



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

May 2021

1726 Cedar St., Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434
e-mail: fgumcorg@gmail.com

Phone: 503-357-2689 FAX: 503-357-8410
website: www.umcforestgrove.org

WORSHIP IN MAY

In May we continue the celebration of the Easter season into the holidays of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. Easter isn't just one day, it lasts for seven weeks, a week of weeks, 49 days, culminating on the fiftieth day: Pentecost. So we are continuing to celebrate the joy of resurrection as we anticipate the gift of the Spirit.

On May 9th, Mother's Day, we will again be having worship in the parking lot, as we did on Easter. It's a great, safe way for us to actually gather together physically for worship. Drive into the church parking lot and park your car facing west. I'll be at the west end to lead you in worship. We have an FM transmitter, so you'll be able to tune into FM 95.1 on your car radio and hear everything that is going on. We'll be celebrating communion using individually sealed communion packs. For those who are unable to attend in person, there will still be a recorded service, just like on a typical Sunday.

On May 16th we will be celebrating Ascension Sunday. On that day we read two different biblical accounts of the same event, both written by the same author, but still containing some differences.

Pentecost Sunday celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. Worship will include a speech choir reading the Pentecost story in a number of languages.

Finally, on May 30th, we consider the One-in-Three, the Three-in-One, our Triune God. DS Wendy Woodworth will be preaching.

Submitted by: *Pastor David*

May 2nd, 2021, The Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 15:1-8, 1 John 4:7-21
"True Vine"

May 9th, The Sixth Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day

Worship in the Parking Lot
John 15:9-17, 1 John 5:1-6
"No Greater Love"

May 16th, Ascension Sunday

Acts 1:1-11, Luke 24:44-53
"Out of Sight"

May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21

"Everyone Who Calls on the Name of the Lord"

May 30th, Trinity Sunday

John 3:1-17

"Being Born from Above"

Guest preacher, *Rev. Wendy Woodworth*

Lay Leader for May

Well, now for something different. The 2nd Monday of the month, the Worship Committee meeting for the church takes place. This month (April) its six members hosted 2 visitors, Melissa King (the pastor's wife) and myself (Betty's husband and lay leader). Although only about 40-45 minutes in length, the members were busy reviewing the last couple of services including our outside/parking lot Easter service.

They then progressed talking about what kind of service we are allowed, what we want and what we could do with these services. We were informed that we could meet inside with 25 people or fewer but with no singing. Outside we could have 50 members present again 6 feet apart with masks but no singing. If we sing, we have to be 12 - 18 feet separated but no Communion together. We are able to distribute the Communion kits that we had for Easter but not open them. In order to do that we would have to separate into individual cars. So – it is a lot more complicated than it seems.

The food drive, the first Friday 11 a.m.-12 noon this month had only 8 cars. The Swenson's and Linda Randall helped greet and collect the packages of sugar and jam. We set a new record of 120 lbs. of food. (Those 5 and 10 lb. bags helped a lot). For next month (May) we were asked to collect "condiments". So, bring us your mustard, catchup, your relishes and BBQ sauce yearning to be free! But alas I wax poetic. Again, you can drop food items off the Friday of the month between 11 a.m. and 12 noon.

Yours in Christ,

Submitted by: *Chuck Pritchard*, Lay Leader

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).

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Siblings in Christ,

We are making progress, but we are not quite there yet. It has been over a year since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted life as we knew it. We continue to persevere, exhausted at times, yet anticipating the day when we can gather, greet each other, share communion and other precious rhythms of life and spiritual practice in person without risking harm to one another. Hopeful also that we now carry with us new learnings and practices, hard lessons of necessity that will continue to connect us in new ways in life and ministry.

The rapid vaccine rollout gives us hope that we can enjoy more freedom to gather as families and faith communities soon. Vaccinations coupled with continuous strict adherence to safety protocols are expected to lower infection rates, hospitalizations and COVID-19 related deaths. Overall, we have seen the number of cases decline since the winter peak in many places, but progress has been stalled by premature re-openings, the easing of restrictions in some places, resistance by some to being vaccinated and observing simple safety practices: washing hands, social distancing, wearing a mask. I hope that each of us is continuing to follow these practices, as well as being vaccinated, consistent with medical advice, as soon as we are eligible.

