



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger August 2020

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WORSHIP IN AUGUST

During the month of August, we'll be exploring the books of Genesis, Exodus, and Matthew. From Genesis, we'll see how Jacob wrestled with God and won. From Exodus, we'll hear the story of five faithful women who did God's will by breaking the law. And from Matthew, we'll read three stories of Jesus and his disciples: walking on the water, encountering the Canaanite woman, and revealing Jesus's identity.

Sunday 2nd August 2020

Genesis 32:22-31
"Wrestling Jacob"

Sunday 9th August 2020

Matthew 14:22-33
"Walking on the Sea"

Sunday 16th August 2020

Matthew 15:10-28
"Crumbs from Your Table"

Sunday 23rd August 2020

Exodus 1:8-2:10
"Faithful Women"

Sunday 30th August 2020

Matthew 16:21-28
"Get Behind Me"

Submitted by: *Pastor David*

SING AND PLAY ALONG

Music Bridge will be hosting another Play and Sing-a-long Music Circle on Friday August 14th from 1:30 p.m.-2:10 p.m. We have opened it up to being a song circle. So if anyone would like to lead the group in singing, they can send the words and chords of their song to my email address at lisapetersonmusic@gmail.com. The Zoom link is <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78092131808?pwd=cjlvTHRJTnFIYm9DTE9tR0lxd0YwUT09> And the password is **3yisli**

We had fun in July and hope you will consider joining us in August! Our song list features these 3 chord songs:

1. Banana Boat Song (Day-O) (A, E7)
2. Don't Worry Be Happy (C, dm, F)
3. Green Green Grass of Home (D, G, A7)
4. Home on the Range (D, G, A7)
5. Jamaica Farewell (A, D, E7)
6. King of the Road (F, Bb, C7)
7. Levin' on a Jet Plane (C, F, G)
8. Peace Like a River (C, F, G)
9. Rock in' Robin (A, D, E7)
10. These Boots Are Made for Walkin' (E, A, G)
11. This Land is Your Land (D, G, A)
12. Under the Boardwalk (C, F, G, am)
13. Will the Circle Be Unbroken (A, D, E7)?

Submitted by: *Lisa Peterson*

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

We know that hardship produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. — Romans 5:3a-5

Members and Friends of Forest Grove UMC,

I know it's been said before, but it's still just as true: this is a very strange time. The COVID-19 pandemic has radically altered the ways that we live. Nearly every part of our lives is affected.

It started with a slow trickle and then a cascading flood of event cancellations. In the course of just a few days, I got notice that eight different conferences I was planning to attend had been cancelled due to concerns around the coronavirus.

The closing of schools and churches happened almost as fast. I left the church building in Hood River on a Thursday, having set up for a touch-free service in the sanctuary, but by Sunday we had moved to online, remote worship, and we would never return to the sanctuary. It came so quickly that we never had a "last" service.

But now it has been more than four months since Gov. Brown's initial stay-home order. Four months, and the place we are in now is far more confusing than it was then.

In March, there were relatively few cases in Oregon. And yet, we were instructed to stay home and to go out only for essential trips. In our family, that meant I went out 1-2 times a week to get groceries, but other than that, we all pretty much stayed home. The virus was new and scary, and we lacked many of the things necessary to combat it, things like personal protective equipment for healthcare workers and a system for testing and tracing new cases.

Now things are starting to open back up across the country. But it's not because things have gotten safer. In fact, things are significantly less safe now than when we were under lockdown. And even here in Oregon, the number of new cases each day is moving steadily up. As I'm writing this, we're at about 300-400 new cases every day. For comparison, that's about the number of new cases per day that are being reported in the entire European Union. While the US represents just 4% of the world's population, we have more than 26% of the world's COVID-19 cases: more than 4 million. If you live in the US, you are about 10 times more likely to have contracted COVID-19 than if you live somewhere else in the world. We're also 10 times more likely to catch COVID today than are citizens of the rest of the world. By the time you read this, the US will likely have topped coronavirus 150,000 deaths, by far the world's leader.

But we're not in lockdown anymore. Restaurants are open. So are hairdressers, tattoo parlors, video game stores. While mask-wearing is supposed to be mandated here in Oregon, it seems pretty inconsistent. Some churches are open now too. On Sunday mornings, I can hear the sounds of other neighborhood churches meeting in public, singing, playing brass instruments. All the while, the number of new cases every day continues to rise—in the neighborhood of 70,000 new cases in the US every day. The disease is spreading much, much faster than ever before.

And we are exhausted. We are tired of not being able to see our friends. We are tired of not being able to go to the places we would like. We are tired of not being able to worship together in person. It is really hard to deal with the kind of social isolation that comes along with physical distancing. It takes a toll on us, emotionally, spiritually, even physically. It is not easy. And it's confusing because different voices are saying different things about what is safe and prudent.

For me it comes down to love of God and love of neighbor. Jesus tells us this is the greatest commandment - to love God and to love those around us. And right now, an essential part of loving our neighbors is giving them space and wearing a mask. It also means being careful about where we choose to go.

