



# The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove United  
Church of Christ

September 2024

## Sacred Activism

*"I prayed for freedom for 20 years, but received no answer until I prayed with my legs."*

*-Frederick Douglass*

Dear friends,

Church is a place where we come to regenerate, restore, find comfort and come back into alignment with the strength, peace, and vision we find in our relationship with God and each other. Church is also a place where we learn to respond to that vision and take action together for our mutual upliftment and the betterment of the world around us. These purposes intertwine. They are not separate. Our activity and effort together as a spiritual community committed to justice and love could be called, "Sacred Activism," a term we are hearing used more these days. This Fall, as we move through challenging times in our society and our world, I will be preaching on the theme of "Sacred Activism."

What is, "Sacred Activism?" In speaking of Sacred Activism, the poet, theologian, and founder of the Institute for Sacred Activism, Andrew Harvey, states, "A spirituality that is only private and self-focused, one devoid of an authentic political and social consciousness, does little to halt the suicidal juggernaut of history. On the other hand, an activism that is not purified by profound spiritual and psychological self-awareness and rooted in divine truth, wisdom, and compassion will only perpetuate the problems it is trying to solve, however righteous its intentions. When, however, the deepest and most grounded spiritual vision is married to a practical and pragmatic drive to transform all existing political, economic, and social institutions, a holy force- the power of wisdom and love in action- is born." As a church we are in a sacred role of inspiring and helping each other put Love into Action. We pray for the vision. We discern what Love in Action looks like together, and then we take action together. There are many things you might already be doing and that we are doing together that are Sacred Activism! In times when the Church has come to be associated with the narrowmindedness and harm of Christian nationalism, it is churches like ours that have the opportunity to do better by inspiring sacred activism and nurturing space and opportunity for all of us to put Love into Action together! We need each

other for this effort! We need the community for this effort. Our faith points to how our destinies are linked not only with each other but with all other people. In service to our vision of church as a movement for joy, justice, and love, how do we continue to nurture faith community as one that inspires all of us to put Love into action? Come be part of this conversation as we kick off another church calendar year this Fall!

Love, Brendan

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## Update on Kitchen Project

We can see the light at the end of the tunnel and have just a few more things on the list before final inspection ... we are so very close!

We received the following thank you note from our contractor, PKNW Construction:

Dear members of FGUCC,

We thank you for choosing us to do this amazing project. May God bless this kitchen and all the congregation and may you enjoy cooking and serving others!

Sincerely, Alex, Karina and our Crew at PKNW Construction, LLC

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## Come Sing With Us!



Our Sanctuary Choir will begin Fall rehearsals on September 5. We meet in the Choir Room on Thursdays at 7:00pm, and new singers in any voice part are always welcome – tenors and basses greeted with particular enthusiasm! This is a great time to join us, as we prepare to kick off our Fall season on Deep Roots to Strong Wings Sunday, September 15.

If you have questions, call Sue Armentrout at 971-712-9724, or email [slt.arm@frontier.com](mailto:slt.arm@frontier.com), or.

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## Communion at Home

The sacrament of communion is an important part of our relationship with Jesus and our Ministry Team wants to reach out to those of our congregation who are home bound or unable to attend church for any reason to include them in this sacred covenant.

Anyone interested in having communion at home, please call Pastor Brendan at **503-523-6339** or Elena at [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org) or 503-357-6960.



# Caring for Our Community Auction 2024

Mark your calendars, because our big event of the year is coming up: **Caring for Our Community Auction: An Evening at the Museum, Saturday November 23rd!**



- Online bidding for silent items will begin Wednesday, Nov 20. There is no charge for viewing and bidding on online items.
- The party will be on Saturday, Nov 23, 5-8 pm with dinner, music by our own Castle Road and no-host beverages. Tickets are \$25. Childcare will be provided.
- We will donate a portion of our proceeds directly to four local, deserving charities.
- How would you like to help out with the auction? Keep your eyes out for an email about Sign Up Genius to secure your favorite volunteer opportunity.
- Please be thinking about items you'd like to donate. Please hand your items directly to Elena Parker, Bonnie McDowell or Elaine Foy, along with a completed donation form. We will be accepting donations from October 6 through November 10. Please consider offering events and experiences. Be creative. If you enjoy something, share it with others – we love join-ins!
- We are asking all committees and commissions to offer a join-in, preferably with childcare, so talk to your committee members about hosting and run your ideas past Bonnie McDowell or Elaine Foy.
- Got wine you aren't drinking? We'll have a wine pull if we get enough bottles.

