



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger November 2020

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WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

The month starts with a continuation of our focus on Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Having heard Paul in October describe himself as a mother to the Thessalonian Christians, we now hear him describe himself as their father. We get a glimpse of Paul's vision of life beyond death, and we hear his warnings to be ready for the Kingdom of God. On the last Sunday of the Christian year, Reign of Christ Sunday, we explore the image of Jesus as a shepherd of his people. Finally, at the very end of November, we start a new cycle of the Christian year with the first Sunday of Advent, the season of preparation for Christmas.

Sunday November 1st 2020

1st Thessalonians 2:9-13
"Like a Father"

Sunday November 11th 2020

1st Thessalonians 4:13-18
"Meet the Lord in the Air"

Sunday November 15th 2020

1st Thessalonians 5:1-11
"Stay Woke"

Sunday November 22nd 2020, Reign of Christ Sunday

Ezekiel 34:1-16, 20-24; Matthew 25:31-46
"As a Shepherd Separates"

Sunday November 29th 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Submitted by: *Pastor David*

REACHING PASTOR DAVID

While Pastor David is still recovering from a concussion, he is not able to hold virtual office hours at this time because of the sustained screen-time involved. However, he is happy to have you call or text him at 541-399-9020 or email at: daviddming@gmail.com. If you would like an in-person visit from Pastor David, with the appropriate precautions of masks and distancing, he would be delighted to schedule that with you.

Submitted by: *Pastor David*

YOUTH GROUP

All middle school and high school youth are invited to meet on **Sundays at 6 pm**. We'll play games, check in with each other, explore questions of faith. Join via Zoom at bit.ly/forestgroveumy or with **Meeting ID 973 5210 9417** and **password FGUMY**.

Some evenings, Youth Group has met outside with masks and other precautions. If you have questions, contact Pastor David at 541-399-9020 or daviddming@gmail.com.

Submitted by: *Pastor David*



Daylight time ends Sunday, November 1st at 2:00 a.m.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

As I am writing this, it's nearly two weeks away from election "night," though Melissa and I have already submitted our ballots, as have thousands of other Oregonians. By the time you read this, voting will either be over or coming to a conclusion. However, the unprecedented nature of this election—trying to hold a national election during a global pandemic, means that it may take several days, or even several weeks of counting before the results of the election become clear.

This election comes in an extraordinary time. We have been living for eight months with a new reality created by COVID-19. It has profoundly affected and destabilized our society. It can be measured in closed schools and businesses, lost jobs, social isolation, but most importantly in human lives. Everyone wants it to be over. We want to see our friends and families again. We want to gather for holidays again. We want to meet in our churches and clubs and other activities. We want to go back to school. We want to go back to work. But we want to do so safely.

At the same time, we are in the midst of a new reckoning over racial justice in America. Many of us white folk are coming to realize what people have been living with forever: a system that routinely disadvantages people of color and privileges white people. This system is perfectly capable of sustaining itself even with little help from strident racists. And yet, there are plenty of strident racists out there continuing to apply pressure and create terror.

For these reasons, the election seems very weighty. People on both sides are saying that it is the most important election in our lifetime. And the stark contrast between the presidential candidates means that many, many issues are "on the ballot" this time.

I encourage you to be patient, to be wise, and to do what you can to support the democratic process. We are citizens of heaven, but we have a profound responsibility as resident aliens here on earth, ambassadors even, of the divine. I share with you this prayer drawn from denominational resources:

Loving God, creator of this world who is our source of our wisdom and understanding, watch over this nation during this time of election. Help us to see how our faith informs our principles and actions. We give thanks for the right to vote. Help us to hold this privilege and responsibility with the care and awareness it merits, realizing that our vote matters and that it is an act of faith. Guide us through this election as a nation, state, and community as we vote for people to do work on our behalf and on the behalf of our communities. Help us to vote for people and ballot initiatives that will better our community and our world so it may reflect the values Christ taught us. Help us create communities that will build your kingdom here on earth – communities that will protect the poor, stand up for the vulnerable, advocate for those who are not seen and heard, and listen to everyone's voice. We pray for this nation that is deeply divided. May we come together for the common good and do as you have called us to do – to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you through creation. Help us act out of love, mercy and justice rather than out of arrogance or fear. Lord, continue to guide us as we work for the welfare of this world. We pray for places that are torn by violence, that they may know peace. We pray for communities that are struggling with inequality, unrest, and fear. May we all work toward reconciliation with one another and with God. Help us to listen in love, work together in peace, and collaborate with one another as we seek the betterment of our community and world.

Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth. Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you commit the responsibility of government and leadership in the nations of the world. Give to them the vision of truth and justice, that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together. Give to the people of our country zeal for justice and strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will. Forgive our shortcomings as a nation; purify our hearts to see and love the truth. We pray all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.

+ Pastor David

Pastor David

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

The end of October and beginning of November has several interesting dates or events that may be of interest. Let's take a look at some of them.

