



The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove United
Church of Christ

June 2024

Ecclesia: The ones sent out

Pentecost is an exciting time of year. As many of us head off for summer adventures and we experience movement and travel we can consider how an early world for church was, “ecclesia,” which means the ones “sent out” to proclaim the good news. This understanding of church helps us see how church is not us as individuals but about us as a collective. Together with each other we meet God in relationship and the work of the church is the work and the effort of building healed, whole, balanced relationships with all our relations. On the morning of Pentecost the disciples spoke in all different languages. These were languages that were illegal under Roman occupation. This suggests to us that with the Love of Christ in our hearts we move past me and you/us and them mentalities to a mind that understands and acts on our interdependence and shared destiny with all our fellow living beings.

In Terrence Real’s book, “US,” getting past you and me to build a more healthy relationship he talks about the importance of having a relational mindset. He writes, “Our individualistic, linear, worldview features people as above nature and capable of manipulating it, bending it to our will, the way a mechanic bends over a car. Relational consciousness, by contrast, corrects the delusion of dominion and replaces it with the knowledge that we are not outside and above nature but live within it as parts.” We are also not separate from each other. Pentecost, being sent out to the world to proclaim all creation one family of God is a response to this truth.

The vision that emerged from our visioning process that we completed toward the end of COVID brought us the vision of us as a church being a “movement for justice and joy and love.” It presented us with a vision of reaching out to the marginalized, amplifying our prophetic voice, strengthening our community partnerships, and allowing our building to be utilized more by the community for our collective enrichment and learning. We have been living into this vision through our strengthening ties with Pacific and surrounding non-profits. We have been living into this through expanding our food justice ministry with the community refrigerator and the church members and community volunteers that make the meals. We have been living into this mission through opportunities for inter-spiritual/cross cultural dialogue and appreciation that have been built through our connection with the Aztec Dance community who embody the indigenous folk traditions of Mexico. We have been living into this vision by building our commercial kitchen and the peace table dinners which were started by church and community

members together to create a forum for dialogue and learning and community building around peace and justice issues. The commercial kitchen will support mission and service work and also allow us opportunities to rent it to outside groups. These are just a few profound and dynamic ways we are living into and manifesting our vision. There are a variety of ways people are engaging our space and our community. We are starting to see overlap and community cross pollination between the different groups and projects. Our adaptive challenge is to keep moving and looking forward and not see the various different expressions of beloved community as “them” but all of it as “us” together. Our challenge is not to see ourselves as working together as a team but with each other and with the community. Our challenge within and beyond the walls of the church is to see different expressions of community life not as competition but as opportunities to share and learn and grow and expand together. If we move past I/me, us/them mentality and continue living and moving with an adaptive and relational mindset, we will continue not only to grow spiritually but also grow as a church and be the church that this community and our world need so much in these times.

The Holy Spirit is always casting our vision forward, opening our hearts to new growth, and helping us see how the good news is not just for us as individuals or a small band of disciples but the whole community of life. The Holy Spirit sends us out and has us looking out and forward. She makes us Ecclesia, “the ones sent out.” She makes us the church. And it is such a blessing to be church together.

In Spirit, Brendan

Congratulations to our 2024 Graduates!

Constanze Arnold—Constanze plans to go to the University of Oregon this fall and is majoring in economics with a double major or minor in Political Science since she’s on the pre-law track.

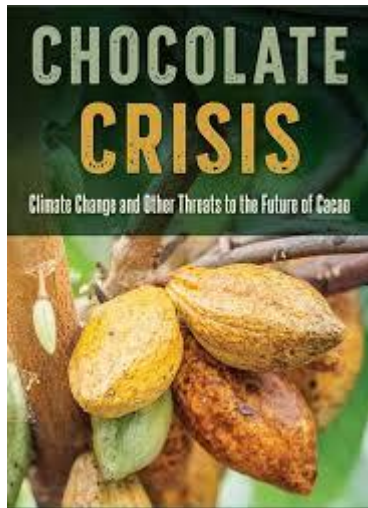
Darian Nelson—Darian is graduating from Banks high school and is a Valedictorian with Honors diploma. He will be attending Pacific in the fall, majoring in business administration.

