



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

January 2020

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WORSHIP IN JANUARY

January begins the seven-week season of Epiphany, starting on January 5th with the visit of the Magi and continuing until February 16th. In this season we will read Bible stories that have to do with light bulb experiences — “Aha!” moments that help us see and understand who Jesus is. I hope you will be in worship as often as you are able.

Let me express deep thanks to everyone who contributed time and effort to planning and doing our Advent worship. These people include Val and Brian Hawkins, Cricket O’Neill, Rob Boles and the choir, Alisa Hampton and the bell choir, David and Jean Aull, and Rhoda Fuentes. Many others contributed in other ways so that Sunday mornings were beautiful, hospitable, and worshipful.

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Here is our current roster of Resource Committee leaders, for your information. A complete listing of volunteers within our current governance system is posted on the Church at Work board in the Fellowship Hall.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee: Chair, Mary Jane Nordgren; Jan Stewart, Fred Raycraft, Mark McConnell, Ed Davie, Ruth Sutter, Angela Gunther

Board of Trustees: Chair, Brian Hawkins; Secretary, Gary Eddings; Ken Bond, Margaret Hoerber, Dan Gustafson

Finance Committee: Chair, Doug Scott; Treasurer, Alisa Hampton; Financial Secretary, Dan Gustafson; Assoc. Financial Secretary, Janet Hummel; John Hayes; resource committee chairs

Nominating Committee: Chair, Dan Thompson-Aue; Doug Scott, Janet Hummel, Liz Swenson, Betty Pritchard, Rhoda Fuentes

Lay Leader/Chair of Church Council: John Hayes
Vice Chair of Church Council, Janet Hummel
Pastor/Ex-Officio on resource committees, Dan Thompson-Aue

Submitted by: *Pastor Dan*

NEW MINISTER CHARACTERISTICS

SPRC has been working for months to create a list for the District of the characteristics we would like to see in our new minister when Dan Thompson-Aue retires this summer. Thank you to so many members of the congregation who have talked with or written to us with their priorities and concerns. This is the list we will submit to the District office.

Apparent Desired Pastor Profile for FGUMC

- ◆ Highly relational – a warm and outgoing person who relates easily and well to all people, both in the congregation and in the community.
- ◆ A missional leader who will support a fully inclusive Church.
- ◆ A person able to help the church engage creatively with younger people and find ways for them to become involved in and take ownership of a church for the future.
- ◆ A person with genuine spirituality and a vibrant sense of worship.
- ◆ Someone committed to serving as a long-term residential pastor
- ◆ A pastor who supports the concept of FGUMC as a value-based community center with a resident congregation, who is adept at making and facilitating connections with community leaders and the increasing number of people in programs meeting in our FGUMC facilities.
- ◆ Able and willing to work with the congregation to develop an effective congregational care ministry, with particular regard for senior and inactive members.

Submitted by: *M. J. Nordgren*, Chair

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

One of my favorite Christmas songs is “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. I remember hearing it played on the radio throughout December when I was a boy. I was not able to decipher some of the lyrics until much later. For instance, I wondered what on earth a “par tree gina pear tree” could be. Now I think I know all twelve gifts. Put them all together and it is quite a lively trove, with drummers, leaping lords, dancers, pipers, ladies and maids and birds honking, clucking, calling and chirping.

I also did not know, until later, that the twelve days of Christmas do not come *before* Christmas day, but *after*. The twelve days are counted from Christmas Day until the Day of Epiphany, which then begins a new season. So, in spite of all the commercial lead up to our secular celebration, Christmas really did not start in October.

Epiphany focuses, first, on the trek and arrival of the magi to worship Christ, the King of the Jews. Don't we also jump the gun when we squeeze the Wise Men into our manger scene along with the shepherds? In the Biblical narrative the Magi come at a *later* time, on their own, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Hence Epiphany comes *after* Christmas.

An interesting detail to notice is that the Magi found the young child not in a stable, but in a *house*. This supports another idea and possible correction in our perceptions of the circumstances of Jesus' birth. This has to do with a mistranslation of the Greek word usually rendered in English as “inn”. This word is not the equivalent of “hotel” as we tend to picture it. The word actually, literally, means “guest room”. Doesn't that give a much different impression of what happened to Mary and Joseph on Christmas Eve? This means that it is more likely they arrived at a relative's house, who had already put up family in the guest room, but welcomed the holy couple into the common area of the house. That common area included, somehow, space for livestock — some kind of stall or stable, which included a feed box, or a manger, which became Jesus' first crib. This could be the very same house where the Magi found Jesus later.

Even though this idea rearranges a favorite Christmas scene, I'm actually relieved to think that Jesus was probably born not in a barn but in a family living room, and he and Joseph and Mary were surrounded and supported by people who loved them.

