



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger February 2022

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WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

During February, we'll be following the Gospel of Luke through the stories of Jesus's early ministry. We hear how he meets and calls his first disciples, fishers whom Jesus told, "Leave everything. Follow me. You'll be fishing for people." Then we hear Luke's version of the Beatitudes, a series of surprising blessings (and curses).

We lean into one of Jesus's clearest, and yet most difficult, instructions to his followers: "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."

Finally, we jump ahead a bit to that moment when Jesus leads his closest disciples onto a mountain to pray, and his glory is revealed, but paired with the threat of suffering.

February 6th, The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Luke 5:1-11
"Their Nets Were Splitting"

February 13th, The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Luke 6:17-26
"Blessings and Curses"

February 20th, The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 6:27-38
"Love Your Enemies"

February 27th, Transfiguration Sunday
Luke 9:28-43
"Glory and Torture"

Submitted by: *Pastor David*

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.

Submitted by: *Pastor David*

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*
Church Administrative Assistant

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear friends,

As I'm writing this, we have transitioned to all-online worship. We are in the midst of the Omicron Wave. The rate of daily new cases of COVID has absolutely exploded. And so, we are doing our best to be faithful and to tend to our physical and spiritual health in the conditions we now find ourselves.

Churches aren't the only organizations effected. Again, as I write this, both Forest Grove High School and Neil Armstrong Middle School have pivoted to distance learning. It's not the situation that students, teachers, or parents want. We know that there is a cost, both academically and socially, to closing down in-person learning. And yet, in the current situation, so many teachers and staff were out sick that it was impossible to keep school buildings open.

We know that there is spiritual and emotional cost to suspending in-person worship. It hurts our souls not to gather in person, not to join together in singing, not to share communion and fellowship. I feel it too.

We are all weary of this pandemic. Just when things start to get better, it seems the virus mutates, and we face a new and stronger threat. It's a constant cycle of threat, response, anticipation, and disappointment.

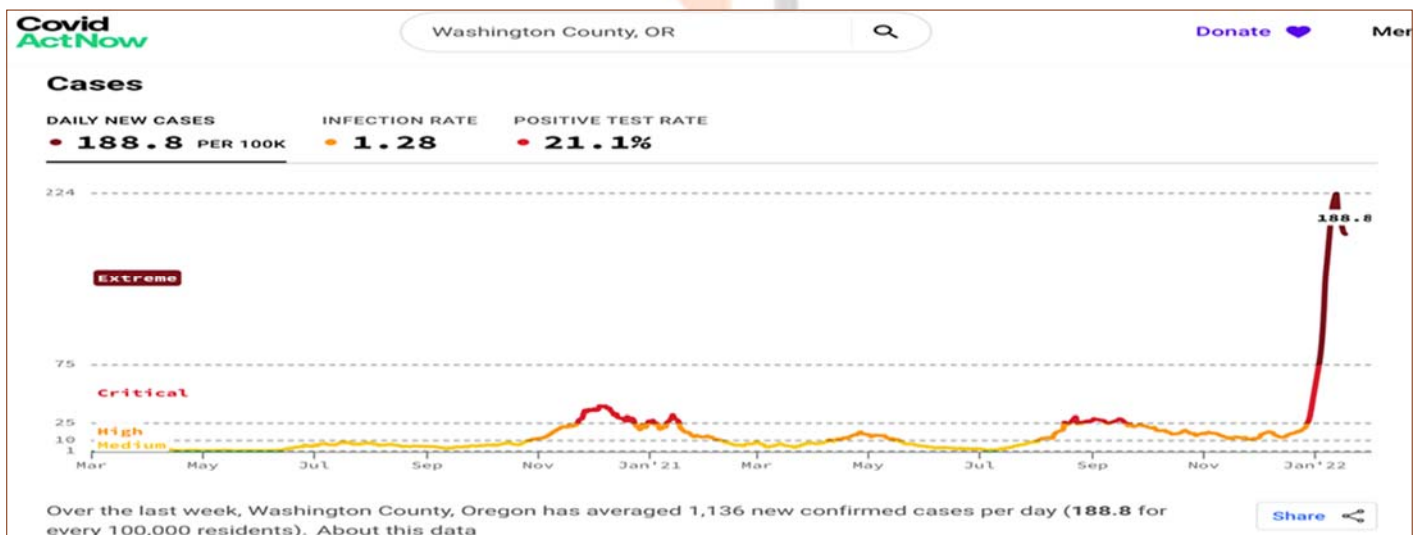
Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. —Romans 5:1–5, NRSV

Unlike Paul, I don't think I'm quite ready to *boast* about what we are suffering right now. But I do know that it's our struggles that make us stronger. Hard times hone us. And although I wish that we could just wipe COVID away, that is not something we can do. What we can do is to try to live as responsibly and lovingly as we can, to offer grace to ourselves and to one other, and to put our hope in God.

In J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring*, Frodo tells Gandalf that he wishes that the evil and war "need not have happened in my time." To which the wizard responds, "So do I. And so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." May we use our time well.

+ Pastor David

Pastor David



CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

Church Council met on January 19th to review the budget and property improvement being considered for 2022 as well as discuss ways to strengthen our outreach and connection with the Forest Grove community.

- The budget was approved with the contingency that additional funds may be requested later in the year. Copies of the budget may be requested from the church office.

Doug Scott, Finance Chair

- The primary property improvement being considered for 2022 is the parking lot. Comments or questions about property improvements may be directed to:

Brian Hawkins, Trustee Chair

- As we consider strengthening our connection with the community, we ask that you consider what talents you might have and be willing to share such as a hobby or skill. More about our expanded outreach will be communicated in later months.
- Next Church Council is scheduled for March 16th.

