



# FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Messenger October 2020

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### WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

#### Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2020

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
“Thou Shalt Not”

#### Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Exodus 32:1-14  
“Idol Talk”

#### Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup> 2020

1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1:1-10  
“Perseverance that Comes from Hope”

#### Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup> 2020

1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:1-8  
“Like a Mother”

As we continue in the liturgical season of Ordinary Time in October, we will consider scriptures from the Book of Exodus and the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. We revisit God’s gracious giving of the law at Sinai in the Ten Commandments. We see how, even from the beginning, God’s people had trouble staying focused on God and looked for meaning and direction from other, unreliable sources.

We then begin a five-week series on 1 Thessalonians. In it’s first two weeks, we show how a young church became an example of faith through a “perseverance that comes from hope” and how Paul conceived of himself as a mother to this early Christian community.

Submitted by: *Pastor David*

### 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](https://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: *Pastor David*

### FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise is still searching for people to fill vacancies for case manager, executive director, and additional board members. If any of you have suggestions or recommendations, please let Janet Hummel know.

At our last meeting, we talked about housing folks in area motels. Various church coordinators shared concerns about preparing food for a larger number of families and individuals and getting the food to the folks. We have learned that other affiliates have been purchasing prepared food online from Fred Meyer and delivering it to them rather than volunteers preparing the food in their homes or churches. Churches have sometimes provided Welcome Packages with toiletries and other small items to make families and individuals stays more comfortable.

Thank you,

Submitted by: *Janet Hummel*

### YOUTH GROUP

All middle school and high school youth are invited to meet on **Sundays starting September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.** We’ll play games, check in with each other, explore questions of faith. Join via Zoom at [bit.ly/forestgroveumy](https://bit.ly/forestgroveumy) or with Meeting ID 973 5210 9417 and password FGUMY.

Submitted by: *Pastor David*

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.  
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.  
—John 15:12-13*

Dear Friends,

At the first ever virtual session of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference in September, our bishop, Rev. Elaine Stanovsky, outlined a three-part unitive based on John Wesley's three simple rules. As summarized by Ret. Bishop Rueben Job, Wesley's rules are 1) Do No Harm, 2) Do Good, and 3) Stay in Love with God. Bishop Stanovsky encourages us to relate these rules to our response to Covid-19, the work to dismantle racism, and the current internal crisis in The United Methodist Church.

Our response to Covid-19 can be understood as an effort to avoid doing harm. By taking simple steps, like wearing masks and socially distancing, we protect those around us and our community as a whole. Bp. Stanovsky writes:

Ask yourself, WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Wash your hands with soap or hand sanitizer. Stay at home as much as you can. Wear face coverings in public. Keep socially distant. Don't gather in large groups. And be gracious about it! *Do not look dismal* (Matthew 6: 16). These are small, life-saving sacrifices in the face of a pandemic that has killed 180,000 people in the United States and is far from finished. Think of them as acts of love for God, self and neighbor.

As you encounter other people on the street or in the grocery store, whether or not their faces are covered, let your eyes meet their eyes, as an affirmation that you see them, maybe say at least "hello" and offer a silent prayer: "May God bless and keep you." This is how Christians behave as they try to obey God's reverence for life.

In our effort to do good, or as many of us have learned, to "Do all the good you can..." Bp. Stanovsky encourages us to turn our effort toward the difficult work of dismantling racism. Some of us white people are in many cases just now coming to terms with the reality that people of color have understood all along, that our societal systems do not treat everyone equally, and that the consequences of those inequalities can cause tremendous physical, emotional, and spiritual harm—even death. Again, she writes:

This year, in this season as we watch protests that continue after four months, each one of us has to decide whether to pay attention to the evidence and re-evaluate whether or not racism is alive and well in our world, or whether we will continue to kid ourselves by denying the evidence. Will we continue to minimize the role of racism in the events we see, and adopt conspiracy theories that protect us from having to face a deep, hard sin in our society?

This is why I am talking to you about this today. America has been broken since there was money to be made by kidnapping, imprisoning, shipping like cargo across the ocean and literally delivering people with Black bodies from Africa to the New world to be marketed to enslavers who built the wealthiest nation in the world on their backs. And all these years later, the deep wounds caused by that original sin have not healed.

