



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

April 2021

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APRIL WORSHIP

This month we break from the contemplation of Lent and from the sorrow of Holy Week into the hope and joy of Easter. We will close out Lent with a brief prayer service for Good Friday, centered on the story of Jesus's passion from the Gospel of John. This will be available in all the places our online Sunday services are normally found.

Then on Easter we will have worship at 10:00 am. in the parking lot. I'm very excited to get to see many of you in person for the first time! Drive into the church parking lot and park your car facing west. I'll be at the west end to lead you in wor-ship. We have an FM transmitter, so you'll be able to tune into a particular frequency on your car radio and hear eve-rything that is going on. We'll be celebrating communion using individually sealed communion packs. If you would like to bring some flowers for the floral cross, Val Hawkins will collect them from you and place them in the cross. Cricket has prepared some Easter coloring pages you can bring with you and display in your car windows. For those who are unable to attend in person, there will still be a rec-orded service, just like on a typical Sunday.

April 2nd, 2021, Good Friday

John 18:1-19:42

April 4th, Easter Sunday

Worship in the Parking Lot

Mark 16:1-8

"They Said Nothing to Nobody"

April 11th, The Second Sunday of Easter

Area-wide worship with United Methodists from Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska

April 18th, The Third Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:36b-48

"Seeing a Ghost"

April 25th, The Fourth Sunday of Easter

1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

"Good Shepherd"

On April 11th, we will be joining in worship with United Methodists from all across our Episcopal Area, which includes Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska. You can access this joint service the same ways that you access our regular Sunday morning services.

As we continue through the Easter Season, we will consider the story of Jesus traveling with his unknowing disciples along the road to Emmaus and Jesus description of himself as the good shepherd.

Submitted by: *Pastor David*

As always, you can find our online worship services on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/forestgroveumcOregon](https://www.facebook.com/forestgroveumcOregon)), our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/channel/UCzgM5DQ-aYTvI_kY9AZqW9g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzgM5DQ-aYTvI_kY9AZqW9g)), and the church website (umcforestgrove.org).

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 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 1-541-399-9020.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

People are getting vaccinated and things are starting to open up. Vaccinated grandparents can hug their grandkids. More and more places are opening to the public. It is still a nervous time, as we have not beaten this pandemic, but things are more hopeful.

I encourage each of you to get the vaccine as soon as you are able to. Melissa and I have already been vaccinated. Getting the vaccine doesn't just help protect you; it helps to protect your loved ones. And it helps us all as we struggle to beat this pandemic.

As things are looking more hopeful, I'm sure many of you have questions about when we can worship together again in the sanctuary. I don't have many good answers for you, but I'll tell you what I do know.

In addition to the restrictions and guidelines set by Gov. Brown and public health officials, we also need to comply with the restrictions and guidelines set by our bishop, Rev. Elaine Stanovsky, and the bishop's guidelines tend to be stricter than those being enforced by the state. In addition, before we take any particular step in opening up, we have to create a detailed plan and have it approved by our district superintendent. This is all part of our church's effort to follow the first of John Wesley's three simple rules: do no harm. We respect you and our neighbors enough that we want to make sure that when we do open, we do so safely.

At the current moment, our plan does not allow for any indoor, in-person worship or gatherings. No more than ten people are allowed into the building for the purpose of recording or preparing worship. This is what Bishop Stanovsky calls Phase 2.

If the numbers in Washington County improve, we could apply to enter Phase 2.1. This would allow no more than 25 people to gather inside for worship. Everyone would need to wear masks and practice social distancing of at least 6 feet between households. Seniors and those with underlying medical conditions are strongly encouraged to stay home. In addition, our worship could not include any singing, and it could not include the celebration of communion. It could include instrumental music, but no wind instruments. Phase 2.1 also allows for somewhat larger gatherings outside. If we practice 12-foot social distancing, we could potentially sing outside. (We'll be able to sing in the parking lot on Easter because each household will be in their own, sealed vehicles).

Next would be Phase 3, though Bishop Stanovsky has not yet opened the door for any church in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, or Alaska to enter Phase 3. Phase 3 allows for no more than 50 people to gather inside for worship, still wearing masks and practicing social distancing. There is still no singing and no celebration of communion. No food may be shared inside the building. Seniors and those with underlying medical conditions are still strongly encouraged to stay home. Fellowship and educational events for children, youth, and adults are prohibited indoors.

Next would come Phase 4, which is still a long way off. This allows for gatherings larger than 50 people. It is only at this stage that seniors and those with underlying health conditions are "invited to join at their discretion." Communion is allowed, with increased safety protocols. A limited coffee hour or fellowship time is allowed. Other kinds of groups are allowed to meet in person. Importantly, live singing is still not allowed inside the building. It is not until all COVID restrictions have been completely lifted that congregational singing is allowed inside the building.