Submitted by: *Janet Hummel*, Church Council Chair

CELEBRATING LIVES WELL-LIVED

Our FGUMC community remembers three men who lived and gave abundantly, Ted Oakberg, Jerry Hoerber and Tom Stewart.

Ted Oakberg thrived on music, singing tenor with Cal Tech's award-winning glee club and quartet. He was often the only tenor in our chancel choir. A mechanical engineer with national honors to his credit, Dr. Oakberg worked for Boeing, (daughter Kim was born in Seattle), Intel and Hinds Instruments and taught at Antioch College and Pacific University. He was the quiet helper for his bride of nearly 60 years as Lois organized countless meals and celebrations for our congregation.

Jerry and Margaret Hoerber celebrated more than six decades of marriage, two daughters and two sons. Jerry worked for years in the NW and Canada in the timber industry and forestry. Shortly after retiring from Stimson's, Jerry was elected president of F.G.'s Rotary Club. Both Jerry and Margaret have volunteered on committees such as Trustees and Finance. Jerry has chaired the Administrative Council. Both have spent many hours on their knees, working hard "hosting" the Saturday Garden Parties that have kept our grounds beautiful.

Tom and Jan Stewart married 63 years ago. As a 30-year Coast Guard man, Tom, with his curiosity and desire to keep learning, worked his way up through the ranks to Lt. Commander. But Coast Guard service meant Tom took his family (Jan and sons Don and Rob) to live in nearly all parts of the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. He also served on vital FGUMC committees, including Finance, Investment and Trustees as well as helping with the Garden Parties.

We miss these three Christian men and hold their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Submitted by: *M.J. Nordgren*

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

Just a quick check in with everyone. How are you all doing in this strange world we've been living in for 2 years. Church has gone through several phases to meet the demands of Covid 19. Thanks to our lovely outdoor space we had continuous worship last summer. This was a luxury many churches could not offer. At last, we were able to move inside and with the exception of singing our worship services have been fairly normal. Beautiful piano music has been offered in place of the singing of hymns. We could follow along with the hymnal, or our memories, or we could simply enjoy the music letting your mind go where it wanted during the music. Some Sundays there were the voices of choir members to bring us the words of hymns.

At the present time the risk is too high so worship is virtual. Some of us find that a difficult way to worship. Some of our older folks are not equipped to do so although they may have computers. If you are one of those folks that need some help with your computer so that you can worship virtually, please seek out help. There are several folks that I am sure would sit with you on a Sunday morning as you get comfortable with that style of worship.

Another option is joining in on Early Church which some folks make their worship time and others make more like a Sunday School class. Zoom makes it possible to worship in these ways or simply see it as a way to connect with the community- which is the church!

We have had several newcomers to worship during this time – some have become regular. I hope that you are able to put aside your reluctance to introduce yourself to strangers and make the effort to seek out a newcomer after worship and become acquainted.

Thanks to Cricket, although we cannot have a regular fellowship time with refreshments, we can sit down at a table with others after worship and do some coloring or just sit and visit.

With continuing to wear masks, wash our hands more than usual, and practice other hygiene practices as well as maintaining space around yourself and resisting the urge to hug and bumping elbows if you wish rather than shaking hands.

Wishing you all good health and personal connections with some family and those that many of us call folks that are in our "bubble". These days **will** end!

Yours in community,

Submitted by: Rev. **Rhoda Pitman Fuentes**, retired deacon

LAY LEADER REPORT for February, 2022

P.B. & J, yes, it is peanut butter and jelly/jam time again. When asked, they gave us a list and this is what they asked for, again. Last year when they told us PB and J, we as a Church, we donated around a hundred pounds. This time we have a goal. So, by Feb. 6, 2022, let's have 100 pounds of PB & J collected and then we can start on March's which is sugar.

At a recent meeting, we were asked what we enjoyed about church; i.e., before the pandemic. I began thinking of all the things the church did and had, a large choir, a youth choir, an active youth program, a bell choir, a guitar choir, a youth band – remember the Aposolips. We had dinners, clean-up Saturdays, all sorts of things we did as a church group(s). These things were only the local things that I remember doing; we also did things nationally (the Kansas trip, the trip to Southern Oregon, the trip to San Francisco) and internationally, and we did this with our time and money. What do you remember? What would you like to do when we can? Dream big!

FOOD DRIVE IN FEBRUARY

What: P.B. & J.

When: The month of February

Why: Food Bank at **Solid Life Church**

Submitted by: **Chuck Pritchard**, Lay leader

CHURCH CORNER

ANNE HALL

Despite the isolation caused by the pandemic, Anne is “doing fine.” Her four daughters see to that. Two live near and visit to stand at her door to talk with her. The other two live in the Seattle area and come down about every six weeks to stay with her for a day or two. “It’s my age that keeps me in. There’s not much I can do to change that!”

Anne has a sociable, tortoiseshell cat who sits at the window to watch the birds and squirrels while Anne re-reads her extensive library and buys from an online source for books that did not sell out when first published and can be had for about \$5. For exercise, Anne is faithful in her walks around the neighborhood.

When she was able to come to FGUMC, she was active helping in the kitchen, sang alto in choir, and especially loved playing in the handbell choir.

Submitted by: *M. J. Nordgren*

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

Lay Leader	Chuck Pritchard
Altar Guild	Valerie Hawkins
Coffee Coordinator	Amy Scott
Nursery Supervisor	TBD
Kitchen Elves 6 th 13 th 20 th 27 th	TBD

BIRTHDAYS

Caroline Dau	February 6 th
Mark McConnell	February 6 th
Edythe Westlund	February 6 th
Betty Pritchard	February 10 th
Virgil Foxley	February 17 th
Cricket O’Neill	February 20 th
Jan Schrock	February 22 nd
Jasper O’Sullivan	February 25 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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