



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger October 2021

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WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

For most of October, we'll be spending time with the Book of Job. It's possibly the oldest book in the Bible. It ponders how we as humans deal with unmerited suffering. How do we understand when bad things happen to good people? What is God's role in our struggles and pains? What is the faithful response to trials and tribulations? We'll spend four weeks with Job, learning how to lament and how to bring ourselves into the presence of God in times of suffering.

All this month, we'll also be reading along with the Epistle of Hebrews, and we'll turn our focus to it on October 31st. We will explore Jesus' role as priest for humanity.

For those who aren't able to come in person, we are offering a live stream of the service on our Facebook page (facebook.com/forestgroveumcoregon). Services will also be posted later to the church website (umcforestgrove.org). COVID conditions from week to week may prevent us from worshipping in person. Be sure to check the week ahead before coming to the church building.

October 3rd, 2021, World Communion Sunday
Job 1:1, 2:1–10

“A Man in the Land of Uz”

October 10th, The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Job 23:1–9, 16–17

“God Would Surely Listen to Me”

October 17th, The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Job 38:1–41

“Who Is This Darkening Counsel?”

October 24th, The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Job 41:1—42:6

“Now My Eyes Have Seen You”

October 31st, 2021, Reformation Sunday
Hebrews 9:11–14

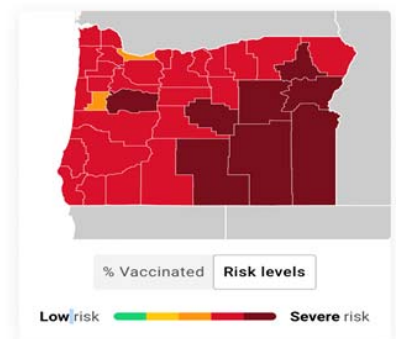
“He Entered the Temple with His Own Blood”

Submitted by: *Pastor David*

Cases

DAILY NEW CASES INFECTION RATE POSITIVE TEST RATE
● 44.1 PER 100K ● 1.00 ● 10.7%

See page two for explanations



Over the last week, Oregon has averaged 1,859 new confirmed cases per day (44.1 for every 100,000 residents). [About this data](#)

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear friends,

It's time for another newsletter article about COVID. Because apparently everything is about COVID now. This summer we thought we were really turning a corner, that things would be returning to something we might call normal.

But then the Delta Variant emerged and became the dominate strain of COVID in the US. Vaccines have some effect on it. They lessen the risk of catching the disease. They lessen the risk of spreading the disease. They lessen the risk of having severe symptoms from the disease. However, Delta is more than 10 times more contagious than the original virus. Which means, even though many of us have been vaccinated, we are experiencing a fourth wave of the outbreak.

As I'm writing this, hospitals across Idaho are changing their protocols to ration healthcare. They are so overwhelmed with COVID patients that they are having to turn many other patients away. Nearby hospitals in Spokane are being overwhelmed by Idahoans seeking care out of state.

I know everyone is ready to be done with all of this. I know that everyone is experiencing COVID fatigue. It feels like we've made a lot of sacrifices with the last 18 months with the conviction that, if we did, we would defeat COVID.

A few weeks ago, I was with a group doing some long-term worship planning, and I made a grim joke that "by the time we get to next Easter we'll be dealing with the Lambda Variant." A few weeks later, there are actual new stories about the Mu Variant and how it might carry even more dangerous properties than we have yet seen.

It's frustrating. We feel like we are being jerked around as different precautions come and go. Sometimes it's tempting to give up and to just try to go on with our lives as if COVID doesn't exist. But of course, we know that when we do that, more people die. The consequence of my lack of discipline and consideration is that other people may die.

Protocols keep changing, and they are here at the church, too. Let me tell you what they are as of now. Anyone coming into the church should wear a mask, regardless of vaccination, unless that person is working alone in an isolated space. That's universal across all meetings and activities, and conforms to current State of Oregon mandates.

Worship is quite complicated at the moment. What we can do in worship is determined by the current COVID conditions in our county. If the number of new cases per day in Washington County go up, we have to take more precautions. If the numbers go down, then we can ease restrictions. We make the determination using data from covidactnow.org. At the moment I'm writing this, 8 counties in Oregon are listed as Severe Risk (dark red), 26 counties are Very High Risk (red), and 2 counties are High Risk (orange). No Oregon counties are currently at Medium Risk (yellow) or Low Risk (green). Lately, Washington County has been skipping back and forth between red and orange.

Each Monday, I will check the numbers and make the determination for how we will worship on the following Sunday. If we are at severe or very high risk (red or dark red), there will be NO in-person worship; a small team will gather to livestream the service for everyone at home. If we are at high risk (orange), then we will have hybrid worship, with people worshipping both in the sanctuary and online. There is no singing in the sanctuary at this risk level. If we are in the high-medium range (yellow), a soloist or small ensemble can sing for the gathered congregation, and the low-medium range (also yellow), we can all sing, with masks. Finally at the low risk level (green), we can operate "normally."

