



The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove United
Church of Christ

August 2023

Sacred Rest

“My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

-Exodus 33:14

Non-programmed time is sacred. In these late days of summer I hope we are all taking time to prioritize rest and enjoy the beauty and nourishing support of the Earth and the Spirit all around us. Throughout the Bible we are told we are renewed and restored by the presence of God simply by slowing down, pausing, listening, and allowing ourselves to just be. Doing that can be our prayer. Allowing ourselves to break from the tendency to rush and fill our schedules can be the greatest way to give thanks for the abundant blessings of this life all around us and always available to us. We don't have to say anything when we pray. We can simply pause, be still long enough to notice and witness the great beauty of the universe. Then we can be truly present to each other in that Peace. So I hope we are all finding time to do that as we move into the later part of the summer and move towards the Fall.

As Fall approaches I want to continue to encourage us to consider inviting friends and family to join us as we gather again en masse in September. There are so few sacred community spaces where we can come together in a Spirit of Love and support like Forest Grove UCC. There aren't that many places we find “village.” FGUCC is truly a space of spiritual rest and renewal and a beautiful space we can share with others and welcome others' participation. Many of you might have noticed the music survey that is going around that the worship team formulated together. Worship is a collective experience! Throughout the visioning process of the past years we had conversations about the church as a “movement” and how to move forward together. The worship team has been having conversations about how we can explore more together as a community what we all find meaningful in worship. We have been imagining ways we can make room for each other, understand each other, and create a space where we are blending our voices and expressions of what we find meaningful into a fused expression of praise and joy. Your filling out the survey is part of this larger conversation about how we make worship as meaningful, creative, and participatory as possible to us all in these times.

I'd like to encourage us not only to fill out the survey, but also consider sharing the survey with a friend or a loved one you know who does not already attend FGUCC but who you think might enjoy what we have going on here! Sharing the survey in this way is a gentle way of letting others know about our church. It also allows us to learn what a meaningful worship experience might look like for people who might have even stopped going to church for one reason or another. Sharing the survey is a way we can learn about each other and our extended community and be welcoming and invitational! We are a beloved community worth sharing and growing as we create a sacred space together where we rest in the peace, the power, and the presence of God.

In Christ, Pastor Brendan

21+ Trivia Night at FGUCC



Please Join us for an exciting evening of trivia, hosted by the dynamic duo, Phillip and Adrienne! Get ready to test your knowledge, compete with friends, and have a blast at the FGUCC 21+ Trivia Night on **Saturday, August 12th, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**. Childcare will be provided.

Tickets are required for this event and are now available for purchase for just \$10. Please RSVP and secure your spot by visiting our ticketing website: <https://form.jotform.com/231146885560056>

August Pop Up VBS Opportunities

Sunday, August 13

Attention all young sea explorers! Get ready to dive into an exciting adventure at our Pop-Up VBS Sea Explorer Party on **Sunday, August 13th**, during our regular worship time from 10:00-11:30 am.

Join us for a splashing good time as we embark on an underwater journey like no other! There will be a sea of thrilling activities for children ages pre-school through 5th grade, including captivating music, creative crafts, exciting games, and delightful snacks.



Make sure to check in at the Chapel upon your arrival, as we can't wait to set sail with you on this unforgettable voyage!

Sunday, August 27 Pop Up VBS

Calling all young adventurers! Prepare to embark on a wild journey at our Pop-Up VBS Safari Party on **Sunday, August 27th**, during our regular worship time from 10:00-11:30 am.



Roar with excitement as we invite children ages pre-school through 5th grade to join us for a thrilling safari adventure! Immerse yourself in the rhythms of the jungle with captivating music, unleash your creativity with exciting crafts, engage in spirited games, and enjoy delectable snacks.

Remember to check in at the Chapel upon your arrival, as we eagerly await the arrival of all brave explorers. Get ready for an untamed expedition filled with fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories!

Learning Community Registration is Open!

🔔 Attention all parents and guardians! 🔔

☀️ Registration for Learning Community 2023-2024 is now OPEN! ☀️

We are excited to announce that our Learning Community will kick off on Sunday, September 17th, from 10:15 to 11:15, during our regular worship time for ages pre-school-12th grade. 🙏

The FGUCC Youth & Children Ministries program is dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing space for all children and youth to embark on their own faith journey. 🌈 Here, they will be encouraged to ask questions, feel supported in their growth, and experience the immense love that surrounds them.