It takes discipline, and it takes persistence. There is no doubt that it is a hardship. But it is a hardship that our faith has prepared us for. Because we know that hardship produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. And we know that God gives us strength, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to see us through anything that we might face.

Your servant in Christ,

+ Pastor David

Rev. Dr. David D. M. King

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

I've felt disturbed by all the reports of the last week or so of violence, riots, federal meddling and so forth in Portland. The reasons for protesting are legitimate in my mind for there are serious issues that need to be addressed, but the protesting seems to be out of hand.

When I think back to the protesting of the 1960s which brought about the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the marches from Selma to Montgomery in March of 1965 there are differences. There was violence there as well. There were people that were injured, the protests ultimately helped to move along the whole civil rights movement of the era.

As I did a little reading some of the factors that made a difference (in my mind anyway) between today in Portland and then in the South include central leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr, John Lewis and others. There was training for participants, and there was the value of non-violent protesting to bring about change fueled by such leaders as Mahatma Gandhi and others.

My sense of what is happening today is, there is not effective central leadership and there is neither an over-all plan nor training. It's more a "just come along guys. Let's go mix things up in Portland tonight."

I may be wrong on all of this. I haven't been there in either the 1960 marches or in Portland today. Such issues of racial and social injustice are real as are issues of inappropriate police tactics and meddling of federal power that is not wanted by Portland leadership nor properly identified.

Our prayers must be for all – participants, betterment of the issues and leadership that is responsible and up front about who they are and what they are about.

From peaceful Gray Street in Cornelius,

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

CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST

Thank you, each and everyone one, who helped put on our Christmas in July last year. From decorations, bringing and serving food, to set up and clean up, many hands made light work.

This year, obviously we will not be able to do it in the same fashion, but please mail your annual donations to the church, as usual and we'll see how it works out.

Perhaps by December we will be able to do at least as much toward helping those in need as before.

Your offerings last year totaled just over \$750.00 for the Christmas in July fund.

Submitted by: *The Editor*

HELLO NEW CHURCH FAMILY

We cannot thank you enough for the loving greeting and warm welcome you continue to extend to us. Our family is settling in, and we have each carved out our favorite places in the parsonage already. We truly appreciate all the work that went into the house before we arrived. As I write this, a plumber is getting our beautiful new refrigerator ready to make ice! Such a delightful luxury. Thank you. The flowers and meals and gift cards and notes have all made a difficult transition as smooth as can be. We look forward to getting to know each of you better soon. Thank you.

Blessings,



Melissa, David, Kaylah, Kiahla & Karthik

First dinner in the Seymour House. June 30th, 2020. David, Karthik, Melissa, Kiahla, Kaylah

Submitted by: *Melissa King*



Forest Grove United Methodist Church

Know God • Build Community • Impact the World

Monday, July 20th, 2020

Members and Friends of Forest Grove UMC,

In March of this year, our bishop, Rev. Elaine Stanovsky, ordered the suspension of all in-person worship and meetings in the United Methodist churches in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. She did this in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the risk it poses to all people, but especially those over age 65 or with underlying health concerns.

Up until this point, we have been working under this order.

In June, Bishop Stanovsky issued instructions in a document called Reimagining Life Together on how churches could move safely through the stages of reopening. Her plan includes four phases (though these phases do not correspond to the numbered phases used by Gov. Brown and other public health officials). Phase 1 includes a complete closing of the building except for essential work functions. Phase 2 allows for limited use of the building for routine work. Phase 3 allows for carefully controlled gatherings of up to 50 people, and Phase 4 opens the church for larger gatherings, but still with some safety controls. In order to progress from one phase to another, local churches have to create a comprehensive plan for how they will do so safely and have that plan approved by the district superintendent.

On Friday, July 17th, FGUMC's proposal to enter Phase 2 was approved. The church is still closed for in-person worship and it is still recommended that meetings be conducted online. However, staff and designated volunteers can now enter the building for routine work, using proper safety precautions. The leaders of outside user groups can enter the building to access their materials or to lead online classes. Also, a carve-out was made to allow the Montessori School to operate so long as it is following all federal, state, and local guidelines for doing so.

For those who will be entering the building, there are new procedures. For example, you'll find sign-in sheets at all major entrances. In case of a diagnosis of COVID-19, these will be used to assist county contact tracers. There are also procedures for cleaning that must be performed by anyone using the building. While the Montessori School is operating, there will be limits on which entrances and outdoor spaces can be used by which groups. If you will be entering the church building, please make sure you are familiar with **all of the new guidelines**.

In all of these things, we keep in mind the commandment to love our neighbors and Wesley's three simple rules: to do no harm, to do good, and to stay in love with God.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Dr. David D. M. King

CHANCE FOR VOLUNTEERS

In light of the changes with Family Promise, I wanted to share volunteer opportunities that might interest those that have generously served with Family Promise.

