



# The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove United  
Church of Christ

January 2024

## Come to the Peace Table

*“There is no way to peace. Peace is the way.” -A.J. Muste*

*“Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of justice.”*

*– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

We have a long history of education being part of our mission at the Forest Grove United Church of Christ. Our founders were educators and many of us are or have been teachers! Our founders set up a school for orphaned children whose parents abandoned them to go look for gold in California. Not only has education been core to our mission since our founding, but then and now, we have found ourselves seeking spiritual truth in a society where many apparently cared more about gold than their kids similar to how the interest of profits takes precedence over the interests of people in our society today.

In a society where we are disconnected from each other in so many ways and war continues to be a source of profit for the few, we are building community and educating ourselves for change through what we are calling our “Peace Table Dinners,” at Forest Grove United Church of Christ. If you haven’t been aware of our Peace Table dinners, I invite you to celebrate this emerging ministry of our church and consider coming to a dinner if you haven’t already attended one. We have offered childcare for every dinner so far this year.

The Peace Table dinners have been great community events thanks to collaborative effort. Charlene Murdock, Val Donley, and several members of our congregation have been making delicious food for every event and have curated a line-up of interesting conversations and speakers. Maggie Pike and others have been selling crafts with the proceeds going to charitable causes associated with each evenings’ theme. Everyone helps clean up afterwards! It’s inspiring to see people cooperating and caring for each other in this way. Of our last two dinners one was about climate change and the other addressed the conflict in the middle east. We watched the documentary, “The reluctant radical,” about Ken Ward’s practice of non-violent civil disobedience against the fossil fuels industry. Ken attended the dinner and answered questions. In the second dinner this year, Rabbi Fora from the Jewish Voice for Peace and a Palestinian

Woman from Jerusalem named Ruru spoke about what we can do to stop the violence in Israel/Palestine. That dinner was held the first night of Chanukah. Many from the Jewish community expressed how moved they were that we lit the Advent Hope candle and the candles of the Menorah to honor our respective festivals of light together. At these Peace Table dinners we are providing illumination on a variety of issues, lighting up our corner of the world, and discovering how Peace is possible together. The recent dinners have brought together groups from Adelante Mujeres, Pacific University, town community groups like Western Washington County for Racial Justice, the Jewish Voice for Peace, and of course the intrepid members of the Forest Grove United Church of Christ. The “Peace Table Dinners,” as we’re calling them, are a great way we are being and building beloved community. They are also a way we are continuing our tradition of being a place of education for the community around us! For our next Peace Table dinner event we will be hosting a creation justice summit with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in February. Keep your eyes peeled for these great events and come to the Peace Table sometime!

Peace be with you, Brendan

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## Christmas “un”decorating party

Please join us immediately following worship on Sunday, January to 7 un-decorate the church. Many hands make light the work! Thank YOU!



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## Sunday morning "Coffee and Convo"

Coffee and donuts will be available starting at 9:30 on Sunday mornings to give you a chance to sit, chat, and catch up with friends before the worship service.

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## Name that Tune Spaghetti Dinner



Save the date! Please join us for a fun mid-winter spaghetti dinner on **Saturday, February 10 at 6PM.** We will have a fun time with a “Name that Tune” game! Suggested donation is \$10.

Please RSVP to Elena at 503-357-9121, or [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org).



## Blessing Box Overview for 2023

In March of 2023 the ‘Blessing Box Team’ started documenting quantities of food that were going in the outside food storage containers. The ‘Team,’ which is a dedicated project for the Forest Grove Dancing Witches, is a wonderful mix of steadfast volunteers and a fluctuating group of volunteers. Cooking is the strong point in this group, and I say this lovingly. Figuring out what statistics to keep may not be so strong, but we are learning and growing.

The data that was collected was entered in a spreadsheet giving us the following results.

- ♥ Dinners - 2,506
- ♥ Soups - 1,166
- ♥ Sandwiches - 3054
- ♥ Salads and Veggies - 541
- ♥ Desserts - 2,287

Volunteer hours are logged – however they have yet to be entered in a spreadsheet. The ‘Team’ would like to thank everyone in the congregation for all the donations you have given that help make this ongoing project possible. We’d also like to thank “tireless” Charlene Murdock, who brings fresh vegetables, cheeses and too many other things to list here. Also, please continue to patronize Slow Rise Bake House as they donate ingredients on a regular basis that we use for the bread puddings, sandwiches, and pizza bread.