Our engaging curriculum will explore the incredible joy, unwavering justice, and boundless love that Jesus inspires in all of us. 🙏 We believe that by nurturing these values, our children and youth will become compassionate leaders who make a positive impact on the world.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity! 🎉 Register your child online by August 30th to secure their spot in our Learning Community. It's quick and easy—just click on the link below:

🔗 Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/222266843493159>

We can't wait to welcome your child to our vibrant and inclusive community! If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Kitchen Capital Campaign

Throughout our history, service to the wider community has been a vital part of our mission. Our current fundraising to convert our kitchen to a certified commercial kitchen is a natural extension of our historic outreach. Many of you have already made a financial commitment to support this effort, and the Kitchen Committee is grateful. Thank you! We would love everyone's support in order to bring this effort to a successful conclusion and make our dream a reality. If you have not yet sent in a card defining your contribution, we hope that you will do so soon. The sooner the funds are committed, the sooner we can begin the work.



Pledges can be turned in to the church office, or returned by mail to: FGUCC, P.O. Box 265, Forest Grove, OR 97116. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let us know. Thank you! Thank you for your generous support!

—Your Kitchen Capital Fund Team

“The old threads are unraveling”

“Get your needles ready. We are stitching a new quilt of humanity. Bring your old t-shirts, worn out jeans, scarves, antique gowns, aprons, old pockets of plenty who have held Earth's treasures, stones, feathers, leaves, love notes on paper. Each stitch A mindful meditation. Each piece of material A story. The more color the better, so call in the tribes. Threads of browns, whites, reds, oranges Women from all nations start stitching. Let's recycle the hate, the abuse, the fear, the judgement. Turn it over, wash it clean, ring it out to dry. It's a revolution of recycled wears. Threads of green, blues, purples Colorful threads of peace, kindness, respect, compassion are being stitched from one continent to the next over forests, oceans, mountains. The work is hard your fingers bleed. But each cloth stitched together brings together a community A world, our future world Under one colorful quilt. The new quilt of humanity.

by Julia Myers

Special Music on August 27

Special music on August 27 will be provided by Classics A La Carte, an early music ensemble that includes Jane Romig, Phyllis Brinkerhoff, Annette Ewing, and Pam Shellenberger. They will play selections from Michael Haydn and Jacques-Martin Hotteterre written for recorders, flute and harpsichord.



August Volunteer Spotlight--Eric Canon, A Pillar of Dedication and Servant Leadership



Within the fabric of our church community, there exists an individual whose unwavering commitment and selfless dedication have left an indelible mark. Eric Canon, a cherished member of our church since 1986, has been a guiding light, spearheading numerous ministry projects and touching countless lives through his remarkable service.

Eric's journey of service highlights his deep passion for helping those experiencing homelessness. He was heavily involved with the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Washington County, giving his time, compassion, and resources to provide support and hope to the most vulnerable members of our society. In addition to his involvement in the Homeless Ministry, Eric played a pivotal role in our Bus Ministry, where his organizational skills and determination were instrumental in the acquisition of our new bus, lovingly named Lois. Through his unwavering dedication and meticulous planning, Eric ensured that our church could extend its reach to those who might not otherwise have access to our services.

Eric's impact extends beyond specific ministries. As an integral member of the BEST Recycling team, he actively contributes to our church's commitment to environmental stewardship. Through his leadership and dedication, Eric has helped our community become more sustainable and conscious of our impact on the planet, leaving a lasting legacy of care for future generations.

During one of the most challenging periods in recent history, the COVID-19 pandemic, Eric stepped up as a beacon of strength and leadership. Serving as the past moderator for our church, he guided us through unprecedented times, offering guidance, empathy, and steadfast support. His wisdom and calm presence provided solace to our congregation, ensuring that we remained united even in the face of uncertainty. Throughout the years, Eric has also served as our church's Sexton, demonstrating his extensive knowledge of mechanical and building maintenance.