Natasha Peterson—Natasha graduated from ORCA (Oregon Charter Academy) in January. She's been an honor student. She's been accepted to Pacific University, majoring in Theater. She's planning to work at the UCC nursery in the summer - thank you for hiring her! Natasha takes singing lessons and is learning to play the guitar. She loves listening to her favorite artists - Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish and many more.

Jordan Vann—Jordan just graduated from Pacific University with a Bachelor of Science degree. She double majored in Mathematics and Computer Science and managed a stellar G.P.A. of 3.9! Jordan will continue to live with her parents and volunteer weekly at the Cornelius Library, but now instead of her job grading for the college math department, she hopes to pursue a career as a computer programmer. Congratulations Jordan on your amazing accomplishment and good luck in your job search!



Chocolate is threatened



Can you imagine Valentine’s Day without chocolate? Rising temperatures could wipe out a third of cocoa production worldwide by the middle of this century, and climate change is already impacting crop yields.

Cocoa futures hit a record high last week as the weather in the Ivory Coast (Côte d’Ivoire) and Ghana – the two West African nations that produce 60 percent of the world’s cocoa – has been particularly soggy this year, leading much of the cocoa crop to spoil due to rot and disease.

Cocoa is mainly cultivated by smallholder farmers, many of whom will face hard choices as cultivation of the crop grows more difficult. “Cocoa farmers facing critical decisions may start looking to higher-altitude regions where the weather is more favorable for cocoa cultivation, or some may decide to leave cocoa cultivation altogether,” Kerry Daroci, cocoa sector lead at the Rainforest Alliance, told CNBC.

What you can do

If you love chocolate like I do, the Climate Basecamp has just the campaign for you. They’re asking people to reach out to their favorite chocolate brand via email or on social media and urge them to add a “Chocolate is Threatened” label on their packaging. This will raise awareness of this problem and the climate change that is causing it.

This might sound like a very small ask; but research has shown that simply labelling things – including cigarette packs on the risk of cancer, gasoline pumps on the risk of carbon emissions, and even burritos on the sustainability of their ingredients – can shift people’s perceptions and increase the chances of behavior change.

Go to <https://climatebasecamp.org/save-chocolate/> to find out how you can take action.

FREE Musical Instruments

Ken and Bette Prickett are in the process of getting their home ready to sell and have a few musical instruments that need a home. If you are interested in a Pump Organ or a midcentury Wurlitzer Piano, please talk to Ken or Bette. Phone: 503-324-4220 or email at qkenbettp@gmail.com.



Summer Special Music Opportunity



Would you like to share your musical talent with the congregation this Summer? The Choirs and Band do not meet regularly during the Summer school break, so this means you or someone you invite can schedule a Sunday to share a solo, duet, etc. during worship from **Sunday, July 7 through Sunday, September 1.**

Vocal, instrument solos or ensembles are welcome. Flute, brass, piano, accordion, guitar, soprano, alto, tenor, bass, quartet, trio, duet, organ, violin, cello, recorders, bells – gospel, classical, Christian pop, hymns — let’s have variety! If you want to sign up or have any questions, contact Sue Armentrout at 971-712-9724 or Laura Frye at 503-550-1709 or the FGUCC office at elena@fgucc.org or 503-357-9121.

We look forward to hearing your music this summer!

In Harmony, Worship Ministry

Best wishes to everyone celebrating a birthday in June

Melissa Timm—1
Marissa Klein—1
Amber Mather—4
John Welch—7
Sydney Timm—8
Armani Garfias—10
Dick Lane—14
Logan Taylor—14
Jobina Lacock—15
Ivan Edwards-Leeper—17
Ann Dondero—25
Lorren Fletcher—26
Deb Kolb—30



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/>



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Memorial Service for Ruth Holznagel—A memorial service for Ruth Holznagel was held in the sanctuary on Saturday, June 1 at 2PM, with a reception to follow. For those wishing to make memorial donations, the family suggests Forest Grove UCC, P.O. Box 265, Forest Grove, OR 97116, P.E.O. (peointernational.org), or Friends of Historic Forest Grove (fhfg.org).

