



The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove United
Church of Christ

August 2024

A New Kitchen and A New Earth.

“And the one that sat on the throne, said: Behold, I make all things new.”

-Revelation 21:5

Dear friends,

In our visioning process we were given the charge to see church as a “movement;” a movement for joy, justice, and love. Well, as we move through this summer we are experiencing a lot of movement indeed. Literally! As the kitchen project is well underway we can’t help but notice that things are in different places than we are used to them being. We see new faces and miss others while people are traveling and as we say goodbye to some of our most long time and cherished members as they move to other places. We move through the awkwardness of things being out of place and things feeling different while also holding excitement to see the emerging result of our shared efforts. The Kitchen is indeed taking shape. It’s starting to look like a kitchen and we hope to celebrate the completion of the project when we gather in the Fall. As we deal with movement and change, we are invited to remember how we are called to share space with each other and with the community. We can begin imagining together how our kitchen will expand our capacity to literally feed and support each other and share space and community with each other as well as our neighbors.

Change and transition, whether it’s a move or a construction project, can feel uncomfortable but can also be an opportunity for us to witness how growth and expansion and new life come out of change. Things swirl around while the change is happening and then fall into place again in a new way. As we open our hearts to the process of change, we discover a new rhythm and a new equilibrium together, like a dance. What helps us find that equilibrium again and again is our open heart and our shared intention of letting the Love of Christ guide our actions and intentions and flourish in all that we do together. Last month on the 4th of July we learned about the activist Grace Lee Boggs. Grace Lee Boggs once said, *“Love isn't about what we did yesterday; it's about what we do today and tomorrow and the day after.”* We are blessed to have each other to remind each other of that Love that guides us and is making all things, including us, new every day! We can remember her words as we move through this time of change and keep our eyes

looking forward to appreciate how that Love is building the beloved community through all the actions in service to each other that we take together.

In Christ, Brendan

Support Needed for the Lawrence Family

Greetings dear friends,

The Lawrence family appreciates the community support as Barbara has started chemotherapy.

A meal schedule has been set up through Take Them A Meal (see link below to sign up). The goal is to provide meals (or gift cards) 3 times per week, although the schedule is open to allow flexibility. Drop off before 5pm needs to be NO CONTACT. THANK YOU for supporting our community!



* * Please read the allergy section VERY carefully as Dairy, Tree Nut, Shellfish, and Sesame allergies cause MAJOR ISSUES * *

LINK: <https://takethemameal.com/UTFT1829>

Summer Special Music Opportunity



Would you like to share your musical talent with the congregation this Summer? There is still one spot open: Sunday, August 25. We welcome a big variety of music including vocal, instrument solos or ensembles, flute, brass, piano, accordion, guitar, soprano, alto, tenor, bass, quartet, trio, duet, organ, violin, cello, recorders, bells – gospel, classical, Christian pop, hymns.

Sign up soon on the sheet located on the big round table in the narthex.

If you 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

Upcoming Events for Youth & Families

Picnic at Rogers Park set for Sunday, September 8

On **Sunday, September 8 from 12-2 PM** we are having a picnic at Rogers Park for Learning Community members and their families to kick off the new learning community season.



We are participating in the Forest Grove Oktoberfest

On **September 28** we will have a booth at the Forest Grove Oktoberfest and our focus will be on Learning Community Youth Programs. Further details will be available as plans are finalized.



Karaoke Family Event at FGUCC!

Save the date of **Saturday, September 14 from 6-9PM** for a really fun Family event – Karaoke Night at FGUCC! Watch for complete details in the coming weeks.

Learning Community Service Day has been set

On **Saturday, October 5 from 9-12** our Learning Community will participate in a Service Day at Eloheh Farm in Yamhill. Further details will be available as plans are finalized.

Intergenerational Membership Retreat is set for October 26

Anyone who is interested in membership with Forest Grove UCC is warmly welcomed to participate in an intergenerational membership retreat here at FGUCC from **11AM to 3:30PM on Saturday, October 26**. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Brendan.

Best wishes to all of you celebrating birthdays in August!

- 1—Kristin Ludwig
- 2—Winnie Beu
- 2—Phoebe Edwards-Leeper
- 4—Pamelajeane Myers
- 6—Carol Benner
- 14—Stephanie Edwards
- 23—Eric Murphy
- 25—Brandi Frye
- 25—Nate Kolb
- 26—Naomi Frye
- 30—Nathan Lawrence





IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

New— Please keep Lori Epler in your prayers as she recently received a cancer diagnosis of synovial sarcoma, stage 2. She will undergo surgery on August 16 followed by six weeks of radiation treatment.

New—Please remember Stephanie Edwards as she is recovering from recent hip replacement.

New—Please remember Barbara Lawrence and her family as she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer recently. It's in an early stage so her doctors are optimistic.

New—Please remember our friend Winnie Beu as she moved to California to be closer to family. To keep in touch, you can call or send cards to the following: 3 Pursuit, Unit 203, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656, Phone: 971-235-5108, winniebeu@comcast.net

New—Please remember our friend Carlene Krueger as she moved to the Dalles to be closer to her daughter and son-in-law. Carlene is missing her friends and home in Forest Grove and would like to hear from you. To keep in touch, you can call or send cards to the following: The Springs at Millcreek, 1201 West 10th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058-1050, Phone: 541-645-5457

New—Please remember Charla Gladden as she continues to navigate ongoing health issues.