Facts are worth considering, and corrections are often valuable. I think, if we are willing to open our minds a bit, we might have more hope that the world is a good place, populated by more good people than bad ones, which is a view I will continue to hold to as another New Year begins.

Happy New Year and Blessed Epiphany to Us All



Pastor Dan

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

When the rag-taggle bunch of followers arrived at the manger along with the shepherds, according to my little book “The Gospel of Gabriel,” included were beggars, travelers and merchants, children and their parents. It was a scene not much like our typical nativity scene but with great profundity. There was music and dance, magic tricks and sweet songs of love and heartbreak, fascination and desire. At the manger “the winter night held its breath in profound silence as all of heaven was awed by the music of the poor ascending from the little town of Bethlehem, **as history itself stopped and started over again.**”

When you receive this newsletter, it will be the new year or just about. Typical in our culture, it is a time of making “resolutions” that have the possibility of making great change in a person’s life. They are earthy things like losing weight, keeping a cleaner house, finding better ways of solving problems, etc. These are all good things we seldom stop to think about how our life may change when we truly believe in the babe in the manger of Christmas. Peace on earth? Can it be a possibility? Can history stop and start all over again?

Let us start. Let us remember as in the words of Howard Thurman.

When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flocks,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among the people,

To make music in the heart.

Blessings for the work of Christmas entrusted to us in the New Year.

Submitted by: *Reverend Rhoda Pittman Fuentes*, Retired Deacon

STRENGTH & BALANCE EXERCISE CLASS

Led by **Deanne Michaud**

Wednesdays & Fridays, 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at FGUMC

Strength & Balance is a low-impact class designed to help improve flexibility and balance while increasing muscular endurance. In this class you will execute gentle bending, pulling, pushing, and rotational movements. Strength exercise may include lifting handheld weights, stretching resistive tubing and using your own body’s resistance while also using your core muscles for balance and stability.

Deanne brings all the equipment you may need. All you need to bring is a water bottle to join in this fun and unique class! Fun music and friendly people...come join us and make new friends!

For more information, call Deanne. **503-799-8283.**

2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We are now working on finalizing the budget for the new year.

Your giving estimates are crucial for helping to make sure that we don't overspend for the New Year. If you haven't turned them in already please try to submit them in the next couple of weeks.

Have a safe New Year.

Submitted by: **Doug Scott**, Finance Chair

SILVERSNEAKERS
FALL PREVENTION SERIES
SilverSneakers



The SilverSneakers® 12-week Fall Prevention Series can be taught as a 12-week stand-alone program or added to another SilverSneakers class.^{1,2} It is appropriate for those new to exercise or managing chronic conditions.

Join us this week!

1/6/20 @ 10:00AM

Info #503-799-8283

CLASS DETAILS

Duration	12-week course that can be added to a class or be a stand-alone 12-week class series
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armless chair • Stopwatch/Timing device
Music	Varies by instructor
Benefits	May improve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • muscular strength, endurance and flexibility • agility, balance, coordination, reaction time and power • functional fitness to prepare for daily tasks • home safety • confidence in stability

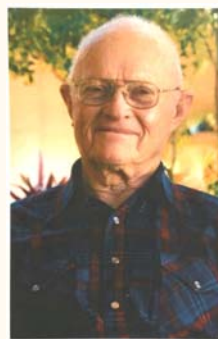
Always talk with your doctor before starting an exercise program.

1. Membership includes SilverSneakers instructor-led group fitness classes. Some locations offer members additional classes. Classes vary by location.

2. Participating locations ("PL") are not owned or operated by Tivity Health, Inc. or its affiliates. Use of PL facilities and amenities is limited to terms and conditions of PL basic membership. Facilities and amenities vary by PL.

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ROBERT ALAN (NICK) NICKERSON



Robert Nickerson, 93, a former resident of Forest Grove, and late of The Avamere at Bethany, died Tuesday Nov. 12th, 2019 at his home. Born May 9th, 1926 in Hanford, Calif., to George William Nickerson and Marguerite Cuthbert (Raines) Nickerson was raised in the small farm town of Corcoran, Calif., along with five siblings. Robert was united in marriage to Georgia Mae Domer, April 23rd, 1950. They made their home in Corcoran until moving to Beaverton in 1975, with their son John. Georgia passed away June 4th, 2005.

Robert joined the U.S. Army Feb. 21st, 1945. He served primarily in the Philippine Islands, where he was responsible for the Maintenance of all equipment, vehicles and soldiers assigned to the motor pool. He received an honorable discharge, Dec. 1st, 1946, at Camp Beale, Calif., at the rank of Sergeant with several commendations.

