



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger January 2022

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WORSHIP IN JANUARY

This month in worship, I'm continuing on our journey through the Gospel of Luke. On January 2nd, we address the only story in the Bible about Jesus childhood or youth, the day that he stays behind in Jerusalem while his whole family is returning home to Nazareth. Then we'll jump ahead to Jesus's baptism in the Jordan by John, the event that sparks the beginning of his public ministry. And on the 23rd, we'll hear Jesus's on his first preaching engagement, in which he sets down the outline for all of his future ministry.

On January 16th, Rev. Gwen Drake, a retired United Methodist elder, will preach on the role of prophets and the ways they are called to change the powers. And on the 30th, Rev. Dexter Danielson, retired United Methodist deacon, will preach on the role of call in our lives.

January 2nd, The Ninth Day of Christmas
Luke 2:41-52
"We've Been Looking for You"

January 9th, Baptism of the Lord
Luke 3:15-22
"In Bodily Form Like a Dove"

January 16th, The Second Sunday after Epiphany
Human Relations Day
Jeremiah 1:4-10; 20:7-9
Guest Preacher: **Rev. Gwen Drake**
"We Need Prophets"

January 23rd, The Third Sunday after Epiphany
Luke 4:14-21
"Mission Statement"

January 30th, The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Guest Preacher: **Rev. Dexter Danielson**
"The Call"
Submitted by: *Pastor David*

CHRISTMAS BASKETS 2021

Christmas Basket Success! Thank you to all who contributed to the FGUMC Christmas Baskets this year. We were assigned 5 families from Neil Armstrong middle school. Four of the five families were single mother families. We had a total of 6 adults and 13 children.



Special thanks to Joy and Doug Scott for picking up the gift cards and coordinating the distribution, Leah Hendrickson, who contacted the families via Spanish and coordinated for picking up the baskets, and Pastor David for updating the Christmas letter included in the bags.

Also on the Basket Committee were Chuck and Betty Pritchard, Karl and Liz Swenson and Janet Hummel.

Thanks too, to all who contributed financially. And to all a good night!

Submitted by: *Janet Hummel*

MISSION STATEMENT

Know God.
Build Community.
Impact the World.



THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear friends,

I distinctly remember watching the coverage in December 2019. Just about everyone was celebrating that this horrible year, 2019, was over and we could all move together into a brighter future. And then, as we all know, within a few months, we were all cowering in homes, locked down due to this new thing called the Novel Coronavirus. Few living people had ever experienced a nationwide, let alone worldwide, lock down due to an infectious disease. We remembered Ebola and SARS, but those emergencies seemed to resolve fairly quickly, and they mostly seemed far away. We thought, alright, we're all going to stay home for two weeks and that will destroy this virus. It's really hard to stay in for such a long time—two weeks—but if we do this, the virus will have no way of spreading, and it will die out. Then we can return to normal.

And I distinctly remember watching the coverage in December 2020. Just about everyone was celebrating that this horrible year, 2020, was over and we could all move together into a brighter future. We had endured nearly a year of pandemic, but now vaccines were coming out against coronavirus. We were moving past the riskiest season. Surely by the Spring or Summer we'd be back to normal. Everything would be better in 2021.

And here we are a year later.... The rise of the Delta Variant of COVID-19, more than 10 times as transmissible as COVID Classic, changed the game. It looked quite promising in the early summer of this year, but our hopes for a post-pandemic world were dashed. It has been a rough several years. And I haven't even mentioned the other stressors we have endured: a contentious election, wildfires, the death of George Floyd and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, ice storms, a terrorist attack against the US Capitol and the US Congress, floods... and at least 10 or 20 more things that I can't call to mind right now.

And now we are here on the precipice of 2022. And as I write this, in the last weeks of 2021, we have just begun to see the spread of a new variant of COVID—the Omicron Variant—which is at least three times more transmissible as Delta and has increased resistance to vaccines. What can we hope for in 2022? Will this pandemic come under control? Or will find ourselves dealing evolving threats from the Tau, Phi, or Omega variants? We're almost out of letters in the Greek alphabet, perhaps we'll have moved on to Gimel, Zayin, or Yod?

New Year is traditionally a time for fresh starts. We make resolutions. We take control of our lives. We use our willpower to change ourselves and our lives for the better. And of course, we don't always live up to our own expectations of ourselves. We go back on our resolutions and blame it on our lack of will, our lack of control.

But I think if this pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we are not in control. Right? There are just a lot of things that are not in our control. None of us, by force of will, can end the Coronavirus pandemic. We can certainly make choices that are better or worse for the fight against this disease; we can make a marginal difference. But the pandemic is a force that is bigger than any of us.

And I want to say two things in response to that. First, I think we all need to have some grace with ourselves and with each other. We have all been enduring trauma for at least the last 21 months. Every person in the world has been enduring trauma for the last 21 months. And that trauma is compounded because the virus also makes nearly every process in our lives more difficult, more stressful, and more contentious.

