



The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove United
Church of Christ

October 2023

Shared Abundance

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

-2 Corinthians 9:6-8

In this season of stewardship when we meditate on what it means to support the life and ministry of the church, we can reflect on what it means to have and share abundance. We have all probably heard the words of Mahatma Gandhi many times who encouraged humanity to, “Live simply that others might simply live.” The first indigenous president of Bolivia, Evo Morales, similarly spoke of the concept of, “el Buen Vivir,” or “living well,” not as a way of living better at the expense of others, but as the practice of living well within a community, in relationship to the whole, without exploiting or excluding others. This kind of shared wellness is exactly the sort of beloved community we are called to imagine for humanity as followers of Jesus who give us a vision of the realm of God. Being in community together, exploring faith, and seeing church as a participatory movement for justice and love provides us a context for us to explore how we create this good life, this shared abundance, together!

In Lynne Twist’s book, “the soul of money,” she writes about what she calls the myths of scarcity, the first being the idea that there’s not enough. A season of giving invites us to meditate on how we are enough. The spiritual practice of giving invites us to see where in our lives we have abundance to share with the communities of which we are a part and celebrate the ways we indeed discover abundance in relation to the whole. In pursuit of the realm of God, which we might refer to interchangeably with the term, “beloved community,” Jesus didn’t ask everyone to make the same sacrifice, but everyone was invited to sacrifice something. The rich man with Lazarus right outside the gate might have been invited to offer a larger proportion of his financial resources. Someone with no financial resources might have been invited to offer their presence, or their spiritual gifts. When everyone offers something we all find ourselves around the table together with enough! We find ourselves living well together. This is why stewardship and giving is part of spiritual practice in the church.

I am happy to celebrate all the ways we experience abundance as a community. We have dedicated volunteers who bring us educational opportunities, healthy food for sharing, music, and so many other blessings. We are a place where curious and open minds and warm welcoming hearts come together for all kinds of consciousness-raising conversations, and finding meaning through faith exploration. I currently see us function as a center for inter-spiritual dialogue and popular learning. We are actively creating ways to offer the resource of our space to the community around us to live out our mission of being a movement for justice, joy, and love here in Forest Grove; a vision we arrived at through our process with convergence. An example of this is our deepening collaborative relationship with Pacific University. When we join together in all these vibrant efforts we see and discover abundance. During this season of stewardship, we all have the opportunity to celebrate the ways we experience this abundance and renew our commitment to offer what we can to support this good life we share together, united in the love of Christ that inspires and guides us.

Blessings, Brendan

Update from Your Kitchen Capital Fund Team

We are still accepting pledges for the new kitchen project. If you have been planning to contribute to this project, you might consider making a gift in memory, or in honor of a special person in your life.



NEW NOTE for Kitchen Project: If you're interested in making ongoing monthly contributions for a set period of time, there's an option available to sign up for electronic giving through Vanco "Making it easy for givers to give." Please let us know if you're interested so we can send the Vanco form for the Kitchen Project as well as a Pledge Card to you.

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 for your generous support! Your Kitchen Capital Fund Team

—Your Kitchen Capital Fund Team

Opportunity to present special music during worship September 10-November 26

Would you like to share your musical talent with the congregation this fall? We are offering the opportunity to share a solo, duet, etc. during worship Sundays September-November. Please look for the sign-up sheet and instructions on the big round table in the narthex. If you have any questions, please talk to Elaine Foy or Sue Armentrout. Thank you! Your Worship Ministry

Caring for Our Community Auction 2023



Mark your calendars! **Saturday, November 18.** Our big event of the year is coming up! “Caring for Our Community: A Winter Wonderland Ball.”

Our auction will directly help support these important local community programs:

- Care Partners (an affiliate of the Oregon Nonprofit Hospice Alliance)
- GG’s House
- New Narrative Integrative Mental Health (formerly Luke-Dorf)
- Native American Youth and Family Center

The proceeds also support our church in providing free or low-cost building space for many community functions.

How you can participate:

Donate! Please send your donation ideas to Bonnie at chiroqueen704@msn.com. All items should be delivered by Sunday, Nov 5. Donations should be handed directly to Bonnie McDowell, Elaine Foy, Elena Parker or Deva Harris-Williams, along with a completed donation form. Please consider offering events and experiences. Be creative. Donate something that you would enjoy sharing with others. We love join-ins!

Volunteer! Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044DADAD23A1FC1-fgucc1#/> or talk to Bonnie (chiroqueen704@msn.com) or Kathleen (kathleenlacock1@gmail.com). If you have traditionally volunteered for a particular job, please sign up right away to reserve your favorite volunteer opportunity. Thank you to all our volunteers.

How to bid on silent items: If you plan to bid on your phone, it’s easiest if you download the Auctria mobile app from the Google Play Store or App Store. Open the app. Enter charityauction.bid/fgucc2023 as your event. Go to Menu, online registration. You must register with a credit card, but you can choose to check out later with a check or cash to save yourself credit card fees. Click on Catalog. You can scroll through all items, or choose a category under Show Me, or put a word into the Search bar. When you find an interesting item, star it. You can later see all starred items under Show Me, so you can minimize later searches. Follow bidding instructions for each item. Questions? Ask Bonnie, chiroqueen704@msn.com.

Bid and attend!

