra wine glasses to the auction. Stemmed or stemless, writing, decoration, is all fine. We do not need any specialty styles such as champagne coups or flutes. Wine glasses can be dropped off at the church by Sunday, November 6.

Thank you!

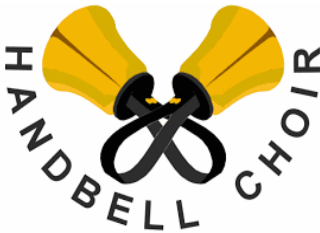
— Kathleen Lacock



Children's Choir starting up again on October 2!

This fall the Children's Choir program will begin again on Sunday, October 2! If your child is 2nd grade or older and is interested in making music with us, please contact Geneva Houx via email at Geneva.houx@gmail.com. Rehearsals will be on Sundays after church beginning in October.

Handbell Ringers!



We are planning to continue our handbell program this year with a series of small groups rather than a regularly meeting choir. This will allow ringers to participate in specific performances and not have to commit to a year's worth of rehearsals.

If you are interested in ringing this year, please email or call Elena with your contact information at 503-357-9121 or elena@fgucc.org.

If you want more information before making a decision, please contact Maggie Dickerson at 503-360-5408, or maggiedickerson@gmail.com.

— Maggie Dickerson

Best wishes to all of you celebrating birthdays in October!



Chris Harter—3
Andrea Meeuwsen—4
Ralph Vasey—4
Ellaine Whisler—4
Phil Zapf—6
Ruth Holznagel—7
Logan McGary—7
Betsy Foster—10
Carol Pauli—13
Justin Hoekstra—17

Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests

- Please remember Lois Johnston as she is dealing with ongoing health issues.
- Please remember Craig Moritz and family, as Craig continues his 9-month chemotherapy and radiation treatment plan for bone Cancer in his back, through the end of this year.
- Please remember Amy McLaughlin, Bailey Becker's mom, who was released from OHSU and is doing very well now and recovering in a rehab facility.
- Continued prayers for Alice Hoskins' son Brian Fleskes, as he is dealing with a severely torn rotator cuff and is still waiting for surgery date.
- Prayers for Lorren Fletcher's wife, Beverly Fletcher, who is currently in rehab at EmpRes Hillsboro Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Special Prayers Requested! Prayers for Jennifer Wengeler, as she heads forward on a mission to Botswana, Africa in October until sometime in January. The church they are working with has no electricity, and getting electricity is a priority. Jennifer's host family, James & Wendie Clark, will be offering micro loans to teach entrepreneurship and repayment of loans and investment in their own business. If you'd like to help support this mission, you can make an online donation to Central Missionary Clearinghouse at <https://cmcmisions.org>. Jennifer is a member of FGUCC who used to volunteer regularly for overnight hosting of Family Promise during the time we were offering this ministry.

Sharing prayers in worship—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 at [401-318-2447](tel:401-318-2447), or a Stephen Minister.

Continued Prayers—Prayers of healing and comfort for all who have ongoing concerns, including Els Abma, Deena Barrett, Ann and Russ Dondero, Paul and Stephanie Edwards, Lillian Gimre, Max Groszmann, Lois Johnston, Carlene Krueger, Stella Schrag, 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.

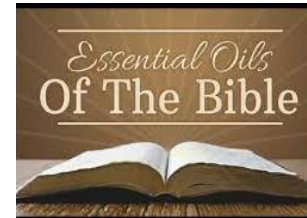
Prayer Shawl Knitting—Please join us for knitting this month via Zoom on **Wednesdays October 5 and 19, from 2-4PM**. The link to Zoom will be sent to everyone in the prayer shawl knitting group via email. If you'd like to participate, please call or email Elena.



Essential Oils of the Bible Class

Sunday, October 23, 12:00-1:30PM

Learn about and experience these oils for yourself. This class will be led by Jeane Canon and Renee Mills in Fellowship Hall. The date is **Sunday, October 23, 12:00-1:30PM**. Please plan to bring your own lunch. Everyone is welcome!



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 posted on bulletin board in fellowship hall*). 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.

Flowers for Sunday mornings

Would you like to furnish flowers to decorate the Communion table for a Sunday service? If so, we invite you to pick a date and sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Either yard flowers or store bought are welcome! If you would like someone to arrange them for you, just note that on your sign-up. Thanks for helping add beauty to our service!



At Home Communion



Brendan at **401-318-2447**.

The sacrament of communion is an important part of our relationship with Jesus, and the Worship Ministry wants to reach out to those of our congregation who are home bound or unable to attend church for any reason so as to include them in this sacred covenant. Anyone interested in having Pastor Brendan bring communion to their home may contact Elena at elena@fgucc.org, 503-357-9121, or Pastor

BEST Team Recycling, Sunday, October 2

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)



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.)

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.

Trash: Frozen food containers, six-pack rings (cut up), soft or crumbly Styrofoam-like materials, other plastics that cannot go in the curbside bin.

When in doubt, throw it out, to avoid contamination of other recyclables

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.

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

Further Resources: If you need more information, please try:

- ❖ Metro Recycling Hotline (503-234-3000, www.oregonmetro.gov)
- ❖ Waste Management (503-992-1212): give them your address and they'll tell you what you can recycle curbside. Ask specific questions.

Updated: September 2022

Pledges and Contributions



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 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!

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 \$2,579. If you want to participate in this easy fundraiser, blue bags are available to pick up in the church office. For any additional information please contact Elena at 503-357-9121 or elena@fgucc.org.

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)
-

Forest Grove UCC Staff

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Director of Jubilate Handbell Choir

OPEN POSITION

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