



The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove United
Church of Christ

January 2023

All Things New

“And the one seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’”

- Revelation 21:5

John Lennon said, “life is what happens when we are busy making other plans,” so let’s pay attention to what is! I recently heard someone joke saying, “Okay we aren’t going to make any new year’s resolutions or plans. We aren’t going to say 2023 is going to be ‘our year.’ We’re just going to tip toe in very gently, not touch anything, and try not to break anything.” Given the turbulence of the last few years, I imagine many of us can relate to this sentiment. And yet, little markers of endings and beginnings like the New Year give us a chance to cherish the life we are given. Rather than viewing it as a time to go after what we want or what we might think we need, the New Year can also be embraced as an opportunity to appreciate our life just as it is, allowing the completeness of the moment to be enough. We are all works in progress and are always being made new when we place ourselves in the hands of God. So, let’s sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride of the coming year remembering that new life is always emerging when we let go and practice this trust.

What’s new at Forest Grove United Church of Christ? During the month of January, I will be teaching a class on, “Spirituality and Well-being,” at Pacific University through the Center for Peace and Spirituality. This winter, Adrienne Klein, our wonderful Learning Community Coordinator will begin revamping youth group activities. It’s such a joy to see things we had before the pandemic finally returning. Our commercial kitchen project team is busy coming up with a plan for the upgrade. This upgrade will not only expand the possibilities of the sorts of events and functions we can have as a congregation but will also allow us to feed the community, offer venue space for rent, and support the meaningful work of our partnering community organizations. We don’t yet fully see the end result of all this meaningful work but, as we give ourselves to our shared vision and ministry, we hold the faith that we will see the new life emerging as we move forward. As a church, we continue to create the beloved community where all can feel welcome and be transformed in the Love that sustains us through all things and makes all things new.

Happy New Year, Pastor Brendan

Youth Group activities are starting up again!

After the New Year, monthly activities will be scheduled for our youth, 6th-12th grade to engage in. Activities will include fun get-togethers as well as purposeful acts of service. Look for updates in your email and the announcements.

At FGUCC, we value our youth and support their spiritual journey through:

Supported Growth: It is essential for teens to acquire skills such as openness, vulnerability, emotional maturity, trust, and the ability to self-regulate their emotions. When it comes to encouraging our teenagers to step outside their comfort zones, Youth Group is a great resource. Teens should be challenged by a strong community to improve themselves. Our Youth Group supports each other, whether they require a change of perspective, a new skill or pastime, or a team of people to help them get through difficult circumstances.

Sense of Purpose: Teens who are characterized by strong levels of gratitude, compassion, and tenacity are more likely to develop a sense of purpose. These crucial traits can assist teenagers in setting and achieving long-term, rewarding objectives. Youth Group encourages teens to do something meaningful to them. Teenagers form their own personal views and values when they get a sense of personal fulfillment from taking action that changes the world.

Secure Environment: Let's be honest, we could all use a place where we can open up and feel secure. Don't we all yearn for the freedom to be who we truly are? We all want to be loved and accepted for who we are. Don't we all aspire to be enough? Few places like that exist in the world, and we cultivate our Youth Group to be a place where teens can ask honest questions, discuss true struggles, and deal with real concerns, and we invite them to a place that many of us adults also want—a place where we are loved as Jesus loves us.

Youth Group Events Coming Up:

Save the Date and RSVP! Youth Group Night Trivia!

Who: FGUCC Youth 6th-12th Grade

Where: FGUCC Fellowship Hall

When: Sunday February 5th 6:00-7:30 PM

What: "Let's Get Quizzical" Team-Style Trivia

Can your team beat the others to become the reigning champions? Pasta dinner will be served. RSVP to ensure there is enough food for everyone. Email adrienne@fgucc.org OR respond online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V6W3HPR>



Also, watch for more information coming soon for:

- ♥ Valentine's Day Cupcake Decorating Party
- ♥ Gay Skate Night at Oaks Park

Women's Spirit January Book Exchange



We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. It was so fun to see so many of you for the Christmas Ornament making event. We are now planning the yearly Book Exchange for **Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30PM**. This will be a gift swap with books, so please bring a **WRAPPED**, new, or used book that you have enjoyed. A post-holiday book exchange is just the thing we need to extend some holiday cheer! Come join the fun! We will meet at Melissa Timm's home (2728 Ballad Lane, Forest Grove). We will have snacks and refreshments. Feel free to bring a food item to share, but know that it's not required. RSVP is helpful. Thank you!