So, if you are feeling tired, stressed, burned out, incapable, grumpy, lonely, depressed, anxious, irritable, despondent, hopeless, exhausted, out of control... Yes! Of course, you are! We are all in the midst of ongoing trauma. Of course, we feel like we're not up to the task! Not only are we more stressed, but our jobs are actually harder than they were before. Of course, we feel like we can't keep up, because we literally can't. We just don't have the capacity. Many things are beyond our power to control.

So please have some grace with yourself. Recognize that, even when you're doing your best, things may still be difficult. Even when you're working hard, things may be overwhelming. Offer yourself grace for that. Because God offers us grace. And offer that grace to those around you, too. None of us are at our best right now.

And second, try giving some of your worry over to God. Jesus tells his disciples, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For the life is more than food, and the body more than clothing... Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ... Do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after these things, and your father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for God's kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well" (Luke 12:22-23, 25-26, 29-31). The things that we worry about are too big for us. But they aren't too big for God. If we focus on living out God's love and grace, we can leave the worrying up to God.

Many blessings to you in the coming year.

+ Pastor David

Submitted by: **Pastor David**

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

These are not my words but something I ran across recently that are good words for the beginning of a new year.

- ◆ Table the heavy stuff
- ◆ Making room for joy in you
- ◆ Spend time with positive folks
- ◆ Enjoy the little things
- ◆ Pause to notice beauty
- ◆ Praise the Holy daily
- ◆ Give weekly
- ◆ Take the long view

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

LAY LEADER REPORT for January, 2022

Which way do I go? Which way do I go? Chuck, I need your help! Where do I start? I can see why the Romans named this month after a character that has two faces, one looking forward and the other looking back.

I am looking backward to The Christmas season with the Christmas baskets and I want to thank the volunteers who gathered the cards and presents together and distributed them. The concerts, the Bells of the Cascades and our own evening concert with its variety of diverse ways of celebration, all the special worship services led by Rev. King that we had, to say nothing of the regular services and the normal activities. What a fun and inspirational time.

Looking forward, we can hope for a better year ahead; that COVID 19, omicron variant is much more moderate and less disruptive than is feared. Here's hoping!

Mac and Cheese is January's choice for donations for our monthly food drive. Peanut butter and jelly planned for February (a heads up). Collection day is on the Second of January, 2022. (The first Sunday of the month).

Submitted by: *Chuck Pritchard*, Lay leader.

FOOD DRIVE IN JANUARY

What: Mac and cheese
When: The month of January
Why: Food Bank at Solid Life Church

CHURCH CORNER

TOM AND JAN STEWART

The Stewarts married 63 years ago, just 2 weeks after Jan's high school graduation. They have lived everywhere in the USA including Alaska and Hawaii. And everywhere, Tom – a 30-year Coast Guard man who worked his way up from recruit through the ranks to Lt. Commander – wanted to learn all he could. He took CG courses, and then attended local community colleges. After 6 ½ years in Hawaii, they flew in short sleeves and flip-flops, to Portland in September. Tom started at Pacific U. the next day. But the airlines had lost their luggage, so he attended in short sleeves and flip-flops.

Jan laughs at how the kids from Hawaii stared and then made friends. Her Tom is now in Memory Care at Jennings McCall, still talking with everyone and telling old stories. And she has moved into an apartment at Jennings McCall near him. Downsizing meant giving away nearly all her books and so much else from their home, but she will set up her award-winning quilt-making in the extra bedroom soon. Her daughter-in-law fell, resulting in brain injury. She wanted to be the one to help set up the sewing area, so Jan is waiting until she is able.

Jan says, "I know prayers are answered. I was driving in the Cascade Range when a white-out overtook us. I prayed. Within a mile the tire treads cleared." A couple of strong faith, the Stewarts have done so much for FGUMC. We are glad they are happily settled at Jennings McCall and wish them well with the sale of their home.

Submitted by: *M. J. Nordgren*

SERVING IN JANUARY

Lay Leader	Chuck Pritchard
Altar Guild	Valerie Hawkins
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Kitchen Elves	
	2 nd
	9 th
	16 th
	23 rd
	30 th

BIRTHDAYS

Angela Cohrs	January 6 th
Ethan Jones	January 6 th
Linda Raycraft	January 15 th
Jan Stewart	January 20 th
Betty Weekley	January 21 st
Donna House	January 22 nd
Tracy Gulacy	January 27 th
Matt Thompson-Aue	January 30 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Dan and Kathy Wilson-Fey	January 2 nd
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Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1726 Cedar Street, Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434

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

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Rhoda Fuentes	503-357-3998	Deacon
Noelle Voepel	503-357-2689	Administrative Assistant
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Please send your articles to me
by the 18th of each month!

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