But we have a chance today, in this generation, to learn to hear and see what we have not wanted to admit – that our nation is not fair, rights are not equal, and systems are not just. And we have the opportunity to journey with Jesus on a straight path that might lead to a just, equal, fair and beloved community.

Here at Forest Grove United Methodist, we are taking one small step in this effort by studying Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*, in Early Church, Sunday at 8:30 a.m., starting October 11<sup>th</sup>. This will not be the end of our effort. In fact, it's just a way of clearing the decks for the real work. I hope you'll consider taking part.

Finally, as we continue in the work of staying in love with God, Bp. Stanovsky addressed the crisis in The United Methodist Church over whether we can stay united, or whether doctrinal differences will force some kind of separation.

For nearly 40 years our church has struggled to reach a consensus about inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the life and ministry of the Church. But it hasn't been just about human sexuality. Some strategic people chose this as the issue over which to divide the church. This conflict came to intense and agonizing conflict at the General Conferences held in 2016 and 2019, with no resolution. It does not appear that United Methodists can remain together in the one, global church we have been since 1968. So, what will become of this one great "connectional" church of 12 million members worldwide when the ties that bind us stretch and break? Will it break into national churches?

Continued on page 3.

## FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

Yesterday was the 2020 virtual Annual Conference gathering in 4 hours. It was amazing what was accomplished in that time. The necessary voting was done virtually via our cell phones and a GNTV program. It was actually the same process used for voting a year ago at 2019 Annual Conference but with special hand-held devices rather than our cell phones. Sure, beats paper balloting and hand counting. Results in an instant, or so it seems.

Overall, there have been 3 presentations by our Bishop, Elaine Stanovsky, only one of them given yesterday. All three of them can be seen on the umoi Facebook page and are worth listening to as she projects where the church needs to be headed in the immediate and longer-term future. I think it is important for lay people to listen to these and dream about the implications for our church. She used Acts 10:34 “Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality’” as a springboard for her ideas. She advocated for learning as much as we can about inclusion and diversity. She talked about us doing an audit of inclusion/non-inclusion in the local church and in conference committees. She urges us to learn the history of racism and look for racism in our visual images, the prioritization of our values, and emphasized the intentional goodness of diversity in our welcome.

Annual Conference 2021 is set for June 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Puyallup, Washington.

I’ll leave you with this short writing. It is a lot to think about and to learn about and I encourage you to do your homework by seeking out Bishop Elaine’s words at umoi.org.

In hope for the church now and in the future.

*Do no harm, Do Good, Love God Always – J. Wesley*

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

Continued from Page 2

Will it splinter into many small fragments based on worship style, inclusive language, sexual identity and orientation or social policy? Will every local church have to decide who to affiliate with? Or will Annual Conferences make this decision, forcing some local churches to vote to stay or withdraw from their Annual Conference? How will property and other assets be divided? And most importantly, what will the division be *for*? What purpose will it serve? What vision is God leading us toward? Who do we want to be for one another and how does God want us to transform the world?

The existential question we face in the Greater Northwest is, will we stay together? Do we want to stay together? Do we love each other enough, to stay in communion with one another despite real differences? The annual conferences of the Greater Northwest Area have been LGBTQ+ inclusive for many years. LGBTQ+ inclusion is already part of the identity of United Methodism in the area. And we have had a commitment to include ministries with immigrant people, and to be racially and ethnically diverse. Both urban and rural. Young and old. Red and blue.

But we fall short of our own inclusive aspirations. And we squabble over which diverse communities can stay together and which ones are incompatible. Between now and General Conference in September 2021, we need to test and grow our faith to a deeper level where we trust that Jesus gives us One Faith, One Lord, One Baptism, even though we live out our faith in different ways. At the core we are not divided. Our gifts all serve one Savior, who gives us the grace to live, worship and serve together. We can endure this rough patch if we stay in relationship, if we learn to talk about what we hold most close, if we let love bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Friends, we are facing many challenges in these strange, and seemingly ever-stranger, times. This moment is unlike anything any of us have lived through before. But through the grace of God, we will rise to the call of the times. We will work to build with God a world of justice and of peace. We will live out John Wesley’s call to do no harm, to do good, and to stay in love with God. And we will do it together.

