



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Messenger

June 2020

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Hello Friends,

This article will be my last one to you, and likely my last of any kind, for publication in a church newsletter. Like the completion of other aspects of my pastoral work in this strange time, I don't think you will find any especially world-changing bits in this. For me the time has simply come to stop, without fanfare. But what I have to say will be, as I hope my words have always been, at least heartfelt and sincere.

Forest Grove United Methodist Church has been a good part of my, and my family's, life for some long time. Our acquaintance with you goes back to the time before I was sent to serve as your pastor. On trips and vacations that brought us to the area, our family would come to worship with you, and we were always warmly received. Over the years I have also been acquainted with many of your previous pastors, and so had opportunity to listen to some of the activities, and hopes and dreams, of the church from several perspectives. FGUMC has been an interesting church to track, not the least from my seat in the cockpit for the last seven years. As I am also acquainted with your new pastor, and as my family and I have settled in Forest Grove, I anticipate following your adventures with interest in the future. I fully expect that future to be a very good one.

Beginning, officially, in July, I will be a retired United Methodist pastor living in Forest Grove, and who happens to be one of sixty-three of your former pastors. I will be keeping a low profile and, in this, supporting your process of bonding with your new pastor, Rev. David King, and his family. So, you will not see me or Laura in worship with you on Sundays when this resumes; when we go to church it will be somewhere else. Rev. King will be your pastor and it will be his role to lead, inspire, and shepherd you in all things.

In retirement, I am expected to choose a Charge Conference to report to. I have chosen Tigard UMC, up the road a way, for this location, as I have associations with people and pastors there and some history of connection with that congregation.

When the world safely opens up, I will hang up my shingle as a piano tuner and technician. This will be a fun and manageable retirement job. Laura will continue to grow her business as a financial professional embedded in Forest Grove and Washington County. No doubt we will see you around town at stores, markets, and community meetings in the future.

We look forward to simply being, once more, your neighbors, and your friends.

Thank you for permitting us to serve you.

God bless you and keep you, always.

Pastor Dan

## FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

I recently attended a ZOOM meeting called Reimagining Life Together which helped those in attendance to a better understanding of where we are and what next steps are in returning to a more recognizable church life. Liz and Karl Swenson were also in attendance as was Pastor David King.

There is a document available (Reimagining Life Together) which can be accessed through the conference website – umoi.org - if you are interested in more information than I am giving here. What I have to say today is just a few highlights of what I learned yesterday.

As with our secular community life there are phases that need to be gone through. We are currently in Phase I and will be until at least June 15 – that date will be confirmed or changed upon the bishop’s approval, state guidelines and having a plan which is approved by the District Superintendent. In Phase 2 groups of 10 or fewer can meet in person with appropriate social distancing and wearing of masks. Phase 3 allows for in person worship, weddings and funerals of no more than 50 people. Even in Phase 3 it won’t be normal, no hugging, no singing, no fellowship, no choirs. A phase 4 takes us to a more normal life, but it probably still won’t be “just like it used to be.” There will not be communion unless we are able to get pre-packaged elements and not consume them until we are out in the parking lot in our cars.

There will be increased use of technology. Already the internet program of ZOOM is being used for meetings. There will continue to be such modifications and more. If you are ill at ease with technology, please talk to others including staff about how you can be connected and learn the things you need to learn – it’s not really that difficult. This time might be a chance to involve some of the younger generation in your family network in the church, ask your grandchildren or your sons and daughters to help you if you don’t have a computer or don’t think you have the skills beyond some emailing and googling things of interest.

I can’t believe that I’m writing these words, it seems like science fiction or some alternate universe that we are living, worshiping and loving one another in.

Until I see you, I’m holding you in my heart.

Submitted by retired deacon; ***Reverend Rhoda Pittman Fuentes***

## MUSIC GROUP

My Music Bridge activity for June will be to continue to serve Memory Care units by conducting Zoom music video calls.

I am pondering starting a once a month offering that could serve the FG community. Nothing is concrete yet.

Ideas:

1. Beginner ukulele zoom classes.
2. A themed monthly zoom video singalong.
3. A zoom video wellness/relaxation class using tuning forks.

I will start one of these in July, most likely. And will keep you posted.