Beyond his practical contributions, Eric's artistic talents shine brightly. He is an amazing artist who gifted our community with the creation of our beautiful bell tower. Through his skilled craftsmanship and artistic vision, he has provided us with a symbol of faith, calling us to come together and celebrate our shared beliefs. Eric's artistic contributions have enriched our worship experience, inviting us to find beauty and inspiration in our spiritual journey.

Eric Canon embodies the qualities of reliability, thoroughness, and humility. His dedication to serving others and his unwavering commitment to our church community are testaments to his servant leadership. On behalf of our entire church community, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Eric Canon for his years of service, his unwavering dedication, and his profound impact. His selfless contributions have shaped our church and touched countless lives. Eric is a true embodiment of what it means to live a life of service, and we are forever grateful for his presence in our midst.

Best wishes to all of you celebrating birthdays in August!

1—Kristin Ludwig
2—Winnie Beu
2—Phoebe Edwards-Leeper
4—Pamelajeane Myers
5—Zoe Bichsel
6—Carol Benner



14—Stephanie Edwards
23—Eric Murphy
25—Brandi Frye
26—Naomi Frye
30—Nathan Lawrence

Welcome, friends!



You are invited to participate in the **4th annual “Distance Run/Walk”** event to support the **Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center on Sunday, August 20, 2023**. Virginia Garcia’s mission is to provide high quality, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate primary health care to the communities of Washington and Yamhill counties with a special emphasis on migrant and seasonal farmworkers and others with barriers to receiving health care. (To learn more, you can visit <https://viriniagarcia.org/>)

How does it work?

Choose **your own course** in any location with **any distance** you would like to run or walk (or boat, or swim, etc.), and give a **donation of any amount** to the Virginia Garcia Center. To **donate** (and **sign up** for the event), you can visit: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/VG2023>

Is there a t-shirt?

Yes! The first **100 people** to sign up **by Sunday, July 23rd** can receive a **free t-shirt** as a gift for participating. All participants beyond the first 100 are welcome to purchase a t-shirt for \$13. T-shirts will be delivered in the days before August 20.

Pictures

You are invited to **share a picture** from your run or walk by texting it to 503-307-4754 or emailing it to matandleah@gmail.com. Leah will use the pictures to create a **photo collage** that will be shared with everyone after the event.

We hope you will join us!

-Leah Henriksen and Michael Moore

Summer Volunteer Opportunities



John Davis needs help with one more project this summer, and that is painting. Please talk to John if you're interested in helping him with this project. Many thanks to Diane Jackson for volunteering to do carpet cleaning in the learning community classrooms, and to Rod Burrus for a lot of power washing of the front courtyard and other areas.

Recording Technician Needed



Record the Sunday morning and/or special event services at the FGUCC sound both along with John Davis as he operates the sound board. The equipment is there in the bottom drawer as are instructions about how to record a service and make a CD. For additional information about the process and procedure, John Ball can provide technical assistance and support. Minimal computer understanding is required for providing basic recordings while additional understandings can lead to welcomed remembrances to special event attendees. This volunteer position is another way to take an active role in worship. For details email Michael Terhorst at michael@terhorstfamily.com.

From the Blessing Box Crew



Updates for the week ending August 4

The BB Crew continues to meet weekly on Thursdays from about 9:30AM until 2:00PM and prepare between 200-300 meals each week. We can always use extra hands. You don't have to come every week and you also don't have to volunteer for the entire time. If you only have a few hours, you can come by and pitch in at your convenience.

Meals made this week include: Ham and cheese sandwiches, chicken dinner, chicken and rice fajitas, cucumber salad with sesame oil and seeds, spicy greens, tofu and rice, and blueberry crisp.

Wish list this week includes: Sugar, eggs, canned milk, sesame oil, cumin, ground beef, a food processor and a blender, and 16 oz deli serve plastic containers.

Sandwiches always welcome! 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. You can then put sandwiches and/or other food in the Free Fridge any time of day. Thank you!

Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests

NEW—Please remember Bob Browning in your prayers as he's currently hospitalized at Tuality OHSU Hospital.

Continued remembrance—Please keep Russ and Ann Dondero in your prayers as they both continue to navigate health issues. If you would like to send them cards, they recently moved to The Markham House, 10606 SW Capital Hwy, Portland, Oregon 97219.