I will make the determination, based on the numbers, each week on Monday. That means that you will get an email on Monday or Tuesday telling you what to expect on Sunday. Information about the upcoming Sunday will also be posted on the church website (umcforestgrove.org) and the church Facebook page.

I know it's a lot. It's not where any of us wants to be. And it's not where we thought we would be this long into the pandemic.

But it is where we are. And God calls us to love our neighbors. And that mean's being responsible for the sake of our neighbors.

As we are facing this continuing trial, the words of an old hymn come to mind:

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

May God's peace be with you, and may we all lean for support on God's everlasting arms.

Pastor David

+ Pastor David

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD HISTORICALLY FROM: OCTOBER 2020

Yesterday was the 2020 virtual Annual Conference gathering for 4 hours. It was amazing what was accomplished in that time. The necessary voting was done virtually via our cell phones and a GNTV program. It was actually the same process used for voting a year ago at 2019 Annual Conference but with special hand-held devices rather than our cell phones. Sure, beats paper balloting and hand counting. Results in an instant, or so it seems.

Overall, there have been 3 presentations by our Bishop, Elaine Stanovsky, only one of them given yesterday. All three of them can be seen on the umoi Facebook page and are worth listening to as she projects where the church needs to be headed in the immediate and longer-term future. I think it is important for lay people to listen to these and dream about the implications for our church. She used Acts 10:34 “Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality’” as a springboard for her ideas. She advocated for learning as much as we can about inclusion and diversity. She talked about us doing an audit of inclusion/non-inclusion in the local church and in conference committees. She urges us to learn the history of racism and look for racism in our visual images, the prioritization of our values, and emphasizing the intentional goodness of diversity in our welcome.

Annual Conference 2021 is set for June 10th – 14th, 2021 in Puyallup, Washington.

I’ll leave you with this short writing. It is a lot to think about and to learn about and I encourage you to do your homework by seeking out Bishop Elaine’s words at umoi.org.

In hope for the church now and in the future,

Do no harm, Do Good, Love God Always – J. Wesley

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

LAY LEADER REPORT FOR OCTOBER

It is getting confusing. The church is opening for inside worship, at least for this week. The choir is taking its annual vacation, at least for this week. We will have two or three hymns as always but no inside singing, at least for this week. Everyone is welcomed to attend (limited to fifty people), at least for this week. Covid has made church attendance as well as life an interesting, constantly changing proposition. Please bear with us. We are trying to balance our desire to worship together, follow state, federal and local mandates as well as follow the Church conference rules. Not only these, but we have to consider our own health, and whether we endanger our family, our extended families and friends? Are there any children less than 12 years old that we come into contact with? As a grandparent, this last thought is something I worry about. So as always, do what you think is best.

‘Chili and Soup’ is the theme for October, “witch” is coming up (a little timely humor). Collection is the first Sunday of the month, October 3rd. Same bat time. Same bat place.

Keep the Faith.

Submitted by **Chuck Pritchard**, Lay Leader

CHURCH CORNER

SHARON ADAME

"I live a little life," says the tiny lady with the huge heart. "It revolves around my family, my church friends and my home and garden." Before retiring, Sharon worked as an administrative assistant in Beaverton. Her family is rich with two fine daughters and four grandchildren. The family loves to visit Cannon Beach.

Her church friends are many, as are her contributions to the FGUMC community. She is an active contributing member of Early Church discussing Lowell Greathouse's new book, *Rediscovering the Spirit*.

Sharon helped in the Backpack program and in the kitchen on the Reception Team. She has also served as treasurer for our local chapter of the United Methodist Women. She loves music.

Her lovely garden fills her corner lot and gives her a sense of peace as she works to grow riotous perennials. Her hanging baskets bloom abundantly and feed the bees. She also feeds and watches numerous wild birds. She trims her trees and vines. She works hard; at night, she'll tuck into bed thinking, "Another good day on the farm."

Submitted by: *M. J. Nordgren*

MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.
Build Community.
Impact the World.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please be sure that the church office has your new address as soon as possible. Thank you.

Submitted by: *Noelle Voepel*

Rev. Dr. David King	1-541-399-9020	Pastor
Rev. Rhoda Markus	503-357-3998	Deacon
Noelle Voepel	503-357-2689	Administrative Assistant

Church Office Hours, Monday through Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Ed Davie	503-357-3185	Publisher
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Please send your articles to me
by the 18th of each month!

e-mail: edavie@frontier.com

SERVING IN OCTOBER

Lay Leader	Chuck Pritchard
Altar Guild	Valerie Hawkins
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Nursery Supervisor	TBD
Kitchen Elves	Ella Collins & Sharon Adame
	3 th
	10 th
	17 th
	24 th
	31 st

BIRTHDAYS

John Hummel	October 5 th
Frances Strachan	October 8 th
Lucinda Hites-Clabaugh	October 10 th
Dave Bond	October 11 th
Rhoda Pittman Fuentes	October 17 th
Diane Ray	October 19 th
Ella Collins-Colcord	October 24 th
David Hites-Clabaugh	October 29 th
Brian Hawkins	October 30 th

ANNIVERSARIES

John and Sherry Hayes	October 4 th
Merrill & Betty Ludlam	October 19 th

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

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