—Melissa Timm and Sheila Harter

NEW from the Blessing Box Crew

Sandwich Making Project—If you're interested in an effortless way to help the Blessing Box Crew, you can make a loaf of sandwiches for the Main Street Free Fridge. Please make sandwiches, individually pack, and label each package with the ingredients. Bring back to church to put into the Free Fridge. Thank you!

Lasagna and soup ingredients plus supplies needed—The Blessing Box Crew can use the following supplies and ingredients to make lasagna and soup: disposable aluminum lasagna pans, lasagna noodles, canned tomatoes, or tomato sauce, and fresh carrots for soup. If you have #10 cans of tomatoes or sauce, that would be appreciated, but not necessary.

Pots & Pans Needed for the Unhoused—The Blessing Box Crew has had a specific request for pots and pans, which are especially needed for cooking food outdoors over campfires. If you have extra pots and pans that you no longer use, please bring them to the church. Thank you!

We need Extra Cooks! We need more help to prepare meals. We usually meet on Thursdays from 10AM to 1:00PM in the church kitchen. Please let us know if you're interested in joining us for this adventure!

For more information, please talk to Val Donley, Elena, Adrienne, or Pastor Brendan.

Christmas “un”decorating party

Please join us immediately following worship on Sunday, January 8 to un-decorate the church. Thank you—many hands make light the work!



Auction Fund-an-Item

You've paid for a new chapel floor and now we get to decide just what we want. We are holding our first meeting by Zoom on Tuesday, January 10 at 2;30 pm. If you're interested in attending, please let Elena (elena@fgucc.org) or Bonnie (chiroqueen704@msn.com) know and we'll get an invitation to you. If you can't make that meeting, let us know and we'll keep you in the loop.

Thanks, all, for keeping our church beautiful!

Parish Nurse Notes

Covid Corner

Bivalent Booster—I ran across this interesting update from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Bivalent Booster is for longest term protection against the original and omicron strains of the spike proteins variant. CDC recommends for those 5 years old and older, 2 months after your last Covid-19 vaccination or 3 months since you've had Covid.



Why? It prevents sickness and if you do get ill, you may be less ill, recover faster and avoid Hospitalization.

Please call me if I can be of any assistance or support: 503-887-0242.

I hope you had a Happy Healthy Holiday. With a wish for the blessing of good health

Deva, your Parish Nurse

Sign up to host Fellowship Time

There's a sign-up sheet in the narthex to sign up to host fellowship time on Sunday mornings, (i.e., make coffee, put out glasses, cups and napkins). We are welcoming people to bring homemade goodies, fresh fruit, veggies, cheese, crackers, or whatever makes your heart sing. If you prefer, you can use the supplies that are stored in the church kitchen, so you don't need to prepare or purchase anything to host fellowship. If you have any questions, please talk to Terri Wyborny. Thank you!

Annual Meeting set for January 29, 2023—Our Annual Meeting for the year 2022 has been scheduled for **Sunday, January 29, 2023**, immediately following worship. Please plan to participate in this important event in the life of our church.



Deadline for 2022 Annual Reports—If you are the chair or leader of any church group, including any committee, caring ministry, choir, or musical group, etc., please submit a report summarizing what your group did during 2022, no later than **Monday, January 16, 2023**, so that we can have the Annual Reports available for review by Sunday, January 22. Please email to Elena at elena@fgucc.org. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you!

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 to start 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

Best wishes to all of you celebrating birthdays in January:

Lillian Gimre—2	Stella Schrag—6
Lorin Karge Moritz—4	Sharon Ronan—8
Ethan Jones—6	Gini Petersen—15
Tom Epler—12	Jordan Vann—22
Kathleen Lacock—20	Brian Lacock—23
Dottie Waltz—23	



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)

Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests

Sympathy—Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family of Margerette Cooney, especially her beloved husband Ralph, and children Alison, John, and Adam. Margerette was a long-time member of FGUCC. She passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24. If you wish to honor Margerette's lifelong commitment to children and education, donations to your local public school or children's charity are suggested. If you would like to send cards to her husband Ralph Cooney or daughter Alison Freed, here is their contact information. Ralph Cooney, 2000 SW 331, Hillsboro, OR 97123, and Alison Freed, 2766 SW Hillsboro St, Portland, OR 97239.