### Goals for next year include:

- Changes to our tracking forms for:
  - Serving sizes going out, and
  - Better management of container flow in the stock area
- Getting community youth more involved.
- Looking for midafternoon volunteers to help with packaging.
- Looking for a box clean-up patrol of the church property.

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## Best wishes to everyone celebrating a birthday in January!

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



## Ralph's Run in Honor of Ralph Brown



We need a few more volunteers for Ralph's Run next **Saturday, January 6, from 7-11AM!** Please contact Elena at [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org). For several years we've worked with ORRC (Oregon Road Runners' Club) to prepare and serve the pancake breakfast for runners, walkers and volunteers at this fun event that kicks off the new year. The ingredients are provided (and paid for!) — we just have to show up to make and serve breakfast. Last but not least, our **church receives \$1,000 for volunteering at this fun event!** Thank you!

— Elena Parker, Volunteer Coordinator

## Parish Nurse Covid Corner

Vaccine appointments are now more readily available at Safeway and Walgreens. Below you will see some updated information about Covid Boosters from AARP.

**COVID-19**

### I'M UP TO FIVE COVID BOOSTERS. SHOULD I REALLY BE SIGNING UP FOR YET ANOTHER SHOT NOW?

**Y**es. If you didn't get a COVID vaccine this fall, you need to hustle and catch up.

The most recent shot, which was released in September 2023, isn't actually a booster. It's a new vaccine that targets the latest variants. So even if you got the previous booster, you're not fully protected from the current versions of the virus.

Researchers who study the virus predict that COVID will continue to circulate throughout the winter, along with flu, RSV and other viruses that send hundreds of thousands of older adults to the hospital each year.

"One thing that we've learned over the past three and a half years is that [the coronavirus] isn't a seasonal virus like the flu is. It's with us constantly," says David Montefiori, director of the Laboratory for AIDS Vaccine Research and Development at Duke University Medical Center. "And as immunity wanes in the population, we're going to continue to see increased numbers of infections and associated increases in hospitalizations and deaths."

The coronavirus vaccine could become an annual shot, like the influenza vaccine. Researchers are even working on a combined COVID-flu vaccine, so a few years from now, a single shot from your doctor or pharmacy may be all you need to protect yourself fully. —RN

**Please note:** Deva will be on vacation January 7-28. Please contact Pastor Brendan or Elena Parker for any parish nurse needs. We have substitutes available to help our during Deva's vacation.

## Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests

**In deep sympathy**—Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family and friends of our beloved Paul Minor who passed away on Friday, December 1.



To say the very least, Paul Minor was a gentle giant and a pillar of our church as well as the Forest Grove community during the many years that he lived here. He was a good friend to many and always an outstanding role model. He was a member of FGUCC since 1976 and selflessly contributed his time and many talents. Details of his full life will be forthcoming in future publications.

Please remember his beloved wife Linda and their sons David and Michael, as well as extended family and numerous friends. Paul will be deeply missed!

A memorial service and reception have been scheduled for **Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 2PM** here at Forest Grove UCC. There will be a lovely and lengthy prelude of Paul's favorite organ pieces, and we're expecting a large crowd, so please plan to arrive early.

**Thanks have been received from Ann and Russ Dondero**—"Russ and I want to thank you and the Forest Grove UCC Congregation Members who keep us in touch with our 49 years of life in Forest Grove. The seasonal handmade cards are always a joyful surprise as well. You may have heard that what we thought was going to be our forever home turns out to be the "next to being our forever home." Russ has moved already and will get the needed care. At the time of this writing I am still at Markham House and will join Russ when the rooms at our new home are completed, approved and officially licensed by the state."

### New Address & Facility Phone Numbers:

Elder Garden Care Home  
4 NE 202nd Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97230

Telephone numbers are for the Elder Garden Care Home. Please ask for Russ when you call.  
Home: 503-465-6888, Cell 503-432-9865  
Ann's Cell Phone: 503-750-3345

**New**—Please keep Pete Truax in your prayers for continued smooth and speedy recovery following recent hip replacement surgery.

**New**—Please keep Charla Gladden in your prayers as she is recovering from RSV at home after a few days in the hospital during Christmas.

**New**—Please keep Bob Browning in your prayers as he continues to deal with some health issues and was hospitalized on Christmas Eve for several days. Bob is back home now.