Reformation Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday nearest October 31st. It commemorates the day that Martin Luther nailed demands on a church door sending a message to the Pope demanding changes that had to do with abuse of power. It was the event that led to the movement toward Protestantism.

All Hallows' Eve, falls on October 31st each year and is the day before All Hallows' Day also known as All Saints' Day. In secular meaning All Hallows' Eve becomes Halloween and today's emphasis on ghosts and other eerie stuff is a reflection of the original meaning of it being the time when the veil between the world of the living and the world of the dead was thin. It allowed the souls of the dead to come back to earth and walk among the living. Its roots are Celtic and grew out of the Druid religion of Ireland.

Religiously All Saints' Day in American culture is often celebrated with some kind of symbolic act of remembrance of those who have died. In our church the custom has been to light candles for those of the congregation that died during the preceding year and also to honor and light candles for names that people in the congregation call out. Of course, we cannot have that kind of celebration this year within the church building. I would encourage you to think about some way of celebrating your ancestors in your home. We can learn some things about that from our Hispanic neighbors and friends. Talk about your ancestors, light candles. Dig out some pictures. Get into the spirit of the "Day of the Dead."

You may be aware that over the years the Hispanic community in Forest Grove has created a place where some of their traditions can be displayed. Most important is the Family Altar where pictures of the deceased are displayed as well as some of their belongings such as tools or art or items of adornment – sometimes food is even left on the altar for the spirits that come in the night.

One of the interesting traditions, originating with the Mayans, that I had the pleasure of seeing was in one area of Guatemala, where flying giant kites to honor the dead was a colorful event. The kites are seen as mediators between the living and the dead.

Serving you in deacon ministry,
Submitted by: **Rev. Rhoda Pittman Fuentes**, Retired Deacon

CHURCH TRUSTEE ACTIVITIES

Repairs have been made to the organ and pianos of the church in support of our worship experience. We are able to enjoy the benefits of these repairs while attending our virtual worship each Sunday. The Trustees also replaced half of the banks of lights in the Fellowship Hall so that the space feels much more inviting. Also, we have a new cleaning service which takes care of the church's Janitorial needs. Another large investment was made to install a wall that can be used to separate the Garden Room into two sections. This restores the space to its original functionality and will be useful once we can host families from Family Promise as a portion of our outreach ministry. In an on-going effort to ensure the long-term condition of the church building, the Trustees have invested church funds to repair gutters that have been leaking and fascia and soffits that are being damaged from the dripping gutters.

Even though we cannot currently enjoy these improvements in person, they will be available for all to enjoy once we can come back together. After closing the playground on the recommendation of our insurance provider and to follow city guidelines, the Trustees, along with community members, are working to re-open the playground by ensuring the equipment is safe and that there is a soft surface below the equipment.

None of these costs were included in the original budget for Trustees, but these actions needed to be done to keep the church building structurally sound and capable of providing the ministries that we, the church, are called to support. Your support of the church budget through your gifts and offerings is critical to our church ministry and outreach.

Submitted by: **Brian Hawkins**, Trustee Chair

EMERGING FROM THE WATER

The last several months of caring for my mother, Marcelle, with hospice and then her death on August 17th felt to me like having been underwater. My senses were numbed to the outside world and I dealt with only the necessities of life. Since that day I have felt a re-emerging into the world outside. Even with all the pain, suffering, unrest, and fear in our world today I now look to each day with confidence.

I have, in my ministry encountered many deaths, some six hundred is my calculation. I have encountered most of these on the heels of first responders; EMT/Firefighters and Police, some sixty times a year, whether from natural or violent means, grief is involved that brings pain and heartache.

Grief and mourning are a universal experience in the death of loved ones, bringing with it much emotional pain and I, with all my experiencing of it am not immune, as is no one. Let me offer some insight into dealing with the pain of grief in our common human experience; Insights I have gleaned from observation, training, and personal experience.

Know that following the death of a loved one it takes time for the pain to stop, in a few hours or even days sometimes months following. The answers to difficult questions are not available nor are there cures for the pain. Accept powerlessness to know the answers for the many grieving questions as to why...? This is especially true in sudden unexpected death. Most often the answer to the questions "why" is an answer we do not have.

Realize the response of a loved one can be variable and erratic; sometimes in ways that we cannot imagine. Anger, hysteria, physical outbursts, apathy and non-communicativeness are just a few; being allowed time and space to vent these reactions safely is important.

Do not try to "argue" them out of these thoughts but reassure them that they did all they could, and that self-guilt is not healthful. The coping mechanisms we have vary according to the individual, the situation, and the shock can be numbing. Listening is the key.

What are some of the things you can do to practically help in the first hours?

- * Help make some of the important phone calls to let other friends and family know. I have seen the importance of doing this for the grieving loved ones over and over.
- * Stay with the person, arrange that they are not alone for the first one or two days. Be present but not smothering is key.
- * Very few real decisions need to be made in the first few hours and the mortuary selected can be extremely helpful in this.
- * Set-up a meal plan for friends and family to bring meals for them for several days. The last thing they want to do is prepare meals even though they are vital to their health at this time.

