



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger July 2021

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WORSHIP THIS JULY

In July we will continue that pattern we started in June of worshipping in person, outdoors, in the courtyard. We can do a lot of new things with our current COVID protocols, like taking off our masks if we're vaccinated, sharing food together, and sharing communion. However, one thing we are still prohibited from doing is singing indoors. Because singing is such a key part of our worship, it makes sense to take advantage of the chance we have to worship and sing together outdoors. For those who aren't able to come in person, we will be offering a live stream of the service. We hope to have it available on both our Facebook page ([facebook.com/forestgroveumcoregon](https://www.facebook.com/forestgroveumcoregon)) and our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/channel/UCzgM5DQ-aYTvI_kY9AZqW9g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzgM5DQ-aYTvI_kY9AZqW9g)), but if we can only manage one, it will be the Facebook page. Services will also be posted later in the day to the church website (umcforestgrove.org).

During July, as we continue to move through Ordinary Time, we're dividing attention between the Gospel of Mark and the Epistle to the Ephesians. We will see as Jesus gets a cool reception when he tries to minister in his hometown, but has more success when he sends his apostles across the countryside of Galilee. We will consider what it means for us to be adopted into God's family as siblings and co-heirs with Jesus. We will sneak away with Jesus and his disciples as they try to find a moment of calm in the business of their active ministry. And as the 2021 Olympics begin, we will ponder what it means that every nation, both in heaven and on earth, takes its name from our good God.

July 4th, 2021, The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Independence Day

Mark 6:1-13

"Except in Their Hometowns"

July 11th, The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Ephesians 1:3-14

"Adopted through Jesus Christ"

July 18th, The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Father's Day

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

"Come Away with Me"

July 25th, The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Ephesians 3:14-21

"Every Nation in Heaven or on Earth"

Blessings, *Pastor David*

PARKING LOT SALE

FGUMC Parking Lot Sale - July 24th, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Volunteers are needed for a successful sale.

Money raised to be divided between the FGUMC General Fund and UMW's Mission Fund.

Parking spaces will be sold to individuals. Two spaces for \$25. We will have a map made of the spaces to sell.

Volunteer Hours Requested

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Thursday and Friday (July 22nd & 23rd). Move items from the rummage room to the fellowship hall and receive contributions.

(Need Volunteers to Move Items)

6 a.m. - 8 a.m., Saturday (July 24th), Set up tables and clothing racks and move items to walk way on the west side of the fellowship hall.

(Need Volunteers to Set Up and Move Items)

8 a.m. - 2 p.m., during the sale,
(Need Volunteers)
to take money and monitor the sale.

2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Clean up and box leftover items.
(Need Volunteers)

These items to be stored in fellowship hall for later pick up scheduled by Vietnam Veterans of America on Monday July 26th.

If you would like to donate items, please bring them to the church on Thursday or Friday, July 22nd - 23rd from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact *Janet Hummel* (503-341-2182 text/phone) or *Betty Pritchard* (503-200-4830).

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

DAYS OF INDEPENDENCE

Dear friends,

As I write this, President Biden has just signed into law the recognition of Juneteenth as a federal holiday, after its near-unanimous approval by both houses of Congress. Known variously as Emancipation Day, Liberation Day, and Jubilee Day, the Juneteenth National Independence Day celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. While President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had theoretically freed the slaves in Confederate states in 1862, it was only as the Union Army advanced into southern territories that the proclamation was enforced. On June 19th, 1865, troops under the command of Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger enforced General Order No. 3, freeing the last African Americans still enslaved in the former Confederacy. Starting in 1866, Juneteenth was celebrated as the end of American slavery.

By the time you read this, we will be fast approaching the celebration of Independence Day on July 4th. This holiday celebrates the adoption by the Second Continental Congress of the *United States Declaration of Independence*. It declared that people in what had been thirteen British colonies in the Americas were no longer subject to rule by the British monarchy. Henceforth, Americans would be free to chart their own course and rule themselves. As the *Declaration* states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

This one sentence has in many ways become the credo and mission statement of our nation. All people are created equal and endowed by our Creator with unalienable rights. This is the goal to which America strives.

At the time that the Continental Congress approved these words, the dream of America was very far from being realized. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were in fact limited to a narrow minority of the US population, namely land-holding white men. While America professed an ideal of freedom and justice for all, that ideal was by no means quickly achieved.

For many, the highest ideal of the United States is freedom. The bible has a lot to say about freedom, too. I want to highlight two of those stories. Paul talks a lot about the freedom we have in Jesus Christ. Through Jesus's victory of death, we are set free from slavery to sin and death. The chains that had kept us bound are broken and we become a new creation in Jesus Christ. This metaphor of freedom from slavery is the primary way that Paul understands our relationship to God in Jesus Christ.

But it draws on an earlier, older story. If Jesus breaking the power of sin and death is the key story of the New Testament, the key story of the Old Testament would have to be God's liberation of the chosen people from slavery in Egypt. God defeated the armies of Pharaoh in order to set an oppressed people free.

