



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger January 2021

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WORSHIP IN JANUARY

As the 12-day season of Christmas comes to a close, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 3rd. It commemorates the visit of the magi to Jesus and his family, bringing gifts of gold frankincense, and myrrh. Then a week later we remember our baptisms as we celebrate Jesus being baptized by John in the Jordan River just before the beginning of his public ministry. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Wendy Woodworth, will be guest preaching on both these Sundays.

Then we enter a short season of ordinary time, called—not very imaginatively—the Season after Epiphany. It focusses on Jesus’s early ministry. On January 17th, we’ll consider what Paul has to say about Christian freedom and the limits of Christian behavior. Then we’ll rejoin the narrative of the Gospel of Mark as Jesus calls his first disciples and performs his first exorcism.

January 3rd, 2021, Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

“Guided by the Light” by Rev. Wendy Woodworth

January 10th, 2020, Baptism of the Lord

Acts 19:1-7, Mark 4:4-11

“Baptized in the Spirit” by Rev. Wendy Woodworth

January 17th, 2020, The Second Sunday after Epiphany

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

“Not Everything Is Helpful”

January 24th, The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 1:14-20

“Follow Me”

January 31st, 2020, The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 1:21-28

“I Know Who You Are”

Submitted by: *Pastor David*

CHRISTMAS BASKETS 2020

FGUMC Last Year again distributed Christmas Baskets! The format was necessarily different.

We had 9 families on the list and provided gift cards to each family, \$100 per family, plus \$50 per family member (i.e. a family of 5 will receive a \$350 gift card).

The gifts were distributed December 13th and included a small basket decorated with ribbon, some candy, an ornament, the gift card and a letter from the church.

Betty and Chuck Pritchard, Janet Hummel, Doug Scott, Liz Swenson, Rhoda Fuentes and Pastor David were involved.

Thank You all.



Submitted by: *Janet Hummel*

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

Well, it is the start of a new year. And the end of one of the strangest years any of us have experienced. For at least the last ten months, nothing has been normal. And while there are indication the normal will be returning at some point in the near future, we haven't gotten there yet. I pray that you have had a quiet, safe, and meaningful holiday season. And I pray you peace and blessing in this new year.

In all of the strangeness, we lost track of a few details. Pledge cards normally go out to you in October or November. You should be receiving them in January, along with annual giving statements. COVID has been difficult economic for many, I know, and that has affected giving patterns in the church this last year. I pray you will prayerfully consider how God is calling you to give in response to God's great love. Finance will be putting together a budget, based on your responses, in February. Until then, the church will be working off an extension of last year's budget.

Thank you for your continuing support of Forest Grove UMC, even in these strange and difficult times. God willing, it won't be long before we can meet together once again in praise, worship, and fellowship. Many blessings to you and yours.

A NEW YEAR

Last month at our Charge Conference, we elected new leaders for 2021. Below is a summary of who is currently on each Resource Committees in the church, with newly elected members bolded. There has been no change in staffing to Action Teams. Special thanks to Chuck Pritchard, Jan Stewart, Fred Raycraft, and Ken Bond, who have completed their terms of service this year.

Church Council Chair **Janet Hummel**
Lay Leader **Chuck Pritchard**

Staff-Parish Relations Mark McConnell
(Chair TBD) MaryJane Nordgren
Ed Davie
Ruth Sutter
Angela Gunther
Sharon Adame
Liz Swenson

Board of Trustees Brian Hawkins (chair)
Margaret Hoerber
Dan Gustafson
Gary Eddings
Mark McConnell

Nominating Committee Rev. David King (chair)
Liz Swenson
Betty Pritchard
Rev. Rhoda Fuentes
Doug Scott
Janet Hummel

Finance Committee Doug Scott (chair)
Alisa Hampton (treasurer)
Dan Gustafson (financial secretary)
Janet Hummel (asst. financial secretary)
Brian Hawkins (Trustee chair)
TBD (SPRC chair)
Chuck Pritchard (Lay Leader)
Betty Pritchard (Lay Member of Annual Conference)

Submitted by: **Pastor David**

+ Pastor David

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

You'll be receiving this in the new year of 2021. That caused me to think back to the fun and antics the youth had on New Year's Eve when I was growing up.

My Methodist church was the typical pre 1950s structure with a choir loft center front with a stained-glass window behind it. There were balconies on the 2 sides and the back with rooms behind the balcony seating. We teen age girls tended to gather in the center back balcony and giggle over our Sunday School papers during the sermon.

Youth group meetings were one of the main social events of the week no matter what church you attended. There were parlor games that were a lot of fun and no self-respecting teen today would dare play I'm thinking. After the more serious part of the evening, we would retire to the basement for games and refreshments.

On New Year's Eve we would gather and I don't remember how late we stayed – probably not until midnight. Most of us needed a parent coming to get us and I don't believe my farmer father would have appreciated midnight hours when morning came around 4 a.m. Nevertheless, we had fun on New Year's Eve. It was probably pretty much like the social part of regular MFY meetings, but more on the party side.

Whenever it was that we ended it wasn't time to go home until we went outside and rang the church bell as long as the adult in charge would let us. We rang it so strongly that some of the smaller girls would ride up the ring when the rope was slackened. New Year's Eve was no exception on the fun we had with that bell.

