



# FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Messenger February 2021

1726 Cedar St., Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434  
e-mail: [fgumcorg@Gmail.com](mailto:fgumcorg@Gmail.com)

Phone: 503-357-2689 FAX: 503-357-8410  
website: [www.umcforestgrove.org](http://www.umcforestgrove.org)

### WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

February begins with a continuation of a season of Ordinary Time. We will consider how the apostle Paul sublimates his own desires and preferences and opens himself up to the preferences and cultures of others for the sake of Christ. Then we see Jesus on the mountaintop with Moses and Elijah, his appearance changed before his disciples' eyes, and consider what that means in light of Elijah's experience on the fiery chariot.

In the middle of the month, we enter the season of Lent, a 40-day season of reflection and fasting as we prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of Christ. Ash Wednesday begins the season with confession and the consideration of our own mortality. This year it will be in a hybrid format. A short worship service will be available online, and then I will be in the church parking lot 12:15-12:45 and 5:15-5:45 to mark you with the sign of the cross in ashes. Cars should enter the parking lot on Cedar Street and exit on Birch.

In the first two Sundays of Lent, we will meditate on stories of God's people in the wilderness and consider the significance of the cross, at once an instrument of torture and a means of salvation.

**February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
"All Things to All People"

**February 14<sup>th</sup>, Transfiguration Sunday**  
2 Kings 2:1-12, Mark 9:2-9  
"Elijah and Moses Appeared"

**February 17<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday**  
Online worship service  
with drive-thru ashes 12:15-12:45 and 5:15-5:45

**February 21<sup>st</sup>, The First Sunday in Lent**  
Genesis 9:8-17, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15  
"Forty Days"

**February 28<sup>th</sup>, The Second Sunday in Lent**  
Mark 8:31-38  
"The Way of the Cross"  
Submitted by: *Pastor David*

### PASTOR DAVID'S DIGITAL OFFICE HOURS

Pastor David is available by Zoom or phone each week 1-3 p. m. on Mondays and 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on Thursdays. You can use the link [bit.ly/pastordavidfg](https://bit.ly/pastordavidfg) to access the Zoom room. For those joining from an app, the meeting ID is 945 9729 8239 and the passcode is 1726 (the church's street number). You can call Pastor David directly at 541-399-9020.

Submitted by: *Pastor David*

### Monthly Food Drive to Start in February

FGUMC February Food Drive,  
**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**Food of The Month: Soup**

This month's Day of the Drive: Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 11 a.m. - noon

**Greeters:** Betty and Chuck Pritchard with  
Janet Hummel

We are so excited to report that FGUMC will sponsor a monthly food drive starting in February. The first Friday of every month, someone will be at the church to greet you, (we will be wearing masks and you should be too) and receive the food of the month contributions from 11 a.m. - Noon.

The food box will also be moved to the back walkway by the bench and food can be dropped off any time.

Please contact **Janet Hummel, Betty or Chuck Pritchard** with questions and to sign up to be a greeter!  
Submitted by: *Janet Hummel*

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

As I write this, Oregon is experiencing its first week of downward COVID trends in quite some time. As vaccines continue to be delivered and administered, we can be hopeful that in-person church gatherings may become more feasible in the coming months. So far, the numbers have not improved enough for our church to enter into the next phase of a reopening plan.

However, even under the current restrictions, we are planning to provide a few new means of connection. First, as a reminder, the church does have a Zoom account to facilitate online group meetings. If there are any groups in the church that would like to meet by Zoom, I am happy to help facilitate that. Please let me know.

Second, the bell choir is working on a plan to begin playing again. We'll be setting up individual bell tables in the Fellowship Hall. With appropriate distancing and mask wearing, we should be able to facilitate up to 10 players. Let Alisa Hampton know if you are interested. A rehearsal time has not yet been set.

Third, as I mentioned in the worship notes, we'll be having a hybrid worship experience for Ash Wednesday on February 17th. Most of the service will be available online through Facebook, YouTube, or the church's website ([umcforestgrove.org](http://umcforestgrove.org)), and I will be available in person to mark the sign of the cross in ashes on your forehead. Drive through the church parking lot from Cedar Street between 12:15 and 12:45 or between 5:15 and 5:45 and I'll come to your car for the ritual.

Finally, the Worship Team is working on plans for a parking lot worship service in March. You'll be able to park in the lot, tune your radio to a particular FM station, and join together in worship. It may be a bit like a drive-in movie, but we'll be leading the worship in person. Look for more details in next month's edition of *The Messenger*.

It has been a long "winter" of COVID isolation, and I am very glad we can now see some signs of a coming "spring." I continue to pray for you and ask your prayers for me. It is not forever. We will see each other again; thanks be to God.