I was surprised by the deep joy that welled up in me when those shots went in my arm, protecting not only me but also everyone I encounter from the dangers of this virus. I'm grateful to every person who is able and willing to join this movement toward health and safety.

As Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), reminded us [in a briefing earlier this year](#),

"We may be done with the virus, but clearly the virus is not done with us. We cannot get comfortable or give in to a false sense of security that the worst of the pandemic is behind us – not now; not when mass vaccination is so very close."

Permissible not Necessarily Beneficial

In an article for [The Atlantic](#), Dr. James Hamblin of the Yale School of Public Health points out,

"Our social lives can resume, but only when the whole community is ready. The turning point does not arrive for individuals, one by one, as soon as they've been vaccinated; it comes for all of us at once, when a population becomes immune."

With this understanding, we are advised that the number of coronavirus cases needs to decrease further before we resume regular activities, especially in light of the arrival of new fast-spreading variants of the virus. A premature reopening, even if allowed by the state, may run the risk of not just stalling but even reversing the recent progress we have already achieved.

I am reminded of Saint Paul's admonition that things that are "permissible" are not necessarily things that are "beneficial" to the common good. (I Corinthians 10:23).

While we should celebrate the good news of vaccines providing a layer of protection already for a significant number of members in some of our congregations, the church does not belong solely to those who are vaccinated. Especially as we have just now reached a time when all adults are eligible to receive a vaccine, we must continue to be patient to allow them the privilege of receiving this gift of security before we consider letting our guard down. At the same time, we will need to find ways to protect and include children in church life while continuing to wait for vaccination eligibility to be extended to them.

Continued on page 4

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

By the time you read this Mothers' Day will be in the near future. I'm remembering my mother today.

My mother was a farmer's wife of the 40s, 50s and 60s and she did all of the things that a farmer's wife of that era might have done except drive machinery. She maintained a large garden and preserved the products of that garden. We had the remains of an old orchard and that was also food for our table and freezer and rows of canned peaches, cherries and much more.

She milked cows by hand – we always had a few just for family milk and milk products. In addition to milking, she took care of separating the milk and the cream and didn't want anyone else doing it. The care of the "separator" was closely guarded by her.

She was a master cook putting 3 full meals on the table every day and a formal dinner on Sundays with the good china, table cloth and all in the dining area rather than the nook in the kitchen where our daily meals were taken.

She was more than that. She sewed most of my clothing (until I took over that task) and her own – the house dresses, aprons, pajamas. Actually, her skills in that area grew as I went through all the developmental skills of the 4-H clothing projects. She went from the previously mentioned items to wool and silk dresses and suits that were perfectly tailored.

My mother was much more than all these things. She was a teacher, an artist and a faithful part of church women's groups. As a young woman, before she was married, she taught in a variety of one room country schools in Illinois. If you've been in my home, you've met the charcoal tiger looking ready to pounce on you. I have a number of her paintings in charcoal and water-color and pastels.

Sadly, her life ended too early. I had returned to Costa Rica in the spring of 1968 to be married there. One day she was out with my dad and brother running across a field chasing some critter or other that was on the run. Her brain misfired and she died before they could get her to the hospital. She had just turned 65 a couple of months earlier.

I think of my mother often. I dream about her. She was a strong and independent woman and I miss her.

Happy Mother's Day Mom. I love you.

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

Continued from page 2

As the church, God calls us always to do things that are beneficial because we bear responsibility towards the well-being of others, especially the most vulnerable among us.

A Posture of Hopeful Caution

The progress we see in vaccinations, tempered by the potential threat of variants we race, leads me toward a posture of hopeful caution we are almost there but not quite there yet. Even as our hope is renewed with the increasing percentage of those vaccinated, our decisions and actions must continue to manifest the utmost concern for one another as an act of love in response to Jesus' command for us to love one another as he had loved us (John 13:34).