Sympathy—Our hearts go out to the family of Lillian Gimre upon her death on Sunday, May 19. Lillian and her husband were long-time members of Forest Grove UCC since 1962, and their daughters were also very involved and part of the church until they moved away from Forest Grove as adults. There will be a graveside service on Tuesday, May 28 with Pastor Brendan officiating.

Sympathy—Our hearts go out to the family and friends of John Rice who passed away on May 13 in Mt. Home, Arkansas. John was a member of FGUCC for several years beginning in 2005. He moved to Arkansas about two years ago to be closer to his dear friends Malinda Alexander and Kim Chatellier and their son Liam.

Thanks have been received—Dear church family, I want to thank all of you for the prayers and support you have given me and my family while I navigate heart surgery and doctors' appointments. Your prayers really helped; they say I'm recovering rapidly. And thank you for the meals you brought to keep us going. I love you all very much, Marcia Bickford.

Ongoing—Please remember Carlene Krueger as she continues navigating health issues. Carlene is temporarily living in the Dalles with her daughter Erica and son-in-law Mitch as she needs additional support.

Ongoing—Please remember Susan Shepherd as she continues to recover from knee replacement surgery last month.

Ongoing—Please continue to remember Charla as she is still navigating ongoing health issues and is currently recovering from recent gallbladder surgery. She is back home at the Beehive after several weeks of rehab at Prestige Care Center in Forest Grove.

Ongoing—Please remember Patricia Spears who is recovering from long-haul Covid. Patricia is taking a break from teaching in our learning community for the remainder of the school year.

Continued remembrance—Continued prayers for healing and good health for Bev Fletcher, Lorren's wife, who is living at the EmpRes Hillsboro Health & Rehabilitation Center.

Continued remembrance—Please keep Deva Harris Williams in your prayers as she is still continuing to deal with health issues stemming from her fall last spring 2023.

Continued remembrance—Please continue to remember Richard and Christine Kidd as Richard navigates 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 address is: Elder Garden Care Home, 4 NE 202nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97230.

Continued Prayers—Prayers of healing and comfort for all who have ongoing concerns, including Els Abma, Carol Benner, Bob Browning, Paul and Stephanie Edwards, Charla Gladden, Max Groszmann, Jobina Lacock, Dick Lane, Yvonne Stacey, Barbara Strain, John and Mary Welch, 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 **Wednesdays, June 5 and 19, 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.

BEST Team Recycling Information for June

Reminders: We can no longer recycle ink cartridges.

PLEASE NOTE: We do not accept fluorescent bulbs or tubes on First Sundays.



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 Eplers will use)

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.)

NEW! Batteries: can now be recycled curbside in Forest Grove and other areas of Washington County. To learn more go to: <https://www.washingtoncountyor.gov/swr/battery-recycling>.

All fluorescent bulbs and tubes: can be taken to the Metro Central Hazardous Waste Facility on an individual basis. **We cannot take fluorescent bulbs or tubes on First Sunday.**

— Your FGUCC BEST Team

Fill the Barrel!



Elijah's Barrel continues to take a prominent spot in our FGUCC narthex and it isn't unusual to find a few food donations tucked in the bottom. Let's bring Elijah's Barrel back to life and Fill the Barrel for the Blessing Box! Donations always welcomed include peanut butter (preferably healthy PB's such as Adams), jelly for PB&Js, mayonnaise, tuna, celery & carrots. Also, dish drops would be appreciated. Thank you!

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. 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 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 \$4,881.** If you want to participate in this easy fundraiser, blue bags are available to pick up in the church office. Contact Elena at 503-357-9121 or elena@fgucc.org if you have questions.

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