+ Pastor David

**Pastor David**

## FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

I've been thinking about acquaintances and friends. It seems like a good subject for the month of February. For lovers young and old, for kids in school with Valentine Parties coming up romance and relationships, and sometimes mere duty or custom, is on lots of minds.

When I think about my connections that range far and wide most of those probably are more acquaintances than deep down friends. With my connection with the National Christian Educators Fellowship for a number of years I met a lot of people and worked with some of them. Most were more of the nature of work colleagues than people with whom I had a deeper relationship. When I think of friends, I think of people with whom I have a relationship that is deeper – where I know more about them and their families, their likes and dislikes. It's important to keep in contact. I have many of those all along the spectrum from mere acquaintance to a deeper friendship. I suspect you do to.

I also have a handful of friends that are of long duration and for whom even over the years know of their comings and goings, their family relationships and much more. You have those too.

Thanks to the marvel of Facebook, I am able to know at an adult level several people who were young children when I lived in Costa Rica and are now adults with careers and even retired. This seems remarkable to me when I knew them in a tiny town off the beaten path to anywhere with a small school that ended at 6<sup>th</sup> grade yet many of those “kids” are professionals of one sort or another, have traveled extensively and are eager to keep in touch with me. For some, women especially, I was the catalyst that got them out of that small town and positioned to move into the larger world. I love that contact and following them is possible.

That has happened with students from Gaston Elementary as well. In 24 years, one builds a lot of relationships and some of them extend long beyond the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. To some I'm still Mrs. Fuentes or Mrs. Markus. To others I've become Rhoda. They share their lives and they get glimpses of mine. It's fun to watch the 4<sup>th</sup> grader become a grandmother and send her own children and grandchildren off into the world.

Then there are those few – not from childhood, but from college and beyond where the relationships count into the decades. How precious those are.

It's good to remember these things especially in a month that celebrates relationships. I hope you take the time to reflect on all those people in your life too.

That's my Valentine hope to you. Love your past, remember it, celebrate it – get in touch with someone you haven't seen or talked to for a very long time ago. It will cause your heart to swell!

Yours in the spirit of love and friendship,

Submitted by: Rev. **Rhoda Pitman Fuentes**, retired deacon.

Apply January 1<sup>st</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 for scholarships  
for the 2021-2022 academic year.



\$2+ MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED EVERY YEAR!

# APPLY NOW!

The application season for the 2021-2022 academic year is open January 1 through March 1, 2021. **PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR APPLICATION:**

- UMHEF awards scholarships to United Methodist students planning to attend [one of these United Methodist-related schools](#).
- Learn about the main UMHEF scholarship programs: [UM Dollars for Scholars](#), [General Named Endowed Scholarships](#), and [Other Scholarships](#)
- Review the [Eligibility Requirements and Other Important Notes](#) for our scholarship programs to make sure you qualify and know what will be needed to apply before beginning.
- If you will be applying for our [Dollars for Scholars](#) program, we recommend that you contact your church's business manager, pastor, or other leadership as soon as possible to inquire about their intent and ability to provide the \$1,000 award that begins this scholarship, and let them know you plan to apply. Your application will not be marked "complete" until the church's check is received.
- UMHEF uses Smarter Select (applications linked below), an online platform that makes it easy for students to create a profile and set log-in credentials to make it simple to begin, come back, complete, and check the status of your application(s).
- If you applied in 2020, you should be able to use the same student profile to begin a new application. If you have forgotten your password, please use prompts provided by Smarter Select to request a password reset. Applicants must re-apply every year for UMHEF awards.
- Review our [FAQs page](#) for answers to frequently asked questions.



## A GREAT NEW YEARS

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Eve, I drove to Sublimity Oregon with the intention of assisting those who had lost homes and belongings in the wildfires that spread through the Santiam Canyon region in September, I returned having had the best New Year's I can recall. The fires that had taken place in the region had destroyed many homes, businesses, and wildlife habitats. I had two purposes, one was to deliver over 1,700 dollars in donated items from the Forest Grove ACE Hardware; new tarps, extension cords, batteries, that filled up the back of my small pickup. The other was to volunteer at the distribution center for a few hours to assist those who had lost everything in the fires and came to the center to get much needed assistance; everything from basic household commodities, to tents, to tarps, to extension cords, to generators. I found that as I gathered items for the people who came to the center the needs were great, even months after the event. I took the opportunity to talk with the people coming in and listen to the stories they had.