Open Door Day Center

Open hours: M-Tu-Th-F, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Volunteer needs:

Prepare/serve meals – 10:00 - Noon

Facilitate shower trailer use: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Trailer maintenance – flexible (connect with **Jeff Shapiro**, ffejshapiro@gmail.com)

Donation needs: updated list from **Robin** (groceries, clothes, cleaning supplies, etc.)

Contacts:

Jeremy Toevs – Executive Director, jtoevs@odhw.org

Robin Schaecher – homeless services director, rschaecher@odhw.org

Volunteers initially engage by appointment with Robin. I can introduce you or interested persons. Need to keep a group under ~five per day.

Food Banks

The following is a list of food distribution programs that need volunteers:

TUESDAY

Virginia Garcia

12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Receive, pack food

2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Distribute food

Location: 170 N 10th Ave, Cornelius

THURSDAY

Solid Life Center

8:00 – 10:30 a.m. pack food

10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Distribute food

FRIDAY

Neil Armstrong Middle School

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Pack food

3:00 - 5:45 p.m. Distribute food

I hope this is helpful. I look forward to connecting again. Let me know if you have questions, or we can talk by phone.

Submitted by: **Brian Schimmel**
503-388-2204

CAMPFIRE IN THE COURTYARD

September 6th

COVID-19 has changed just about everything we do, and we've been missing a lot of traditions because we can't meet together. However, put Campfire on your calendar for 7 p.m. on Sunday, September 6th. If we are able to do some kind of outdoor event then, we will. At the very least we'll have a remote campfire via Zoom.

Submitted by: *Rev. Dr. King*

PASTOR DAVID'S VIRTUAL OFFICE

Pastor David is available for drop-in visits via Zoom on Tuesdays 1-3 and Thursday 10-noon. Just enter this web address in your browser (bit.ly/pastordavidsoffice). Or the Meeting ID is 971 7836 5042 and the password is FGUMC. For those of you dialing in with your phone, it's 1-253-215-8782.

Submitted by: *Rev. Dr. King*

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

BIRTHDAYS

Sue Brenner	August 2 nd
Sadie Gunther	August 2 nd
Carole Heun	August 5 th
Muriel Elsey	August 7 th
J. Perry Heun	August 11 th
Dale Heun	August 13 th
Dan Gustafson	August 15 th
Tom Rannells	August 16 th
Jacque Haney	August 16 th
Terri Jones	August 17 th
Donna Siddall	August 17 th
Alwyn Hites-Clabaugh	August 18 th
Ben Pritchard	August 21 st
Noah Wilson-Fey	August 22 nd
Hannah Gasparini	August 26 th
Dick Brenner	August 27 th
Chase Tabb	August 28 th
John Luczkow	August 29 th
David Rose	August 30 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Dave & Laurie Bond	August 1 st
Ken & Martha Tunall	August 14 th
Dale & Carole Heun	August 18 th
Glenn & Lynn Anderson	August 28 th
Frank & Ella Collins-Colcord	August 31 st

CHURCH CORNER

CHAPLAIN DEXTER DANIELSON

Dexter was raised in Portland and entered the U. S. Army, serving in the infantry in Viet Nam from March 1968 to March 1969. In 1969 he married Nancy and entered Portland Community College's Law Enforcement Associate of Arts program. In 1976 he completed his Bachelor's in Administration of Justice from Portland State University. Dexter worked at the Washington County, Oregon, Sheriff's Office for 31 years, mostly in Detectives. On leaving the Sheriff's Office in 2002 he was asked to be Executive Director of the non-profit Metro Police Chaplaincy (now Public Safety Chaplaincy) until March 2008.

Dexter served as Chaplain for the police and fire departments in Forest Grove Oregon from 2007 to 2019. As emergency services chaplain, he brought comfort and assistance to those involved in deaths, fires, and serious motor vehicle accidents, including the emergency responders.

From 2011 until 2016 Dexter also served as Pastor of Yamhill UMC. In June of 2014 Dexter was ordained as Deacon.

Currently Dexter is a volunteer Chaplain at Tuality Medical Center. Volunteer Chaplains are not allowed in the hospital since the Covid restrictions; he busies himself with yard work, gardening, woodwork-ing and volunteering with food box distribution. Most importantly is the time with Nancy spent caring for his mother, Marcelle, while she is on hospice during this time.

SERVING IN AUGUST

Lay Leader	John Hayes
Altar Guild	Valerie Hawkins
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Nursery Supervisor	TBD
Kitchen Elves	Ella Collins & Ann Hall
	2nd
	9th
	16th
	23rd
	30th

MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.
Build Community.
Impact the World.

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS

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Rev. Rhoda Markus	503-357-3998	Deacon
Noelle Voepel	503-357-2689	Administrative Assistant

Church Office Hours, Monday through Thursday

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Ed Davie	503-357-3185	Messenger Publisher
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Please send your articles to me
by the 18th of each month!

e-mail: edavie@frontier.com