It is possible that these guidelines could be changed in the future. For example, Phase 2.1 is a recently released addendum to the original plan, and there could be other changes in the future. However, according to our current policies, gathering in person to worship and sing together is still quite a way off. For the time being, we will continue to share in online worship. And as the weather improves, we will probably be planning occasional outdoor worship gatherings.

I am holding each of you in my prayers as we live into the almost-but-not-yet of journey toward the end of COVID. This is not how any of us would like to be living as a church, and yet, it is the best we can do given the current circumstances. Please pray for me as I seek to find ways to minister in these challenging times.

As a reminder, if you would like an in-person pastoral visit from me in your home, please reach out to me at 1-541-399-9020 or daviddmking@gmail.com.

+ Pastor David

Pastor David

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

We more than a week into Daylight Saving Time for 2021. Are you sleeping and awakening in a normal pattern yet after the time change? Since I'm a morning person and get up really early and go to bed early – Daylight Saving Time is bit of a struggle for me. I go to bed much of the season while it's still light. Right now, I'll be thinking about bedtime but before I stop reading and get out of my chair it is dark. It's still dark in the morning when I get out of bed. That of course will slowly change and it will be light on both ends of my night.

In the last sermon I preached at FGUMC which was nearly a year ago I ended with the progression of light to darkness to light again from Christmas Eve through Holy Week, Good Friday and on to Easter Morning. It's not in my written script but I remember ending with words to you about going into the world and being a light! Have you thought about being the light since then?

If you listened to the inauguration of a new president in January you may remember the powerful poem from the young poet Amanda Gorman. She alluded to having been through a period of darkness and chaos and coming into the light.

Her words were these:

When the day comes, we ask ourselves where can we find the light in this never changing shade. When the day comes, we step out of the shade of flame and unafraid the new dawn balloons as we free it. For there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it.

We're still living in a world whose parameters are determined by a pandemic. We've made progress. Many of us have been vaccinated. We're venturing out of our houses a little more. We're eager to be back in our church building.

As we move forward. Remember we are the light of the world. Be well. Be ready for open doors in the church. Be brave enough to be the light.

Easter Love,

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

LAY LEADER LABYRINTH

Well, here I go again, if you didn't find the first theme, I wrote the first time.

Last time I told you about the food collecting on the first Friday of each month 11AM to 12 noon and placing a drum to collect food items that come in at other times, which they have. (THANKS)

This March we collected again with the theme of Mac and Cheese/Tortillas. Although both are very light, we collected over 100 pounds from 11 families. Next time we will have the advantage of heavier food items with the theme of Jelly and Sugar, on April 2, the first Friday of the month, from 11 AM to 12 Noon. We should be able to trounce on that 100 pounds. Janet, Liz and Karl in various ways helped with the March collection. If there are others that would like to help please call or email me.

The finance committee which had been meeting as needed will begin having regular scheduled zoom meetings. Pastor David King has improved and is having no side effects from his accident and is feeling fit. I didn't know that he played the piano but have found out that he is a past student of Mary Dunlap, a member of our church for many years, and has gone on to become an excellent jazz pianist. He is planning a service in the parking lot in your car on Easter Sunday with Communion being distributed to each car.

See you April 2nd and **Easter Sunday, April 4th**

Submitted by: Your Lay Leader,
Chuck Pritchard

PS: Don't forget Jelly and Sugar Friday, April 2nd 11 am to noon.

PPS: We also collect nonperishable foods of any kind!!!

WELCOME TO CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRIES OF OREGON AND IDAHO!

March 2, 2021

We are aware that this site has shown the same message for a long time; sadly, that is a reflection that some of what was posted remains in place. In the Spring of 2020, the Governor of the State of Oregon prohibited overnight camps for school aged children (K-12). At about the same time, the Bishop of the United Methodist Church for Oregon-Idaho instituted a plan of action that reduced our ability to provide adult and family opportunities. These remain in place.



While we have learned a great deal about COVID-19 in a year's time, we are aware that there is still more that we will be learning as we go through the next phases of this pandemic. One voice that I have listened to that makes sense to me is Dr. Nicholas Christakis, a physician and social scientist at Yale. In his post that you can see [here](#), he lays out a timeline for this pandemic. He essentially says that we are in the immediate stage through the end of 2021, we will be in the intermediate stage in 2022-2023, and in 2024 and beyond we will be in the endemic stage.

What does this mean for Camp and Retreat Ministries? I have two parts to that answer. The first is that we understand that for the next couple of years we will continue to experience limitations due to the virus. These limitations may be adjusted as we go along, but we understand that there will be mask-wearing, physical distancing, additional cleaning of high-touch surfaces, and that we will have to lower our capacity threshold (fewer people on-site at one time) to assist in maintaining physical distancing protocols. We also understand that to accomplish some of these things we will likely need more staff, while serving fewer people. It also means upgrading some of our facilities, as well as addressing concerns as to how to serve meals and how campers share the dining hall. This means that we will also see a very challenging couple of years with our operational finances. To address these elements of our operations, our team meets regularly to review our policies and procedures to align with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Camp Association (ACA).