Robert was united in marriage to Ann Marie (Shepherd) Ulum, Oct. 21st, 2006, in Forest Grove United Methodist Church. They celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary this past October.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Leola Lyerla; and brothers Malcom and Calvin Nickerson. Survivors include his wife, Ann Ulum; daughter and son-in-law, Katheryn and Robert Elsaesser and their daughters Chelsea and Katherine; son and daughter-in-law, John and Vicky Nickerson; Ann's five children and their spouses, Cindy and Mike Reese, Jenny Ulum and Tim Gleason, David and Ann Marie Ulum, Chris and Melissa Ulum and Barbara Case; sister, Marguerite Chapman; brother and sister-in-law Andrew and Catherine Nickerson; Ann's nine grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

F. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday							
December 2019		February 2020											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					23	24	25	26	27	28	
Family Promise FGUMC →													
5 8:30 a.m. Early Church 10:00 a.m. Worship: Communion 11:15 a.m. Fellowship time 11:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	6 4:00 p.m. Yoga Training: Room 8A	7	8 9:00 a.m. Guy Talk 10:00 a.m. Senior Fitness Class 7:00 p. m. Combined Trustee/ Finance Committees	9 2:30 p.m. Music Group, Montessori school 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10 Pastor's day off 10:00 a.m. Senior Fitness Class 11:00 a.m. Have December committee minutes in the office	11 Pastor's day off 7:00 p.m. Born Again Narcotics Anonymous Support Group							
12 8:30 a.m. Early Church 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship time	13 4:00 p.m. Yoga Training: Room 8A	14 7:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting	15 9:00 a.m. Guy Talk 10:00 a.m. Senior Fitness Class 7:00 p. m. Church Council (as needed)	16 2:30 p.m. Music Group, Montessori school 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	17 Pastor's day off 10:00 a.m. Senior Fitness Class	18 Pastor's day off 7:00 p.m. Born Again Narcotics Anonymous Support Group February Messenger articles due							
19 8:30 a.m. Early Church 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 p.m. Fellowship time 11:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	20 4:00 p.m. Yoga Training: Room 8A Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Office Closed	21	22 9:00 a.m. Guy Talk 10:00 a.m. Senior Fitness Class	23 2:30 p.m. Music Group, Montessori school 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	24 Pastor's day off 10:00 a.m. Senior Fitness Class	25 Pastor's day off 7:00 p.m. Born Again Narcotics Anonymous Support Group							
26 8:30 a.m. Early Church 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 11:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	27 3:00 p.m. Jennings-McCall Gathering w/Pastor Dan 4:00 p.m. Yoga Training: Room 8A Print February Messenger A	28 1:00 p.m. UMW meeting in the Library	29 9:00 a.m. Guy Talk 10:00 a.m. Senior Fitness Class	30 2:30 p.m. Music Group, Montessori school 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	31 Pastor's day off 10:00 a.m. Senior Fitness Class								

Financial Report

So far this year's budget is coming in on track. Due in large part to your generosity but also our diligence for not overspending. We have also been able to keep up the 100% giving to our district apportionments.

We will be building next year's budget within the next few weeks. Thank you all for turning in your pledge cards so timely. It is extremely helpful to have an estimate of next year's giving's as we go through the task of building the budget.

Thank you all again for your generosity.

Submitted by: **Doug Scott**, Finance Chair

CONTRIBUTION TAX DEADLINE

To all concerned: To be sure your contributions will be considered for the 2019 tax year, they must be in the office by December 31st.

Submitted by: **Dan Gustafson**, Financial Secretary

2019 CHRISTMAS BASKET PROJECT

This Advent we have been living out ways to express and experience generosity in our community. The Christmas Basket Project is just one example of the extravagant generosity of Forest Grove United Methodist Church. This year we served **6** families with **14** adults and **26** children. To these families we offered **gifts** for all members of the families including **warm clothes**, coats and shoes as well as something **fun** for the kids to open Christmas morning. The **food baskets** provided enough food for the family to have a **holiday meal** as well as a week's worth of groceries.

For the 7 years that I have had the awesome task of coordinating this ministry, I have been amazed by the level of participation of our congregation. In the process of getting all of this together we logged around **300 hours** of **volunteer time** including interactions with the families (working with school or organization to identify families in need, phoning in Spanish and English to ascertain needs and wishes) shopping, donating food and gifts, wrapping, weighing the items donated, praying and all other manner of generous activities.

This year there were a few folks who put in hours of extra time and effort who deserve a shout out: Sherry Hayes, Linda Randle, Sharon Adame, Pastor Dan, Doug and Joy Scott, Liz and Karl Swenson, Chuck Pritchard, David and Jean Aull, Laura and Mark Cattell, Leah Henricksen and Heather Cooper.

We also want to acknowledge the help that we have received from Thrivent Financial. Three individuals from our congregation utilized Action Team (a generosity benefit program through Thrivent) which provided \$750 toward our efforts this year. That helped to cover

most of the expenses we would normally need to access in our designated Christmas Basket account.