Ongoing Prayer Concern—Prayers for ongoing recovery, health and wholeness for Carol Benner as she continues to recover in rehab following several weeks in the hospital for covid and pneumonia.

Ongoing—We continue prayers for recovery, health and wholeness for Molly Siebert's husband, Steven, following a stroke a few months ago.

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 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.

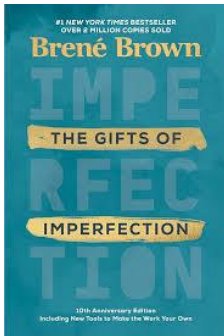
Continued Prayers—Prayers of healing and comfort for all who have ongoing concerns, including Els Abma, Carol Benner, Bob Browning, Paul and Stephanie Edwards, Charla Gladden, Max Groszmann, Carlene Krueger, Jobina Lacock, Dick Lane, Patricia Spears, Yvonne Stacey, Barbara Strain, John and Mary Welch, Deva Harris-Williams, and any other friends and family of our church, not named here.

Sympathy—Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to Ruth Burlingham upon the death of her daughter Karen on July 14. Ruth and her family were part of this church and the Forest Grove community for many years. Cards can be sent to her at 19855 SW Touchmark Way, Unit #322, Bend, OR 97702-1968

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, August 7 and 21, 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.

You are Welcome to Join us for new book study!



Dear Friends and Church Family, The Wednesday (10am/Zoom) book club is taking up Brené Brown's The Gifts of Imperfection. It's not too late to join this fun and dynamic group. Our Stephen Ministers will also be studying and working through this book starting in September. If any of the rest of our church family wants to come along side with us, there are copies of the book in the church office to purchase (\$15).

Note: Please send an email to Michael Colvin to let him know you would like the Zoom Link for Wednesday morning book study: michaelotiscolvin@gmail.com

Do you have a Table Tennis Set?

We are looking for a table tennis set to borrow or buy for the Learning Community. If you have one you can loan or are no longer using, please talk to Ella or email her at ella@fgucc.org. Thank you! Ella Tignor, Learning Community Coordinator



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/>

Report from the Blessing Box

2024 has been an interesting time for the Blessing Box Crew. We have moved to the classrooms while the kitchen work gets done. This fact has helped us be more creative, and we did not miss a beat in preparing food.

The Blessing Box Crew would like to invite anyone who participates in putting food in the fridge to join our Facebook page “the blessing box crew.” Then just post what you have put in the fridge so we can use this information in our data collection. Data collection will be used for potential grant requests.



Elijah’s Barrel is also available for placing donations of dry goods. We continue to need:

- Mayo
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Sandwich Bags
- Celery (if you bring celery, please seek out a Blessing Box member to put in our fridge)

Below you will see data collected since the beginning of 2024:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Dinners</u>	<u>Soups</u>	<u>Sandwiches</u>	<u>Salad /veggie</u>	<u>Desserts</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Jan.	572	338	559	50	445	34	270.5
Feb.	395	113	339	109	312	195	195.5
March	392	17	378	31	125		236.5
April	377	0	430	98	171	12	178
May	151	0	306	59	239	55	139.5
June	252	0	420	77	238	30	183

— Janet Hill on behalf of the Blessing Box Team

Fill the Barrel!

Elijah’s Barrel continues to take a prominent spot in our FGUCC narthex. Donations always welcomed to support the Blessing Box 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!



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 \$5,205!** 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.



A reminder message from your Auction Team

At our last auction, did you donate or buy a service? If you donated a service to a group, please initiate the invitation. If you bought a service, do not hesitate to contact the donor to arrange for that service. They are waiting for you – Don't be shy!

However it happens, make it happen! We want everyone to continue to enjoy donating and receiving of the wonderful talents that our church people have to offer.

If you need contact information, please let me know. I can help!

Thanks, Bonnie McDowell (chiroqueen704@msn.com)

5th annual “Distance Run/Walk” event to support the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center!



Virginia Garcia Memorial
HEALTH CENTER

You are invited to participate in the 5th annual “Distance Run/Walk” event to support the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center on Sunday, August 18.

How does it work? Choose your own course in any location with any distance you would like to run or walk (or boat, bike, swim, etc.), and give a donation of any amount to the Virginia Garcia Center (link below).

Is there a t-shirt? Yes! You can purchase a t-shirt for \$13. T-shirts will be delivered in the days before August 18.

Pictures: Please share a picture! Text pictures to Leah at 503-307-4754. A photo collage will be shared with everyone after the event.

Link to donate/sign up: <https://form-renderer-app.donorperfect.io/give/virginia-garcia-memorial-foundation/2024runwalk>

We hope you will join us! ~ Leah Henriksen and Michael Moore

BEST Team Recycling Information for August

Did you know? Batteries: can now be recycled curbside in Forest Grove? To learn more go to:

<https://www.washingtoncountyor.gov/swr/battery-recycling>.

Reminders: We can no longer recycle ink cartridges. Also, 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.)

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

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.



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