Sometime in the early late 50s or early 60s a new church was built on the outskirts of Albany to the Southeast and the old church on the corner of 3rd and Ellsworth in downtown Albany was torn down – that was hard on me emotionally. I still have to gulp back tears when I go to Albany and drive past that corner where so much of who I am was formed. That bell is mounted on a platform and sits out front of today's Albany UMC.

I'm wondering if some of you have similar memories of MYF or, in a later era, UMY.

Welcome to 2021. See you soon.

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

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The finance committee will soon be working on our 2021 budget. As in past years we will be sending out pledge cards to get a sense of what we can expect in tithings for this next year. Since we still don't know when we will be able to get back together in person this information is critical. If you could return them to the church as soon as possible it will help us with our planning.

Due to our loss of income from rentals and giving's we suspended our apportionments to the conference this past year. We would like to be able to reinstate this for next year since it supports some vital programs that the church supports.

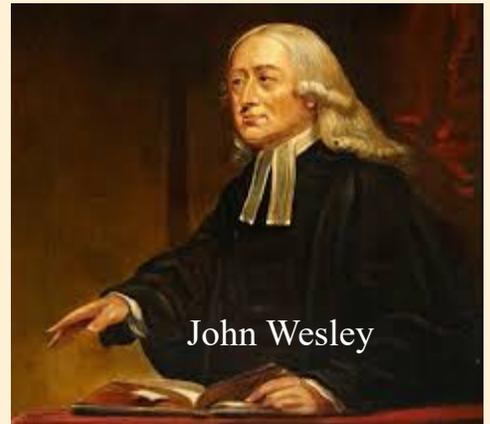
Our two main accounts that we use to fund the shortfall are still in good shape with the strength in the stock market, but we still would like to remain cautious about our withdrawals from those accounts.

Thank you all for your generosity in the past.

Submitted by: *Doug Scott*, Finance Chair

ARTICLES OF RELIGION

[Assurance of faith](#)
[Conditional preservation of the saints](#)
[Four sources of theological authority](#)
[Covenant theology](#)
[Substitutionary atonement](#)
[Imparted righteousness](#)
[Moral law](#)
[New birth](#)
[Outward holiness](#)
[Plain dress](#)
[Prevenient grace](#)
[Real presence](#)
[Sanctification](#)
[Sunday Sabbatarianism](#)
[Christian perfection](#)
[Views on sin](#)
[Works of Piety](#)
[Works of Mercy](#)



John Wesley

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE!

Music Bridge would like to thank all of you who participated in our Music Survey. Your contribution was very helpful and very much appreciated!

I will keep you all updated on the project, as we near completion and publication. We are striving for publication in March of 2021.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!!

Submitted by: *Lisa Peterson*, Music Bridge

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The United Methodist Church is a worldwide main-line Protestant denomination based in the United States, and a major part of Methodism. In the 19th century, its main predecessor, the Methodist Episcopal Church, was a leader in evangelicalism. [Wikipedia](#)

Founder: *John Wesley* was an English cleric, theologian and evangelist who was a leader of a revival movement within the Church of England known as Methodism.

The **Articles of Religion** are an official doctrinal statement of [Methodism](#). [John Wesley](#) abridged the [Thirty-Nine Articles](#) of the [Church of England](#), removing the [Calvinistic](#) parts among others, reflecting Wesley's [Arminian](#) theology.^[1]

The resulting 25 Articles were adopted at a Methodist conference in 1784^[citation needed] and are found in the Books of Discipline of Methodist Churches, such as Chapter I of the *Doctrines and Discipline* of the [African Methodist Episcopal Church](#) and paragraph 103 of the [United Methodist Church Book of Discipline](#).^[2]

They have remained relatively unchanged since 1808 by Methodists worldwide (save for a few additional articles added in later years in both the United Methodist tradition and [Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Connection](#)).^[3]

From: *Wikipedia*

BIRTHDAYS

Angela Cohrs	January 6 th
Ethan Jones	January 6 th
Linda Raycraft	January 15 th
Jan Stewart	January 20 th
Betty Weekley	January 21 st
Donna House	January 22 nd
Tracy Gulacy	January 27 th
Matt Thompson-Aue	January 30 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Dan and Kathy Wilson-Fey	January 2 nd
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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

JOHN HAYES, PhD

Florida calls to Sherry and John Hayes. John will be retiring in August from most of his teaching at Pacific U. Optometry School. Their two daughters and their families live in Naples. Their home across the street from FGUMC is up for sale. Their pizza oven on wheels, which has served our congregation much fun, has been given away — to a couple from Pacific who could not store it in their driveway, so bought a lot with a view of Mt. Hood and built a home for it and them.

John and Sherry met in kindergarten, married his senior year at The College of Wooster (51 years now). John then did graduate work in cognitive psychology at Ohio State U. John earned his PhD in Preventive Medicine with emphasis on biostatistics. He went on to work for Ohio's Children's Hospital in Columbus, and also did consulting in biostatistics. Throughout their academic years, they acted as group home parents and later graciously opened their home to students and faculty.

A former colleague had relocated to FG and recommended John come to Pacific in 2006. He and Sherry have been active in our church ever since. They love it here in FG, especially in the summer. So, we can hope our lay leaders of the past year will be returning.

Submitted by: *M. J. Nordgren*

SERVING IN JANUARY

Lay Leader	Chuck Pritchard
Altar Guild	Valerie Hawkins
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Nursery Supervisor	TBD
Kitchen Elves 3 rd 10 th 17 th 24 th	TBD

MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.
Build Community.
Impact the World.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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