Continued remembrance—Please keep Paul Minor in your prayers. He is home and continuing to navigate ongoing health issues.

Continued remembrance—Please keep Deva Harris Williams in your prayers as she continues to heal and recover from injuries due to her fall in early May.

Continued remembrance—Thank you for your ongoing prayers for Susan Shepard's grandson, Logan, and her daughter and son-in-law, Kathryn and Jon Schuback. Logan seems to be making good progress with his walker and braces and is expected to be walking independently by age 4 (or sooner). He will probably always have a slightly different gait. His parents and all of us are very grateful for the prayers of our community.

Continued remembrance—Prayers for Bev Fletcher, Lorren's wife, who is living at the EmpRes Hillsboro Health & Rehabilitation Center.

Ongoing prayer request: Please continue prayers for Ralph and Robin Vasey's eight-year-old grandson, Henry, who continues to recover from surgery following an emergency surgery for a stroke before Christmas. He's still receiving lots of different therapies to help him with speech and body movements and is making great strides in improvements each day for which they are extremely grateful.

Continued Prayers—Prayers of healing and comfort for all who have ongoing concerns, including Els Abma, Bob Browning, Paul and Stephanie Edwards, Lillian Gimre, Max Groszmann, Yvonne Stacey, 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 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 **Wednesday, August 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.

FGUCC Podcast

This platform will bring you insightful episode interviews, thought-provoking discussions, and engaging stories from within our community. Each of the podcast will feature a wide range of topics, from current events and social issues to personal stories and achievements. You can listen to the podcast on our website, or subscribe on your favorite podcast platform like iTunes and Spotify to never miss an episode.

Can & Bottle Collection Fundraiser

Thank you for your steady support of the Can & Bottle Collection for our FGUCC Youth Ministry. Yay for us – **to date we have raised \$3,918**. 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.



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!

You can Donate to FGUCC via QRCode

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.



Church Directory—We regularly update the church directory, and you can get either paper or electronic copy upon request. Contact Elena at elena@fgucc.org or 503-357-6960 (call or text welcome).

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)
- Link to Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/forestgroveucc/>

BEST Team First Sunday for August 6

At this time, we only accept the following items on First Sunday:

- ✓ Clear #1 plastics
- ✓ Air pillows
- ✓ PakTech handles for carrying 4-6 pack cans
- ✓ Candle wax (the Prickett Family uses)
- ✓ Ink cartridges



Cell Phones: We will accept cell phones at any time. (Please place phones in the marked box on the shelf above coat rack in the narthex.)

Update on battery and CFL bulb recycling from the BEST Team



Recycling batteries is very confusing. We'll try to simplify it. You can recycle your own batteries, or **you can bring all of them to church on First Sunday and we'll sort and dispose of them properly for you.** If you bring them to us, please contribute to the recycling fees.

All batteries and fluorescent bulbs and tubes can be taken to the Metro Central Hazardous Waste Facility on an individual basis.

Alkaline (AAA, AA, A, C, D, 9 volt): Are safe to go in the trash. Best if they're in a bag or box together, with 9 volts taped on the terminal end. Can be recycled at Batteries Plus* for \$1.50 a pound (they extract the aluminum from them).

Lithium (like alkaline, but last longer): Can be recycled at Batteries Plus* for \$.50 a pound.

Button Cell: Can be recycled at Batteries Plus* for \$.50 a pound (some are safe to throw in the trash).

Lithium-ion (rechargeable, in cell phones, tablets, laptops, electric cars, electric bikes, electric yard tools): Can be recycled at Batteries Plus* for \$.50 a pound. Can also be recycled free at Ace Hardware in Forest Grove, Home Depot (up to 11#) and Lowe's (up to 11#).

Lead acid (commonly used in cars, wheelchairs, trolling motors and RV cycles): Can be recycled at Batteries Plus* for \$.50 a pound. Can also be recycled free at the Forest Grove Transfer Station and Computer Drive Connection in Cornelius.

CFL bulbs: Can be recycled at Batteries Plus* for \$.99 each or at Home Depot and Lowe's for free (no tubes).

*Batteries Plus will recycle 5# of batteries free with a purchase.

— Your FGUCC BEST Team

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