New Prayer Concerns

Please continue prayers for Ralph and Robin Vasey's eight-year-old grandson, Henry, who recently had emergency surgery for a stroke shortly before Christmas. The surgery was complex, but they were able to stop the bleeding and relieve the pressure on his brain. He will be discharged from the hospital soon. He is still unable to move his left arm but is making progress with walking. He's receiving lots of different therapies to help him with speech and body movements and is making small improvements each day for which they are extremely grateful.

Please remember Christine Kidd and Faith Brown as they both continue to recover from shoulder replacement surgery in mid-December.

Continued Prayers—Prayers of healing and comfort for all who have ongoing concerns, including Els Abma, Bob Browning, Ann and Russ Dondero, Paul and Stephanie Edwards, Lorren Fletcher's wife, Beverly, Lillian Gimre, Max Groszmann, Stella Schrag, Yvonne Stacey, and any other friends and family of our church, not named here.

Special Prayers Requested! Continued prayers for Jennifer Wengeler for ongoing success in her mission trip in Botswana. Jennifer is a friend 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.

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 4 and 18, 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 Team Recycling, Sunday, January 1

Here's recycling we welcome:

- **We are no longer accepting Styrofoam!**
- **We are no longer accepting any #6 plastics!**
- 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 CLEAR #1 plastics can now be recycled at **New Seasons at Orenco Station** and at events such as James' Recycling, but not on First Sunday. (**Note:** we will accept #1 CLEAR plastics starting this Sunday, Dec. 4.)

New! We are now accepting #1 CLEAR plastics on First Sundays. Please bring clear, clean, and dry plastic packaging, including clamshells, tubs, and lids. We're also accepting paktech plastic six pack caps, and corks. We will take them to New Seasons for you.

Be sure to check recycling # on your plastics before delivering them to church, and make sure everything is CLEAN. THANK YOU!

We are no longer accepting any packing materials except air pillows, and no planting pots.

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

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.)

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.

New Way to Donate to FGUCC



If you would like to make a donation to FGUCC, you can scan this QRCode which will take you directly to our FGUCC Paypal donation page. There you will have the option of paying with either a debit or credit card or PayPal. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Budget 2023 is Under Construction

It is budgeting time for 2023, and this is a friendly reminder to return your Pledge Card for 2023, if you have not turned it in to date. Pledges are a vital part of our planning for the next year. This is an exciting 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. You can sign up for electronic giving with Vanco, which is a very simple option and setup, and fees are very low (let us know if you'd like more information). You can use PayPal on our church's website at www.fgucc.org. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Elena at elena@fgucc.org or (503) 357-9121. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Year-round Fundraising made simple via Amazon Smile!



If you are interested in an effortless way to benefit the church when you shop on Amazon, especially during the holidays, 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 \$2,903.** 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.

New Kitchen Report

The newly formed Kitchen Committee is up and “cooking!” Consisting of about a dozen volunteers, its charter is to put together a nuts-and-bolts proposal (including equipment specification & pricing and contractor proposals & bids) which will implement the kitchen-related goals for FGUCC ministry springing out of the year-long visioning process. These goals include the ability to:

1. Handle cooking for several hundred people, including food insecurity outreach,
2. Function as a teaching kitchen for community classes, and possible partnership with Pacific University.
3. Be used or rented for catered venues, e.g., weddings & funerals,
4. Be rented by businesses, both established and startups,
5. Be available to the Rural Youth Support Coalition in developing a youth drop-in center, and to other potential community partners.

To achieve these goals, the space must meet the requirements of a commercial kitchen. So, the committee has already visited multiple commercial kitchens in the local area for ideas and answers to questions arising from our research. In addition to a unifying passion for empowering this aspect of our church’s ministry, members bring with them a wide spectrum of kitchen experience and expertise.

The Kitchen Committee is pressing forward to complete our proposal as soon as feasible and present it to the Finance and Property (F&P) committee for its input & action, and after that to the Executive Board. In the meantime, we will regularly update the congregation about our work.

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