**See you at the museum!**

Bonnie McDowell, [chiroqueen704@msn.com](mailto:chiroqueen704@msn.com)

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## Upcoming Events for Youth & Families: Picnic at Rogers Park set for Sunday, September 8



You are all invited to a **Picnic in Rogers Park on Sunday Sept. 8, from 12-2. We will be meeting in Shelter 1.**

It will be nice to have some informal time to visit and for me to get to know you before Learning Community starts up on Sept. 15th. The menu will be grilled hot dogs and brats with all the trimmings, salads, chips, cookies, and drinks. Everything will be provided. Just come eat and enjoy yourselves. Looking forward to seeing everyone. You're welcome to invite a friend if you'd like! **Please**

**RSVP to [ella@fgucc.org](mailto:ella@fgucc.org) or 541-788-1470 by Sept. 4th.**

— Ella Tignor, Learning Community Coordinator

## **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. Complete 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 welcome 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.

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## **Support Needed for the Lawrence Family**

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Lawrence family since Barbara was first diagnosed with cancer. Ben and Barbara really appreciate the community support during this time as Barbara is undergoing long-term chemo.



Our goal is to continue to provide meals (or gift cards) 2-3 times a week to make things easier for them as they are in for a very long haul. You can sign up on the “Take Them A Meal” schedule (see link below to sign up). Delivery of meals needs to be by 5PM and NO CONTACT. (The schedule is open to allow flexibility.)

THANK YOU for supporting our community!

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

**Sign up LINK:** <https://takethemameal.com/UTFT1829>

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*Great occasions for serving God come seldom, but little ones surround us daily.*

*— St. Francis of Assisi*

## Women's Spirit Group Events

### Please join us for a Mini Retreat at the Oregon Coast Saturday, October 5



You are invited to a mini retreat at the beach! Please save the date of Saturday, October 5, as we will be gathering at Tierra Del Mar, a lovely little community on the Oregon coast to renew our spirits! Tierra Del Mar is a small coastal town south of Tillamook and north of Pacific City. It's about a 90-minute drive from Forest Grove.

We are thrilled that Kristy Haines has agreed to be our speaker for our October 5th retreat! Our rough timeline is 9am-6pm, however further details about the exact times, the minimal cost and the theme will be forthcoming. We

are planning a simple program with lots of time for fellowship and beach activities. The mini retreat will conclude after an early dinner and closing circle. There is an option for spending the night (Sandy's cabin) if anyone is interested. (Cost for this is also minimal)

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION:** For planning purposes **PLEASE** express your interest as soon as possible! There is still room at this time, however we will ask people to **please commit by September 21st**. We will cap this event at 20 participants.

### Help us to Create Plans for 2024-2025!

Let's Gather for Dinner at Zesti Carts at 6PM on Wednesday, September 12 6PM to brainstorm ideas for Women's Spirit gatherings for 2024-2025. We want to hear your thoughts and creative ideas. If you can't join us, please feel free to email your ideas to Sheila Harter (sheilaharter@hotmail.com) or Melissa Timm (4melissatimm@gmail.com).

### 2025 NW Regional Women's Retreat

Save the Date of November 7-9, 2025 for the very popular NW Regional Women's Retreat. Registration will open Spring 2025.

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## You're Invited to Celebrate Tuality Plains Outpost



**Saturday, September 28 from 11AM-3PM.**

Events include live music, market vendors, tastings, kid activities and games, horse drawn wagon rides, and a Tuality Plains outpost tour.

**Address is:** 3150 NW Thatcher Road, Forest Grove.

**Admission is FREE.**

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## Ushers Needed



- If you can smile and say Hello: you can be an Usher
- If you know where the bathrooms are: You can be an Usher
- If you know where the Learning Community is: You can be an Usher
- If you can count for attendance: You can be an Usher
- If you can be an Usher: Please see Kevin Young or Rod Burrus

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## Best wishes to all of you celebrating birthdays in September!