Many thanks to all of you for again spreading the light of Christ to some of our neighbors. Each and every one of you helped to make this possible!!

Submitted by: **Laura Thompson-Aue**, Coordinator.



U. M. W. MEETINGS

The **United Methodist Women** will meet January 28th, in the Library at 1:00 p.m. We would like to invite anyone interested to join us.

We will have a discussion on our retreat last December, 2019 on pledges for the 2020 budget and pass out copies of our new program for the year.

Submitted by: **Sue Brenner**, President, U.M.W.

BAKE SALE 2019

To all who participated in making Holiday Bake Sale 2019 a big success, "Thank you!"

Thanks to the bakers who provided the treats, the people who helped with set-up and take-down, the ladies who worked behind the tables serving buyers, the folks who worked in the kitchen before and after the sale, and *especially* to everyone who purchased from the huge variety of delicious cookies, cakes, pies, breads, candies, and more.

This congregational, annual, holiday event resulted in sales of \$335.08. Half the proceeds are going to UMW for work with Missions and half to a Wesleyan newly established Kitchen Fund. Thank you again for your participation!

Submitted by: **Sharon Adame**

PETERSON MUSIC

For January, I will have Montessori school music classes on Thursdays 2:30-3:15 p.m. "The Journeys" program will start up again in February, through the Pacific Music Therapy Department.

I am looking to start two new classes in February though, a Beginning Adult Piano/Keyboard class for 4 students and a Beginning Ukulele class with room for up to 8 students. Other details, TBD.

Submitted by: **Lisa Peterson**, Music Specialist

BIRTHDAYS

Angela Cohrs	January 6 th
Linda Raycraft	January 15 th
Jan Stewart	January 20 th
Betty Weekley	January 21 st
Donna House	January 22 nd
Matt Thompson-Aue	January 30 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Dan and Kathy Wilson-Fey	January 2 nd
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UNITED METHODIST BISHOPS MEET

A small group of United Methodist bishops and U.S. traditionalists, centrists and progressives met this week as part of negotiations about the denomination's future. The Dec. 16th-17th meeting in Washington was an outgrowth of discussions that Sierra Leone Bishop John K. Yambasu initiated in July to find consensus on any potential church separation ahead of the 2020 General Conference. Participants, who represent varied perspectives on LGBTQ inclusion, agreed to confidentiality while their delicate conversations proceed.

Although they offered few details on the closed-door session, group members struck an optimistic note at the meeting's conclusion.

"We have completed two days of additional meetings which have been very productive," the group said in a joint statement. "We are hopeful and prayerful about the direction of these conversations."

Anything the group recommends will need the approval of General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking body.

However, the hope is that these meetings will help lead to a less rancorous gathering than the church experienced at the special General Conference in February. By about a 53% vote, the multinational delegates approved legislation that strengthens church prohibitions against same-sex weddings and "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy.

In the months since, some United Methodists have supported the outcome while others have launched plans to resist. Meanwhile, the drumbeat to divide the church along theological lines has only grown louder. The next General Conference will meet May 5th-15th in Minneapolis.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please be sure that the church office has your new address as soon as possible. Thank you.

Submitted by: **Noelle Voepel**
Church Administrative Assistant

CHURCH CORNER

EMMA MORTON

The lovely southern gentleness to her voice must be from her birth in Columbia, S.C., but her childhood included Virginia and Idaho. While in high school, Emma was awarded a scholarship to Pacific U. We are so glad she attended Pacific, majoring in politics and government with an emphasis on international policy, because she became our beloved nursery leader for FGUMC while she was here in F.G.

In August 2018, Emma married her sweetheart Tanner, whom she met at Sawtooth Methodist Camp in Idaho 5 years ago as a counsellor. Tanner is the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries at Fremont United Methodist Church in Portland. Emma loves helping him with Sunday school and youth group as she has always loved children. Tanner also acts and directs in community theatre all around the metro area. He is directing a play in January, 2020 at TITG called *City of Conversation!* He tries to get Emma involved on stage, but she is more comfortable behind the scenes.

They live in Hillsboro near Tanasbourne so each has about half an hour commute. Emma works full time as volunteer coordinator for West Tuality Habitat for Humanity here in F.G. She recruits and schedules volunteers, coordinates events, and more so is often working with children, families and youth groups.

The Mortons' have an eight-month-old puppy named Cooper, a delightful little trouble-maker who enriches both their busy lives.

Submitted by: *M. J. Nordgren*

SERVING IN JANUARY

Lay Leader	John Hayes
Altar Guild	Valerie Hawkins
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Nursery Supervisor	TBD
Kitchen Elves	TBD

MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.
Build Community.
Impact the World.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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