Which means, interestingly, that the biblical concept of freedom bears a much closer resemblance to Juneteenth than it does to the Fourth of July. It is one thing to declare independence from a far-away government. It is another thing altogether to set people free from slavery. And to the degree that America is "America," to the degree that America lives out the biblical call for freedom, it is in the way that we set at liberty the slaves and let the oppressed go free.

As we celebrate these Days of Independence, just two weeks apart from each, let us commit to the continuing struggle for freedom, until that day when the arc of the moral universe does indeed bend to justice and all are afforded the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

+ Pastor David

Pastor David, Your servant in Christ.

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Order of Deacons in the United Methodist Church. This is my 21st year of being at Forest Grove United Methodist Church and serving as your deacon. There have been 4 different pastors during that time. I am grateful to each of them and each of you.

There are varying degrees of understanding of the deacon among you and always there is respect.

Many deacons feel neglected and misunderstood. Some find elders (pastors) that are dismissive and ungrateful for the gift deacons can bring to a congregation.

So, in this short article I just want to say Thank You.

Faithfully yours,

Submitted by: *Reverend Rhoda Pittman Fuentes* Retired Deacon

LAY LEADER REPORT FOR JULY

In the last two years with COVID and all, most of us have forgotten the little areas of the church properties that we agreed to take care of. The weeds didn't nor did Betty. So, Betty thought we had better clean up our little square. She figured it would take around an hour and then we could help with the courtyard. Well five hours later we cleaned up our square – almost, what with dead-heading and cleaning the ground. We found that it was a lot of work, and then we realized the time and commitment of two of our church members who have kept the church grounds so nice for the last two years. Who cuts the grass, rakes the grounds, and occasionally cleans the gutters? That would be **Dan Gustafson**, who also takes the trash out then retrieves the containers along with other assorted jobs. But who maintains the courtyard, the playground for the Montessori kids, our outdoors sanctuary for the last month, the place for quiet reflection, the center of the classrooms used during church and afterhours for various groups? That would be **Ken Bond**, who is always puttering around, cutting the grass, pulling weeds, cleaning the concrete, etc. These two, and probably others, are not official volunteers; they just do it and have done so for years receiving only the satisfaction and the occasional thanks.

Many thanks to **Liz** and **Karl** for heading the collecting and taking the pancake mix and breakfast food to the food bank gathered last month (110 pounds) for our first, First Sunday, food bank collection.

The theme for this month's collection is *cake and frosting mixes*, what better for the USA's 245th birthday. The First Sunday of the Month, July 4th, 2021, when you come to Church you can drop it off.

Submitted by: *Chuck Pritchard*, Lay Leader

RACIAL JUSTICE



The United Methodist Church proclaims the value of each person as a unique child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons.

The United Methodist Church recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization.

The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large.

The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places.

from The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, paragraph 5

UNITED METHODISTS STAND AGAINST RACISM

We recognize racism as a sin.

We commit to challenging unjust systems of power and access.

We will work for equal and equitable opportunities in employment and promotion, education and training; in voting, access to public accommodations, and housing; to credit, loans, venture capital, and insurance; to positions of leadership and power in all elements of our life together; and to full participation in the Church and society.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

PRAY

Ask God to show you the truth of our sin and how we might become agents of God's justice, mercy, love and re-creation. Cry out to God for guidance. Listen for the voice of Jesus in meditation, Bible study, worship and conversation to guide our ways.

From: <https://www.umc.org/en>

BIRTHDAYS

Fletcher Johnson	July 2 nd
Derek Rose	July 7 th
Ann Ulum	July 14 th
Beth Connell	July 14 th
Cecilia Brungard	July 26 th
Jean Aull	July 28 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Matt & Terri Jones	July 21 st
Matt & Leah Henriksen	July 26 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

NOELLE VOEPEL

Our lovely church secretary was born in Saigon, the 8th of 11 children. She grew up loving the chaos, laughter and activity of her close-knit family. When Noelle was 6, her family moved from Vietnam to California. In 2008, her husband David, daughter Lauren and son Jakob were transferred to Oregon. Everything changed. Without family near, they no longer talked together until their voices grew raspy. And it SNOWED in their 1st winter.

The saving grace was that they had moved to a farm that raised lamas, goats and chickens. And that 1st day, Noelle and kids had to chase a lama which had gotten loose. Watching the animals kept them from being overwhelmed by the vast changes their move had made in their lives.

Lauren is now married and living in Forest Grove.
Jakob is still at home but has earned his first job!

Submitted by: *M. J. Nordgren*

SERVING IN JULY

Lay Leader	Chuck Pritchard
Altar Guild	Valerie Hawkins
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Nursery Supervisor	TBD
Kitchen Elves	Jan Schrock & Janet Hummel
4 th	
11 th	
18 th	
25 th	

MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.
Build Community.
Impact the World.

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS

Volume **2021, July**, Issue No. 7.

Messenger monthly.

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

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