+ Pastor David

Your servant in Christ, **Pastor David**

## Marcelle Danielson

Born: August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1919 - Died: August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**M**arcelle Vivian Danielson (Herrmann) died peacefully at about 2:45 p.m. on August 17<sup>th</sup> 2020. She was at the home where she lived for the last three and half years with her son Dexter and daughter-in-law Nancy. Instrumental hymn music and the Christmas lights she liked so much were on in her room. At the home when she died were her grandson Alex and Ratha (his fiancée), and her great grandchildren Ethan and Sylvia. She had been in Hospice care since January, they were wonderfully supportive to work with, the nurse, Patty, and personal care provider, Leticia, were particularly caring and knowledgeable making sure in the passing days and months she was comfortable.

Marcelle's son Doyle resides in Portland with his wife Gail and their two children Stacy (Garrison) and Lucas. Her daughter, Delta, died in March of 2017.

She is survived by another grandson Jeremy Danielson and his wife Edith of New Mexico and their sons Aidin and Oliver. Also surviving is a granddaughter Marci (Ward) and her husband Darren.

Marcelle Herrmann was born in Naper Nebraska. Her parents were Frederick Herrmann and Marie Herrmann (Boes), she grew up on the family farm the oldest of nine until she moved with the family to Bemidji Minnesota in her senior year of high school. After graduation she worked at the Hospital and then the College in Bemidji doing housekeeping.

Marcelle met Richard Glenn Danielson in Bemidji and eventually came west to marry Richard who had come to Oregon to find work. They were married in Central Point Oregon on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1941. Just her aunt and uncle were the only ones present as witnesses and they celebrated by having a "banana split" and her uncle loaned them his brand-new car to go on their honeymoon.

Richard and Marcelle lived in Central Point for thirteen years, having their three children there. Richard worked at several jobs, logging, mill work, and eventually having his own plastering business. They then moved to Houston Texas to join with her brother Lavere in the tire business. They lived for five years in the Galena Park suburb of Houston. (You only had to ask her for her to tell you how much she disliked Houston.) The business then relocated to Portland Oregon and was known as "Mor-Mile" tire stores. Richard retired from the tire business after thirty years and after the business had been sold to the Tire Factory chain of stores, where he had continued to work a few more years.

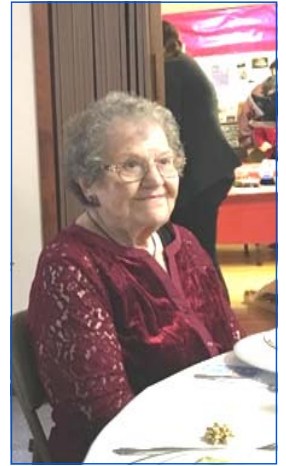
Marcelle was a homemaker doing the housekeeping, sewing, cooking, and raising three children. Always interested and involved at the schools the children attended, going to PTA meetings and attending sporting events they were involved in. She talked often of sharing blankets with other parents as they tried to stay warm in the bleachers during a nighttime football game, worrying about their kid getting hurt or getting nervous at wrestling meets as Dexter was in a match. She was also involved at Our Savior Lutheran Church in NE Portland; helping to build a new church building where she and Richard attended until moving. After twenty-five years in NE Portland near Madison HS, Richard and Marcelle settled in a mobile home on Dexter and Nancy's property in rural Forest Grove in 1984, traveling, helping to raise grandkids and look after several small farm animals. She often fixed the grandkids a breakfast on Saturday mornings when they would go up to visit, even though they had just had breakfast at home. When Dexter and Nancy came home late, they could plan on finding the kids where they had wandered to at Grandmas and Pops watching TV, where they had been fed.

She was also active in the Banks United Methodist Church in the women's group and bible studies and other social events; they were chosen as the Sweetheart Couple of the year at the annual Sweethearts Banquet, and celebrated the renewal of their vows for their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary there.

She and Richard relocated to a Forest Grove senior apartment in 2009 where Richard died in 2010. She continued to reside there until 2017 when for health reasons she moved to Dexter and Nancy's home. She continued active church involvement following Dexter to Yamhill UMC where he was pastor for five years and then Forest Grove UMC as he continued in his ministry as Chaplain with the Police and Fire Departments.