- **Wednesday, Nov. 1** – website opens and tickets for the in-person event go on sale at charityauction.bid/fgucc2023 \$20 each. Don’t miss out! Keep checking the website; more items will be added.
- **Sunday, Nov. 12** – view items and get help with bidding after church

- **Wednesday, Nov. 15, 8 am** - online bidding for silent auction begins at charityauction.bid/fgucc2023.
- **Saturday, Nov. 18**
 - ♥ 4:30 pm – doors open for the party: in-person food and no-host beer and wine. Music by Castle Road.
 - ♥ 4:30-6:00 – in-person and home bidding on silent items continues, all electronic. If you're at the party, bring your phone and be signed in to the website if you can; we will have volunteers to help you. Have your favorite items stashed, so they will be easy to find and bid on.
 - ♥ 5:45 and 6:00 – silent items will close
 - ♥ 6:00 – live auction begins
 - ♥ 6:00 – check out of won items begins
 - ♥ 7:00 – in-person event ends

Fund-an-Item this year is the “smallwares” (pots and pans, etc.) for our yet-to-be done kitchen remodel. Please buy a virtual mixer or saucepan to help us outfit our kitchen.

Got wine you aren't drinking? We'll have a wine pull if we get enough bottles.

See you at the Winter Wonderland!

Bonnie McDowell
chiroqueen704@msn.com

From the Blessing Box Crew

Updates for end of the month of September

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.



Some of the Meals made this week include: Teriyaki Chicken, chicken with rice & veggies, corn chowder, turkey-chicken noodle soup, vegetarian curried lentils with apples, cucumber salad, ham sandwiches, PB&J sandwiches, apple crisp and chocolate chip coconut bars.




Wish list includes: Celery, carrots, potatoes, onions ground beef, eggs, butter, thyme, oatmeal, balsamic vinegar and narrow spatulas.

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!

Covid Resurgence

We are still experiencing a resurgence of Covid in our church family and our community. This is a continued reminder to everyone that vaccination is the best intervention to reduce the severity of illness and reduce your chances of getting Covid. This is a reminder about signs and symptoms, treatment and intervention options.

IS IT ... COVID, THE FLU OR A COLD?

 It's likely COVID if ...	 It's likely THE FLU if ...	 It's likely A COLD if ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Fever or chills*▶ Sore throat and cough▶ Shortness of breath▶ Fatigue▶ Muscle aches▶ Headache▶ Loss of taste or smell▶ Runny or stuffy nose▶ Nausea or vomiting▶ Diarrhea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Feels as if you got hit by a truck suddenly▶ Fever and chills▶ Muscle aches▶ Sore throat and cough▶ Runny or stuffy nose▶ Headache▶ Fatigue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Comes on slowly over two to three days▶ Runny or stuffy nose▶ Sneezing▶ Sore throat and cough▶ Watery eyes▶ Fever (rarely)▶ Nasal mucus that starts clear but turns to white, yellow or green after two to three days

*For adults over 65, a fever is considered one thermometer reading higher than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, multiple thermometer readings above 99 degrees or a rise in temperature greater than 2 degrees above normal body temperature.

Ways to reduce your risk of illness or reduce seriousness of illness.

- ♥ Stay up to date on your Vaccinations including Boosters and Flu Vaccine. This can reduce your risk of Hospitalization by 94%!
- ♥ The CDC recommends waiting to get a Covid Booster 3 months after having Covid, allowing your natural immunity to reset itself.
- ♥ Have a supply of Rapid Tests on Hand.
- ♥ Wear a well-fitting mask in public.
- ♥ Exercise, and eat a good diet.

If you are ill: Test for Covid

If positive: Isolate for 5 days. If out in public, wear a mask for 5-10 days). Hydrate and Rest!

Let's try our best to stay healthy, check in on your friends and neighbors. Reach out if you need help when you are ill.

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

Deva, your FGUCC Parish Nurse

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
Carol Pauli—13
Justin Hoekstra—17

Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests

Continued remembrance—Please continue to remember Richard and Christine Kidd as Richard navigates ongoing health issues.

Continued remembrance—Please keep Paul Minor in your prayers as he continues to navigate ongoing health issues.

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, their new address is: The Markham House, 10606 SW Capital Hwy, Portland, Oregon 97219.

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—Please continue to remember Stephanie Lind as her procedure for essential tremor was postponed from Wednesday, August 23 to October 18.

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

Continued Prayers—Prayers of healing and comfort for all who have ongoing concerns, including Els Abma, Bob Browning, Paul and Stephanie Edwards, Lillian Gimre, Charla Gladden, 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, October 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.

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, Forest Grove United Church of Christ!

Land Acknowledgement

At Forest Grove United Church of Christ, we honor the Atfalati Kalapuya people on whose traditional and ancestral homelands we stand. We acknowledge we are here because of the sacrifices forced upon them. In remembering the original people of this land we honor their legacy, their lives, and their descendants with the forming of relationships to each other and the living world. It is our aspiration, our responsibility, and our commitment to transforming any institutional legacy of violence that we may bear as a church into an expression of truth-telling, reconciliation, and restitution today.

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 \$4,068**. 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.



BEST Team First Sunday for October 1

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.)

Battery and CFL bulb recycling information



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.

— Your FGUCC BEST Team

Free Recycling Event

Saturday, October 7 from 10AM to 1:00 PM

Event Summary:

Downtown Hillsboro in the large parking lot on N 1st Ave, between NW Jackson and NW Lincoln Streets.

All of the information that you'll need is detailed here at the Westside Planetdom [website](#).

Click on this link for list [Drop-off items for recycling](#)

- Computers, electronics and other small, corded items
- Some #1 (PET/PETE), #5 (PP) plastics, and #6 (PS) plastics, including Styrofoam. Read collection event details carefully.

Information tables will be available on sustainable living topics to help you learn how to reduce your load on our earth.



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