Tarps were much needed for protection of property, and people, from the weather. One family needed a large tarp to cover the back of their pickup canopy for shelter from the rain as some of the family members were sleeping in it at the campground where they were staying. One man simply needed a long extension cord to begin clearing limbs and trees with an electric chainsaw. One woman needed some basic items such as diapers, dish soap, laundry detergent, including a flashlight with batteries for them to walk from their camper to the bathroom at night. Another family needed a "mattress in a box" to put on a cement floor in a garage where they were staying, it was for the children to sleep on, they have been sleeping on blankets spread on the floor. Tents were needed by some, to keep items in or to sleep in. One woman I talked with was staying in a motel with her family since the fires, waiting for insurance and other disaster relief funds to reach them, for the time being they were being helped financially with donated funds and needed items.

At least a couple of times I heard the question "why didn't you come to us for help sooner", the reply was they "didn't think they would need it", believing insurance or disaster assistance would be quicker to arrive or found it was not enough to cover their true loss. One woman explained how they lost three cars with their home in the fires and it required the payoff on all three to replace them with one pickup.

I frequently heard the explanation that many properties had not received clearance for hazardous conditions and materials delaying clean-up and re-



## BIRTHDAYS

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Jenny Lyn Englin  | February 1 <sup>st</sup>  |
| Emily Tabb        | February 1 <sup>st</sup>  |
| Caroline Dau      | February 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Mark McConnell    | February 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Edythe Westlund   | February 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Adrienne Dionne   | February 8 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Laurie Bond       | February 9 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Betty Pritchard   | February 10 <sup>th</sup> |
| Alyssa Dionne     | February 11 <sup>th</sup> |
| Virgil Foxley     | February 17 <sup>th</sup> |
| Cricket O'Neill   | February 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Jan Schrock       | February 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Leah Henriksen    | February 24 <sup>th</sup> |
| Jasper O'Sullivan | February 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| Lilly LaCombe     | February 26 <sup>th</sup> |

## ANNIVERSARIES

|      |          |
|------|----------|
| None | February |
|------|----------|

construction.

The one thing I did not hear in any of these stories was bitterness or despair. These people were resilient and truly appreciative of the assistance they were getting but preparing to move on and rebuild their lives in the canyon region that was close to their hearts as home.

What a New Year's Eve! It was better spent by me than any I remember, and I plan to return soon. My help was much appreciated but I received in return encouragement, from both the generosity of many people and the courage of these people caught up in the disaster.

Submitted by: *Rev. Dexter Danielson*

## 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 PRITCHARD

Chuck married an older woman; Betty married an older man. Neither has been married more than once. How can this be? Born and raised in Ohio, Betty met Chuck at a Methodist Youth leadership conference between their sophomore and junior years of distant high schools. They attended Hiram College together, were married and joined the Peace Corps and served in the Fiji Islands. After remaining beyond their term to help rebuild their school which had been damaged in a storm, they came home via nearly every country in Asia and Europe.

They worked at Cleveland Clinic until Chuck was admitted to medical school in Kansas City. Chuck then did his pediatric residency in Massillon, OH, and they came to Forest Grove, first to Maple Street Clinic and then to set up Pritchard Pediatrics. Betty served as business manager until they retired.

Betty and Chuck have both been active in FGUMC from the beginning. Betty has served as Education Secretary, on Finance, Worship, Nominating and Church Council.

With her beautiful soprano voice, she has given us solos and has been our Music Director, initiating the Children's Choir along with Chime and Bell choirs. (Answer to the riddle above: Betty was born two months premature)

Submitted by: *M. J. Nordgren*

## SERVING IN FEBRUARY

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Lay Leader   | <b>Chuck Pritchard</b> |
| Altar Guild  | <b>Valerie Hawkins</b> |
| Coffee Coordinator   | <b>Amy Scott</b>       |
| Nursery Supervisor   | <b>TBD</b>             |
| Kitchen Elves<br>3 <sup>rd</sup><br>10 <sup>th</sup><br>17 <sup>th</sup><br>24 <sup>th</sup> | <b>TBD</b>             |

## MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.  
Build Community.  
Impact the World.

## Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Volume 2021, Issue No. **2, February.**

*Messenger* monthly.

Periodicals Postage (USPS 970920) paid at  
Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

**FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
1726 Cedar Street, Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434

|   |                |                          |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Rev. Dr. David King</b>  | 1-541-399-9020 | Pastor                   |
| <b>Rhoda Fuentes</b>  | 503-357-3998   | Deacon                   |
| <b>Noelle Voepel</b>  | 503-357-2689   | Administrative Assistant |
| Church Office Hours, Monday through Thursday<br>8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.                                  |                |                          |
| <b>Ed Davie</b>   | 503-357-3185   | Messenger Publisher      |
| Please submit your articles<br>by the 18 <sup>th</sup> of each month!<br><br><i>edavie@frontier.com</i> |                |                          |