**New**—Please keep Maggie Dickerson in your prayers as she is recovering from some health issues and hopes to be back to church soon.

**New**—Please keep Mary Mullen in your prayers for continued smooth and speedy recovery following knee replacement surgery in early December.

**Continued remembrance**—Please remember John and Mary Welch as John is continuing steady recovery from surgery several weeks ago. John recently moved back home after a few weeks in rehab following surgery.

**Continued remembrance**—Please continue to remember Kaili Burbano and her family in your prayers as Kaili fell in late October sustaining a traumatic head injury, and is still at Emanuel Hospital.

**Continued remembrance**—Please remember Jobina Lacock as she is dealing with some ongoing health concerns.

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

**Continued remembrance**—Please keep Deva Harris Williams in your prayers as she is still continuing to heal and recover from injuries due to a fall in early May.

**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, Carol Benner, Bob Browning, Paul and Stephanie Edwards, Lillian Gimre, Charla Gladden, Max Groszmann, Yvonne Stacey, Barbara Strain, 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](mailto:elena@fgucc.org).

**Prayer Shawl Knitting**—Please join us for knitting this month via Zoom on **Wednesdays, January 3 and 17, from 2-4PM**. The link to the Zoom meeting will be sent to everyone in the prayer shawl knitting group via email. If you’d like to participate, please call, or email Elena.



## **Annual Meeting set for January 28, 2024**

Our Annual Meeting for the year 2023 has been scheduled for **Sunday, January 28, 2024**, immediately following worship. Please plan to participate in this important event in the life of our church.

### **Deadline for 2023 Annual Reports**

If you are the chair or leader of any church group, including a Committee, Team, Choir, etc., please submit a report summarizing what your group did during 2023, no later than **Monday, January 8, 2024**, so that we can have Annual Reports available for review two weeks prior to the annual meeting. Please email to Elena at [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to let us know. Thank you!



## BEST Team First Sunday for January 7

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

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## Budget 2024 is Under Construction

**Attention, Please!** If you pay your pledge electronically, please make sure to turn in a pledge card so that the Finance & Property Committee can accurately gauge anticipated pledges for the upcoming year.

It is budgeting time for 2024. Pledges are a vital part of our planning for the next year, so if you have not turned in your pledge card yet, this is a friendly reminder to complete and turn in your Pledge Card for 2024. Please drop it off at church the next time you are here, or mail it to: **FGUCC, P.O. Box 265, Forest Grove, OR 97116**

Thank you for your ongoing generous support of this amazing church!

—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 also donate via PayPal on our church's website at [www.fgucc.org](http://www.fgucc.org). If you have questions or need more information, please contact Elena at [elena@fgucc.org](mailto: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 via PayPal. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let us know.



## 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 \$4,393.** 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](mailto:elena@fgucc.org).

## 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.

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

# **Forest Grove UCC Staff**

## **Moderator**

Deena Barrett — [momforrent2001@yahoo.com](mailto:momforrent2001@yahoo.com)

## **Pastor**

Brendan Curran — [brendan@fgucc.org](mailto:brendan@fgucc.org)  
Phone: 503-523-6339

## **Learning Community Coordinator**

Ella Tignor — [ella@fgucc.org](mailto:ella@fgucc.org)

## **Office Manager**

Elena Parker — [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org)

## **Sexton**

John Davis — [sexton2862@gmail.com](mailto:sexton2862@gmail.com)

## **Parish Nurse**

Deva Harris-Williams — [fguccparishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:fguccparishnurse@gmail.com)

## **FGUCC Media & Tech Specialist (MTS)**

Jesse Montez — [jesse@fgucc.org](mailto:jesse@fgucc.org)

## **Stephen Ministry**

Renee Mills — [millsrenergy@yahoo.com](mailto:millsrenergy@yahoo.com)  
Ken Prickett — [qkenbettp@gmail.com](mailto:qkenbettp@gmail.com)

## **Director of Sanctuary Choir**

Sue Armentrout — [slt.arm@frontier.com](mailto:slt.arm@frontier.com)  
Laura Frye — [lajanafrye@gmail.com](mailto:lajanafrye@gmail.com)

## **Service Music Musician**

Joannah Ball Sechrist — [joannahball@gmail.com](mailto:joannahball@gmail.com)

## **Director of Children's Choirs**

Geneva Houx — [geneva.houx@gmail.com](mailto:geneva.houx@gmail.com)

## **Contact Information**

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