



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger March 2021

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WORSHIP IN MARCH

In March we continue our journey through the Season of Lent as we follow Jesus on the Way of the Cross. Throughout this season we spend time in reflection considering Jesus, his ministry, the ways that ministry led him to be executed by the authorities of his day. The message of the gospel is a message of liberation, and it is often not understood or not tolerated by the powers of this world.

First we hear from the Apostle Paul about how the wisdom of the world is foolishness to God, while God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. This is the paradoxical nature of God. That which we can strong is weak in God's eyes, and the strength of God is made perfect only in weakness.

Next we consider a very strange story from the Book of Numbers. After God curses the wandering Hebrew people with a plague of snakes, Moses constructs a bronze snake designed to relieve their suffering. The Gospel of John picks up this image as metaphor for understanding Jesus on the cross.

From the prophet Jeremiah we hear more familiar words. When humans fail to meet the condition of covenant with God, God makes a new covenant. This one isn't written on parchment, but on the human heart.

On the last Sunday in March, we celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday. Jesus entered Jerusalem on a Sunday to the festive shouts of crowds. By Thursday, he was betrayed by a friend to the Romans. On Friday the crowds had turned against him, and he was executed by crucifixion. We will hear the story of Jesus's last week as told by the Gospel of Mark.

March 7th, 2021, The Third Sunday in Lent
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
"The Wisdom of Foolishness"

March 14th, The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21
"The Serpent in the Wilderness"

March 21st, The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34
"A New Covenant"

March 28th, Palm/Passion Sunday
Mark 11:1-11; Mark
Submitted by: *Pastor David*

FINANCE UPDATE

The Finance committee met via Zoom on February 10th. The purpose was to finalize and approve our church budget for 2021. Here are some highlights.

We now have a solid budget for this year and we also were able to restart our apportionment giving's to the conference. We had paused them in June of last year due to our concerns of overspending based on the offerings that we were receiving.

As a reminder, please return your pledge cards if you haven't done so already, this gives us a good indication of what we can expect over the course of the year. So far, we have received 18 cards, this amounts to roughly \$63,000 out of a total budget of \$233,000. There are at least 16 of you that normally fill out cards that haven't returned them yet.

I am constantly reminded of how generous each and every one of you are when it comes to supporting our church and for that I would like to say "THANK YOU".

Submitted by: *Doug Scott*, Finance Chair

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS
SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH
CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?**



THE PASTOR'S PAGE

April Worship Sneak Peak

On Easter Sunday, we will have in-person parking lot worship! Drive down to the church and park with your car facing west. I'll be set up with a small sound system. It will include an FM transmitter, so you can tune your car radio to 95.1 and hear everything that's going on. We'll also be celebrating communion with individually sealed communion packs. More details will be coming as the date approaches. For those who are unable to attend in person, there will be an online service as normal. Early Church will be cancelled on Easter.

There will be a simple Good Friday service available online through the normal means on April 2nd.

Palm Sunday Walking Tour and Coloring Sheets

We are one of the stops on the Forest Grove Community Palm Sunday Self-Guided Walk. Christians from around the area will be making the 3.5-mile throughout the day on March 28th.

Val Hawkins and Cricket O'Neil are working on a display to welcome folks as they walk by. You can help by coloring some Palm Sunday coloring sheets and returning them to the Church Office by Tuesday, March 23rd.

You can find the map and coloring sheets at umcforestgrove.org/2021/02/23/palm-sunday-walk-and-coloring/.

Pastoral Visitation

Dear Friends,

On February 24th, I received my second dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Because of that, I feel a bit more comfortable with doing home visits. If you would like me to visit you at home, please let me know. I haven't been able to meet many of you in person, and I look forward to it. Email me at daviddking@gmail.com or call or text me at 541-399-9020.

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 541-399-9020.

+ Pastor David

Pastor David

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

I met Poppa Chuck Walker at Strength for the Journey a few years ago and didn't really know much about him until recently when I have followed his presence on Facebook. Although he himself is not homeless and he is not a "pastor" in any formal sense, he has a ministry of caring and tending to the needs of street people in Portland.

This morning he recounted having a visit from his sister and taking her on his round of visits on the streets of Portland. He had been gifted with a sum of money and used it to buy blankets. He knew who was in need of a warm blanket and together with his sister walked the territory where the homeless gather and camp out and gave those blankets to the neediest.

Most of us would be uncomfortable doing what he does. I remember a few years ago when a few of you went to "Night Strike" under the Burnside Bridge with some of us who were doing it regularly. There we talked to people and sometimes had skills that were helpful to the homeless who came there for food and companionship and help. The center that sponsored this event had a sewing machine and I did some interesting mending that was needed.

I sent a note of thanks to Poppa Chuck for all he does for the homeless and commented to him that his heart is large and full of love and goodness. His response to me was "Truly, it's not me. I just get to be present as 'Love falls down all around us...I call God, Love.'"

May it be with us as we study and pray and walk our communities that we show evidence that "Love is falling down all around us."

Love,

Reverend **Rhoda Pittman Fuentes**, Retired Deacon

OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

Fasting

One of the more common practices is to give something up for Lent. Some abstain from chocolate, social media, shopping or something else through the season. This is a [religious practice known as fasting](#). We fast to reorient ourselves away from the distraction of those things, and back toward God.