About services, she did not want any; telling us she enjoyed the party so much on her 100th birthday, and the weekend at the house with her siblings and other family it could not be any better than that. She did say at church just to mention her at worship, sing the hymn "The Old Rugged Cross" and have cake afterwards. We do think of her as being 101 years old. The 31<sup>st</sup> is her birthday, and after 100 years what do a few days matter.

She has been, as she and dad directed, cremated. She had kept dad's ashes and wanted us to pour them together and "stir them up really good" and scatter them at their favorite places. If you want to celebrate, do as we have done, get some chocolate wine, her favorite, and have a toast to her.



Anyone wishing to make a donation in Marcelle Danielson's name may send contributions to either of the following: Forest Grove UMC, 1726 Cedar St., Forest Grove OR 97116

or

PUBLIC SAFETY CHAPLAINCY

1500 NW 167<sup>th</sup> Pl. Beaverton OR 97116 (<http://www.publicsafetychaplaincy.com>)



## CHURCH FINANCES

Our giving's are still down and so the Finance Committee has decided to take an additional distribution from our Edward Jones accounts.

We met on line back in June and realized that we had a major financial problem with our bank accounts dipping lower and lower. We reviewed our receipts and decided that we could be as much as 40K short by the end of the year. Our major accounts had still been performing well so we decided to take an additional distribution from those accounts to get us through the end of the year.

Just last month the Investment committee met and reviewed our account performance. The market had recovered enough that we decided to shift some of our funds from the equity style funds to the more conservative bond style funds. All in all, our accounts stay strong enough to keep the church funded until we can all get together in person, and when we can open the church to outside groups that have used our church in the past.

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

## THANK YOU!

When our friends at FG UMC read the news of our little local fire on Chehalem Ridge near Bald Peak Road, many of them contacted us to see if we were okay. When they learned we had evacuated on short notice Tuesday night, several families offered their guest rooms. We spent one night with the McConnell family, our cats stayed more or less peaceably with the McConnell cats in their basement, and our four hens joined the flock in McConnell's' chicken run. Thank you, Mark and Cindy! You are a god-send.

Then on Thursday our evacuation was lifted and we returned to our undamaged home. We pray for those who were less fortunate, and we give thanks for all the people who step forward to be the Kingdom of God on earth.

Submitted by: **Liz & Karl Swenson**

## BIRTHDAYS

John Hummel	October 5 <sup>th</sup>
Frances Strachan	October 8 <sup>th</sup>
Lucinda Hites-Clabaugh	October 10 <sup>th</sup>
Dave Bond	October 11 <sup>th</sup>
Rhoda Pittman Fuentes	October 17 <sup>th</sup>
Diane Ray	October 19 <sup>th</sup>
Ella Collins-Colcord	October 24 <sup>th</sup>
David Hites-Clabaugh	October 29 <sup>th</sup>
Brian Hawkins	October 30 <sup>th</sup>

## ANNIVERSARIES

John and Sherry Hayes	October 4 <sup>th</sup>
Merrill & Betty Ludlam	October 19 <sup>th</sup>

## 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

### BETTY J. PRITCHARD

Betty has worked hard and long for FGUMC having served as our choir and music director for many years; in addition to the Worship team, Finance chair, head of Church Council and our Sunday School Superintendent. More recently, Betty has also led United Methodist Women.

Betty met Chuck at a church camp while they were in high school in neighboring towns in Ohio. They attended Hiram College, where Betty earned her degree in music. They joined the Peace Corps after graduating, serving as teachers on a remote island in Fiji for two years. A storm devastated their island and school near the end of their term and they stayed on for months to help rebuild. They returned to the U.S. by way of Asia and Europe, staying in youth hostels and riding local buses. Betty then supported Chuck as he graduated from medical school. She was his business manager for his Pediatrics practice in Forest Grove. A beloved Forest Grove substitute teacher, hopefully in Music, she learned to take on many other subjects as needed.

Betty and Chuck are the parents of Ben and Chad, and proud grandparents of Owen, Oliver and Elliot. Betty and Chuck will celebrate their Golden Anniversary this December.

Submitted by: *M. J. Nordgren*

## SERVING IN OCTOBER

Lay Leader	John Hayes
Altar Guild	Valerie Hawkins
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Nursery Supervisor	TBD
Kitchen Elves	4 <sup>th</sup> Ella Collins & Sharon Adame 11 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>

## MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.  
Build Community.  
Impact the World.

## OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS

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