The second part to my answer relies upon the decisions of the states' leadership and the Bishop. These decision-makers continue to carefully weigh the plans that they have put in place to assure that those who participate in gatherings at camps will have as positive and healthy an outcome as possible.

As you consider what this means to you, know that we are doing all that we can to offer an experience of our mission to "create sacred spaces of Christian hospitality and learning". You can also participate in our [summer camp survey](#) to help us understand more fully where our camping community is right now with regard to their intentions about summer camps or alternative programming that we are considering offering.

You can also keep in touch with us through our weekly [GoCamping e-news](#). You can check out past messages as well as stay up to date with week

See you on the adventure ahead,

A square box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd".

Rev. Todd Bartlett, Executive Director, Camp and Retreat Ministries

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The finance committee met this month to discuss ways of providing some stable funding for the Trustee committee to use on future projects.

We still have some work to do but the most viable option would be to transfer the distributions that we take from our Foundation account directly to the Trustees. The foundation account was setup expressly to deal with day-to-day maintenance for the church. It seems that over the years we have strayed a little from that goal.

This change would support the goal of the fund and the goal to support our Trustees, who are constantly working to maintain our beautiful property.

More to come.

Submitted by: **Doug Scott**, Chair

Racism is a sin, and The United Methodist Church is committed to challenging the unjust power structures that support it and working for equality in all areas of life.

Recent killings of unarmed African Americans have re-ignited conversation across the United States about racism and police brutality. The church is responding with a sustained and coordinated effort to actively engage in the ministry of dismantling racism and promoting racial justice.

WORKING TO END RACISM

The "[Dismantling Racism: Pressing on to Freedom](#)" initiative is a multi-level effort throughout the church to initiate a sustained and coordinated effort to dismantle racism and promote collective action to work toward racial justice. The [church wide effort](#) kicked off on June 19th to coincide with Juneteenth, the commemoration of the end of slavery in the U.S.

CAMPAIGN

As part of the church wide response, an advertising campaign, [End Racism](#), 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

Freya Jean Henriksen	April 6 th
Angela Gunther	April 7 th
Ruth Reese	April 7 th
Ted Oakberg	April 8 th
Ed Davie	April 11 th
Logan Anderson	April 12 th
Rea Hampton	April 12 th
Connor Dionne	April 13 th
Matthew Hampton	April 13 th
Sherry Hayes	April 16 th
Doug Scott	April 18 th
Frank Colcord	April 19 th
Alyssa Bond	April 24 th
Marion Gustafson	April 26 th
Ryan Jones	April 27 th
Laura Cattell	April 28 th
Dr. David King	April 29 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Jody & Tara McCaughey	April 5th
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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

SHERRY HAYES

Sherry met John in kindergarten, then again in high school in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. They were active in the Episcopal youth group. Married on Oct 4, 1969, they worked long weekends as group home parents for 13 teenaged girls. The girls acted as adoring 'big sisters' to Hayes's 5-year-old son Christopher.

Christopher and sisters Jenni (Jennifer) and Joey (Joanne) kept Mom busy while their dad earned his PhD. Sherry was accepted into nurses' training but couldn't bear to leave her little ones. She did attend a year of vocal training at OSU School of Music. She is now a Reiki Practitioner. Reiki (Rei = love; Ki = life-force energy) is a Japanese modality of healing likened to a "spiritual massage," which suits her own warm personality and insight. She and John are the core of a loving, giving, actively-reaching-out sort of family. For their fiftieth anniversary they renewed their vows on the beach in Florida with the girls in attendance. Their daughters look forward to John's retirement from Pacific University early in August as it will mean Sherry and John will move to Florida. In fact, the girls have been sending them notices of nearby houses for sale.

John is so busy with students, much of the work of selling their home and down-sizing into a small apartment has needed to be Sherry's job. "I thought I had been purging for months." But fifty-three years of marriage tends to accumulate far more than they realized. Still, they are together, with their dog, and that keeps them happy. We wish them health and joy in their next adventures in life.

Submitted by: *M.J. Nordgren*

SERVING IN APRIL

Lay Leader	Chuck Pritchard
Altar Guild	Val Hawkins
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Nursery Supervisor	TBD
Kitchen Elves	TBD
4 th	
11 th	
18 th	
25 th	

MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.
Build Community.
Impact the World.

*Open Hearts, Open Minds,
Open Doors*

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Ed Davie	503-357-3185	Messenger Publisher

Please remember to get your articles to me
by the 18th of each month!

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