Submitted by: ***Lisa Peterson***

## “A TALE OF TWO TIMES”

“It was the best of times; it was the worst of times...” This is a quote of the first words of the book “A Tale of Two Cities” by Charles Dickens, a book that I read many years ago; this passage suggests an age of radical opposites. The book is set in the tumultuous times of the French revolution, and I find myself thinking about the tumultuous times we are in now. We are perhaps experiencing the best of times and the worst of times in our society’s attempts to slow the spread of the disease we have called “Covid 19”.



The “worst” has been the tremendous loss of life and illness that has been traced to this disease and our subsequent attempts to slow and avert even wider spread of the disease. These measures have resulted in the separation of families and separating of social groups; from our normal coffee gatherings to our sports and school functions to our church gatherings, all leading to sense of isolation not to mention the enormous loss of jobs and livelihood from the economic impact of quarantining in our homes. We are collectively a communal society.

The “best” perhaps is still to be discovered but already we have seen the coming together of many technologies and know-hows, perhaps collaborating in unprecedented ways to combat and slow the spread of the disease. We have seen the coming together in innovative ways that keeps us in connection with our communities. We have seen tremendous out-pouring of generosity to help those affected by the rising unemployment caused by closures and downsizing of businesses effected. We have seen an increased appreciation of those on front lines of combating the disease in the medical fields.

Our “times” good or bad are in the hands of God, it is through God that we look for the best among the worst:

*“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance...”* Romans 5:1-3 (NIV)

As we persevere through this “worst of times” we will find the “best of times”. Peace and hope with all of you!

Submitted by: **Rev. Dexter Danielson** (Ret.)

## BIRTHDAYS

Jody McCaughey	June 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Rebekah Connell	June 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Cindy McConnell	June 7 <sup>th</sup>
Tim Gunther	June 7 <sup>th</sup>
Elaine McConnell	June 9 <sup>th</sup>
Emma Englin	June 14 <sup>th</sup>
Margaret Hoerber	June 14 <sup>th</sup>
Alisa Hampton	June 18 <sup>th</sup>
Taylor Haney	June 21 <sup>st</sup>

## ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Paula Gassman	June 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Tim & Angela Gunther	June 6 <sup>th</sup>
Tom & Joanne Rannells	June 8 <sup>th</sup>
Bobby & Emily Tabb	June 12 <sup>th</sup>
Jerry & Margaret Hoerber	June 13 <sup>th</sup>
Tom & Jan Stewart	June 14 <sup>th</sup>
Fred & Linda Raycraft	June 19 <sup>th</sup>
David & Lucinda Hites-Clabaugh	June 21 <sup>st</sup>
Morris & Jacquie Haney	June 21 <sup>st</sup>
Dave & Patti Rose	June 26 <sup>th</sup>

**UMW  
ANNUAL DINNER OUT  
WILL NOT BE HELD THIS  
YEAR.**

Submitted by: **Sue Brenner**, President

## 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

### KRISTA AND MATT THOMPSON-AUE

Our young marrieds are busy packing and organizing to move to Wisconsin.

Krista (Tebo) had been active in Apostlips and our Youth Group, including mission trips. An avid reader, Krista is an English and history buff and recent college graduate. She has been accepted by the University of Wisconsin, Madison, to work on her M.S. in Environmental Conservation. Her focus will be on how to create maps that can influence environmental policy. Needless to say, she may not have much time to write her “random acts of literature” in the form of stories and essays.

Matt Thompson-Aue, a musical prodigy who plays piano brilliantly and has won many awards, will continue to teach piano and guitar. Depending on how the COVID 19 shakes out, he hopes to help run summer camp and after-school arts programs in the Madison school district. He’ll be a long way from parents Dan and Laura, but they, and FGUMC, wish them both all the best on their new venture in Wisconsin.

## SERVING IN JUNE

Lay Leader	<b>John Hayes</b>
Altar Guild	<b>Val Hawkins</b>
Coffee Coordinator	<b>Amy Scott</b>
Nursery Supervisor	<b>TBD</b>
Kitchen Elves 7 <sup>th</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Nancy Bond &amp; Sharon Adame</b>

## MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.  
Build Community.  
Impact the World.

## OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS

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