Accordingly, I am asking churches to remain vigilant in their planning and decision-making processes. The COVID-19 Response Team, made up of lay and clergy members from across the area, is continuing to review and amend its guidance to local churches. By May 5th, we will release updated guidelines for Phase 3, shifting more responsibility to local leaders to guide their congregation's, camp's or other ministry setting's COVID-19 response.



I am grateful for each of you and your faithfulness and commitment, especially during this long time of physical separation due to this pandemic. May the hard lessons learned as we have persevered, and new skills developed as you have adapted, empower our work together and witness to God's love which never fails us.

*"Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength."
(Isaiah 40:31)*

With love and grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine JW Stanovsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elaine JW Stanovsky,
Bishop, Greater Northwest Episcopal Area

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.

BASICS OF OUR FAITH

The United Methodist Church shares a great deal with other denominations. Explore what we believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and more. We also have a unique heritage and areas of emphasis. Learn what we mean when we talk about grace, how we serve people around the world, and ways we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The United Methodist Church is a global denomination that opens hearts, opens minds and opens doors through active engagement with our world. The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. John Wesley and the early Methodists placed primary emphasis on Christian living, on putting faith and love into action. This emphasis on what Wesley referred to as "practical divinity" has continued to be a hallmark of United Methodism today.



BIRTHDAYS

Merrill Ludlam	May 4 th
Lela Baskins	May 4 th
Andrea Edgerton	May 6 th
Trudy Sundstrom	May 8 th
Loretta Evans	May 9 th
Matt Jones	May 13 th
Donna Berget	May 13 th
Sarah Hampton	May 15 th
Karthik King	May 16 th
Chad Pritchard	May 17 th
Janet Hummel	May 18 th
Sarah Tunall	May 24 th
Dylan Gunther	May 25 th
Lynn Anderson	May 27 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

CHARLES PRITCHARD, D.O.

Dr. Chuck is our new Lay Leader and has, characteristically, reached in with both hands to help. He and Betty help Rob Boles and Alisa Hampton lead the ZOOM church music. BC and the Swenson's help Janet Hummel work the monthly food drive. It was the bed of Chuck's pickup truck that Pastor David climbed onto to preach his Easter sermon in the church parking lot.

Chuck and Betty met at a conference of leaders of their local Methodist Youth groups. After graduating from Hiram College in Ohio, joined the Peace Corps and taught at the Richmond Methodist boarding school on an outer island of Fiji. Having survived hunting and fishing excursions, tropical diseases, and a typhoon, they were about to complete their mission when Hurricane Bebe roared through. Rain was driven through the cinder blocks of their tiny home. Chuck bent so low into the fierce wind trying to get to between the girls' and boy's compounds to check on the children, that the knuckles on his outstretched scraped the ground. The Pritchard's stayed beyond their appointed time to help rebuild, and then came home over months, visiting dozens of countries on a tight budget.

Chuck became a pediatrician, practicing at Maple Street Clinic before opening his own office in the Mountain View professional center. Since retiring from medicine, Betty and Chuck have again traveled extensively, but seem always to manage to be at our church when needed.

Submitted by: *M.J.Nordgren*

SERVING IN MAY

Lay Leader	Chuck Pritchard
Altar Guild	Val Hawkins
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Nursery Supervisor	TBD
Kitchen Elves 3rd 10th 17th 24th	M.J. Nordgren & Betty Pritchard

MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.
Build Community.
Impact the World.

NOTE

We are going to attempt to return to the original method for assigning Elves', using a weekly basis for each pair of people.

*Open Hearts, Open Minds,
Open Doors*

Volume 2021, **May**, Issue No. 5.

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

Rev. Dr. David King	1-541-399-9020	Pastor
Rhoda Fuentes	503-357-3998	Deacon
Noelle Voepel	503-357-2689	Administrative Assistant
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!		
e-mail: edavie@frontier.com		