- 5—Mary Mullen
- 8—Bev Maughan
- 11—Pete Truax
- 13—Sandy Freeman
- 13—Deva Harris
- 17—Stephanie Lind
- 20—Laura Frye
- 21—Julian Garfias
- 22—Val Donley
- 24—Carl Heisler
- 27—Russ Dondero
- 30—Deena Barrett
- 30—Steve Whisler



**Special Note:** Dear friends, We'd love to include recognition of your birthday in the monthly newsletter "The Viewpoint." Please let us know when your birthday is, and we'll be sure to include it in future issues of our monthly newsletter. Email Elena at [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org). Thanks!

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## Framework International 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Party



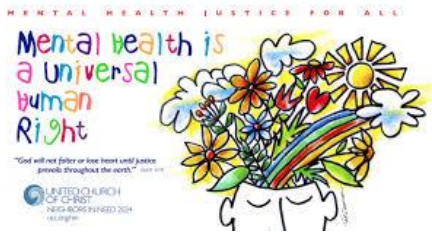
Save the Date September 14 from 3-6PM at the home of Jeff Reardon & Annete Mattson, 12045 SE Foster Place, Portland, OR 97226. You're invited to the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Garden Party benefiting Framework International's building efforts in Ghana. Enjoy live music, silent auction, delicious Ghanaian food, and refreshing drinks while learning about Framework's current projects.

If you would like to attend, RSVP your donation of \$25 per person. Payments are receivable online at [frameworkinternational.org/party](http://frameworkinternational.org/party). Checks payable to Framework

International can be sent to: P.O. Box 12756, Portland, OR 97212

— Seth Prickett (Ken & Bette's son)

## Neighbors in Need All-Church Offering



The Neighbors in Need theme for 2024 is “**Mental Health Justice For All!**” This year’s focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life’s mental health journey.

As you may recall, one-third of this offering supports **Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)**. Two-thirds are used by **Justice and Witness Ministries** to provide **grants** to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

While many of our churches collect the offering on October 6, 2024, as part of World Communion Sunday, contributions to this offering can be collected on any Sunday during the calendar year. We thank you for your support and generosity!

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## News from your Blessing Box Team!

**A simple volunteer opportunity**—The Blessing Box Team still has a lot of garbanzo beans and would like to make hummus for the FREE fridge to pair with fresh veggie donations in upcoming weeks. If you are interested in making some hummus for this project, we will provide the garbanzo beans and tahini and a good traditional recipe. You would need to provide olive oil, lemon juice and garlic. Please let us know if you would like to help. You can talk to Mary Mullen, Stephanie Lind, or Val Donley.



**Fill the Barrel – Donations always welcomed!** Let’s continue to fill Elijah’s Barrel for the Blessing Box! Needs include peanut butter for PB&J sandwiches, mayonnaise, as well as pepperoni, salami, dry parmesan cheese, and pizza or pasta sauce for our very popular Pizza Bread! Thank you! Thank you!

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## 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 \$5,310!** 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](mailto:elena@fgucc.org) if you have questions.





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 is recovering from surgery on August 16 and will begin chemotherapy and radiation treatment sometime in September.

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

**Ongoing**—Prayers for ongoing recovery, health and wholeness for Barbara Lawrence as she is now undergoing long-term chemotherapy for breast cancer.

**Ongoing**—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. Carol hopes to be home soon.

**Ongoing**—We continue prayers for recovery, health and wholeness for Molly Siebert's husband, Steven, who is continuing to make great strides in recovery from 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.

**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, September 4 and 18, 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.

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## BEST Team Recycling Information

**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

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## 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!

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## To Keep Up on the Happenings of FGUCC

- Check out our webpage for up-to date information, classes, and activities at [www.fgucc.org](http://www.fgucc.org)
  - Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fgucc](http://www.facebook.com/fgucc)
  - Subscribe to “This Week at FGUCC” (just send an email to [elena@fgucc.org](mailto:elena@fgucc.org) to indicate you'd like to subscribe)
  - Link to Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/forestgroveucc/>
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# **Forest Grove UCC Staff**

## **Moderator**

Pete Truax — [pBTFG@aol.com](mailto:pBTFG@aol.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](mailto:qkenbettp@gmail.com) — [qkenbettp@gmail.com](mailto:qkenbettp@gmail.com)

## **Director of Sanctuary Choir**

Sue Armentrout — [slt.arm@frontier.com](mailto:slt.arm@frontier.com)

Laura Frye — [lajanefrye@gmail.com](mailto:lajanefrye@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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