Consider what **you** can do to make it easier and to lessen the impact of grief on your loved ones in event of your death (yes, it is inescapable for all of us).

A will, a power of attorney, a directive for type of service desired, and very importantly what are your wishes for disposition of your body? Burial, cremation, other (you would be surprised how many people had not even discussed this with family and loved ones). Designate a mortuary you will wish to handle those final details and possibly even consider purchasing a pre-paid service plan from the mortuary. Some are very reasonably priced.

Emerging from the waters of grief takes time, but those who surround the grieving family and loved ones in a matter of a few hours can have a long-term impact on how the person handles grief in the months and years ahead.

At this time, Nancy and I would like to thank all those who have sent kind notes and cards. They are deeply appreciated.

(Note: I have 40 copies of an excellent book on grief; "Good-bye, for now" by Welby O'Brien. She has a master's in counseling and bachelor's in teaching and has been a conference speaker and lecturer at seminaries on grief. Welby has written a guide that is very practical and easy to understand no matter whether you are experiencing grief or want to know how to help a friend. She provided these free to me and I will give them free to anyone who might like one, first come first serve. Let me know at email: chapddd@gmail.com or call 503-312-2361 and I will get one to you.)

*"Grief is not a
problem to be cured.
It is simply a
statement that you
have loved
someone."*

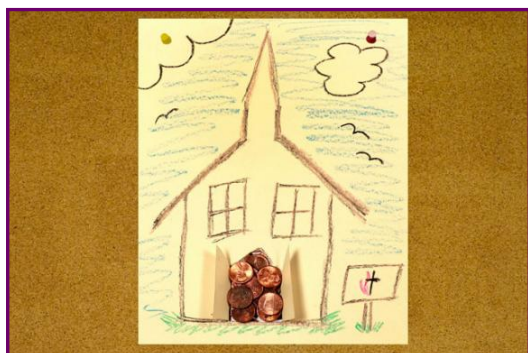
Submitted by: **Rev. Dexter Danielson** (Ret. Chaplain)

United Methodist Communications

United Methodist Communications provides services and products that support your congregation's connections to your local community and to the global church. Many products are available at no or low cost, whether you need videos for your church or resources to promote giving, your church website needs hosting or you want to know more about the latest social media and technology tools. We are ready to perform holistic communications audits for annual conferences and provide local church advertising support.

Put our experience to work in your local church. Learn how to create and implement a marketing plan to connect your congregation with your community. Master online communications via a church website, electronic communications and social media. Develop a welcoming congregation. Take online classes from experts in web ministry, local church vitality, giving and the basics of The United Methodist Church

As part of the church wide response, an advertising campaign, **#EndRacism**, has been created. You may have seen the campaign graphics featured on billboards, social media and websites. We are also providing social media graphics and other items so local churches and annual conferences can coordinate with this effort and speak to recent events in their own communities.



BIRTHDAYS

Addison Hummel	November 2 nd
Tom Stewart	November 3 rd
Amy Scott	November 6 th
Alicia McConnell	November 10 th
Debbie Gamble	November 13 th
Lester Heisler	November 14 th
Martha Tunall	November 15 th
Chanté (Gustafson) Tipton	November 17 th
Dan Wilson-Fey	November 23 rd

ANNIVERSARIES

Dick & Sue Brenner	November 12 th
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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

GARY EDDINGS

A Forest Grove native, having been born at 18th and Elm Street. After graduating High School in 1966, in April of 1967 Gary married Ruth Reese's lovely daughter Karen in the original FGUMC across the street. The Eddings started their family in Forest Grove, and in 1980 they moved to the McKenzie River area of Oregon to manage Camp White Branch, a youth camp belonging to the Church of God, before moving to central Oregon where Karen worked with senior citizens. A building engineer, Gary worked for the Sisters' school district from 1986 until early 2006.

Gary doesn't believe in coincidences. He decided to retire when he underwent heart surgery for an aneurism "that was waiting to kill me at any moment." That was a real "wake-up call". Gary and Karen moved back to Forest Grove to be closer to family. Gary returned to the working world in the Engineering Dept. of Tuality Hospital looking for a part-time position in retirement. Then Tuality asked him to work for them full time; eventually he became Dept. Supervisor upon the abrupt resignation of the then Manager. Gary stayed in that transitional role until early 2013, when he retired yet again.

Presently Gary is back at faling retirement by working as a Relief & Door to Door driver for Ride Connection's Forest Grove office. Karen has managed to not fail retirement!

The Eddings are blessed with two loving daughters. Jennifer McCarl, a computer drafting specialist, works in Portland. Dr. Kathryn Sherrell works with Providence as a pediatric audiologist. Karen and Gary are also massively proud of their two beautiful granddaughters, and soon to be three great grandchildren.

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

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

Lay Leader	John Hayes
Altar Guild	Sherry Hayes
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Nursery Supervisor	TBD
Kitchen Elves	Janet Hummel & Sue Brenner
	1 st
	8 th
	15 th
	22 nd
	29 th

MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.
Build Community.
Impact the World.

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS

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