Another way to reorient your life toward God, is to [focus on devotional practices](#) like Bible study and prayer during the season.

Bible reading

Many do not know where to begin when reading the Bible. The [Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide](#) will help guide you in this pursuit. It provides a scripture passage and wonderfully thought-provoking and spirit-enriching material to read and think about each day.

Prayer

In the busyness of our everyday lives, prayer can sometimes get squeezed out. Lent is a wonderful time to intentionally work toward finding [more time in your life for prayer](#). You can experiment with [different ways to pray](#) during the season, or really delve into a new-to-you way of praying. Enriching your prayer life is a great way to spend Lent.

Service

Another way to observe a holy Lent is to take on a new way of serving. Throughout the forty days of the season you can adopt a new habit of volunteering in the community, making special financial gifts to service organizations, singing in the choir, or participating in a small group.

Beloved in Christ,

I write to you today with two announcements that will impact the Greater Northwest Area of The United Methodist Church this year.

On Epiphany, I requested voluntary retirement as a bishop in The United Methodist Church, effective December 31, 2021. Today, I share this news with you.

It seems too early to announce my retirement long before it arrives, but the many steps that proceed the assignment of a new bishop demand it. This is truer this year, with denominational strife, the ongoing pandemic, and the financial consequences of each creating additional uncertainty for our United Methodist connection. While I regret that my retirement may add to the burden of others, I am convinced that this is the right time and the right action for me personally. I will continue to work diligently with conference leaders through the year to prepare for whatever and whoever comes next. And I trust that God continues to move in the hearts of the faithful to raise up leaders for the next stage of the journey.



The other news I share is less personal but will impact us all the same.

Given the continuing presence of COVID-19 in our communities, we now expect to hold Annual Conference 2021, once again, remotely online.

While a date change is possible, please continue to hold the announced dates, June 9-12, 2021, as we explore alternative possibilities — including multiple virtual sessions. We expect to know more soon as decisions are made about plans for delayed general and jurisdictional conferences. We'll let members of each Annual Conference know more information as it becomes available. Despite the many challenges and transitions life brings, in faith, we know that love lives on. Please know that I continue to hold the people and ministries of the Greater Northwest Area in my prayers as we witness this truth together, though still apart from one another.

With gratitude and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine JW Stanovsky".

Submitted by: *Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky*



FORMATION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On April 23rd, 1968, The United Methodist Church was created when Bishop Reuben H. Mueller, representing The Evangelical United Brethren Church, and Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke of The Methodist Church joined hands at the constituting General Conference in Dallas, Texas.

With the words, "Lord of the Church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church and now in The United Methodist Church," the new denomination was given birth by two churches that had distinguished histories and influential ministries in various parts of the world.

Theological traditions steeped in the Protestant Reformation and Wesleyanism and relationships that dated back almost two hundred years facilitated the union.

Read more about the *history of The United Methodist Church*.

Photo courtesy of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History.

BIRTHDAYS

Fred Raycraft	March 2 nd
Morris Haney	March 5 th
Adam Hampton	March 7 th
Patty Davie	March 8 th
Richelle Pultz	March 8 th
Zackary Henriksen	March 9 th
Chuck Pritchard	March 10 th
Bobby Tabb	March 11 th
Micah Hampton	March 24 th
Kayleigh Tabb	March 24 th
Pat Styles	March 28 th
Melissa Mimier King	March 30 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Adam & Alisa Hampton	March 6 th
Lester & Erma Heisler	March 7 th
Ed & Patty Davie	March 28 th

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

MARION GUSTAFSON

Before this pandemic, I was busy all the time. But since March, I've been staying home and not doing much. I do go shopping, and sometimes take Fran Strachan shopping when she needs to go. Other than that, I'm home.

Marion reports that her TV is a nearly constant companion. She plays games and does puzzles on her computer. Eats lots of soup. Her daughter Teresa is trying to line up an appointment for her first COVID vaccine injection.

Teresa and Doug live in Hillsboro. Doug has retired from teaching at Century H.S. Teresa is an aide at Harvey Clarke Elementary. To help her, Doug has taken over the grocery shopping and cooks supper once a week. They both love Sun River and go there several times a year. Their next outing is scheduled for March and they have invited Marion to join them.

Their daughter Kristin and husband Zach live near Portland. Their son Mark and his wife Sarah moved to Idaho and love it. Sarah is busy as a terrific baker for specialties for customers and works in a co-op.

Marion's son Scott and his wife Debbie have moved to King City, which they enjoy. Scott volunteers at a cat shelter, and both he and Debbie help with their granddaughter's home schooling.

So, Marion is happy ("Depression simply isn't part of my personality.") but she misses church. "Pastor David does a fine job with the service, but it isn't the same as visiting with the people. I'd love to visit and can't wait until we are able to do that again."

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

SERVING IN MARCH

Lay Leader	Chuck Pritchard
Altar Guild	Valerie Hawkins
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Nursery Supervisor	TBD
Kitchen Elves 7 th 14 th 21 st 28 th	TBD

MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.
Build Community.
Impact the World.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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Church Office Hours, Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.		
Ed Davie	503-357-3185	Messenger Publisher
Please remember to send your articles to me by the 18 th of each month! edavie@frontier.com		