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### GRATITUDE

As we move through this season, we're invited once again to reflect on gratitude -- not as a holiday theme, but as a way of life. Scripture reminds us to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). That little word *all* can feel overwhelming. It's easy to give thanks when life is going well, when joy is abundant and blessings are clear. But what about the days when gratitude doesn't come naturally? What about the moments when we are tired, worried, or hurting?

Giving thanks in all things does not mean pretending everything is perfect. It doesn't deny pain or dismiss struggle. Instead, it invites us to look for God's presence right in the middle of our real lives. Gratitude helps us notice the small gifts we might normally overlook -- warm light on a gloomy morning, the quiet generosity of a friend, a community that shows up to care. When we take time to name what we're thankful for, our perspective shifts. Fear loosens its grip. Hope grows. Our hearts expand to see that God is still at work, often in subtle and surprising ways.

### Inside this issue

Annual Charge Conference.....	1
Pastor's Note .....	1-2
Stewardship Update.....	2
Community Care Team.....	2
Together Toward Christmas.....	3
Supporting Growing Baby USA....	3
The Chosen.....	3
Joys and Concerns.....	4
Lay Leader's Report.....	5
Serving in November.....	5
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	5
Next-Step Youth Retreat.....	6
Thank You's.....	6
Halloween Fellowship.....	6
November Calendar.....	7
Christmas Baskets.....	8

*(continue on page 2)*

### ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

Forest Grove UMC will hold its **Annual Charge Conference on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 3 PM.** The meeting will be held in person at Forest Grove UMC in the Sanctuary with The Rev. Gwen Drake presiding. All professing members of the Charge Conference who are present at the meeting may vote.

## GRATITUDE *(continued from page 1)*



In this coming month, I invite you to adopt a simple practice: each day, write down one thing (or person) you're thankful for. Place it somewhere visible. Let it serve as a reminder that God's blessings are not limited to the easy days. God is near in every circumstance.

May we become a people who practice gratitude not just when it feels effortless, but as an expression of faith that God holds our lives in love. May thanksgiving shape our prayers, our conversations, and our actions. And may our gratitude be a witness to the One who is always faithful. Let's give thanks -- always, and all ways.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Rhett*

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The end of the year always means many of our favorite organizations (i.e. colleges/universities, pet rescues, food banks, community art organizations, etc...) are going to begin asking us to think about an end of year contribution. I hope you will also keep your church in mind. End of year giving allows us to begin a new year strong!

You may also be wondering when the new preacher is going to preach about stewardship for a month. This year we will tie in stewardship and dreaming about our future ministry during the month of January. You'll have plenty of time to pray about what portion of your income God is asking you to give.



## COMMUNITY CARE TEAM



Pastor Rhett is currently organizing a Community Care Team. This team will serve as a tool to offer timely and consistent care with those in our congregation who need prayer, may be lonely, need special assistance, or who are not present in worship. Part of this team's organizing work will be to think through systems of care and the many ways we will offer care to those in our community. If you're interested in serving on this team, please email Pastor Rhett (address can be found on the church website) or call the church office 503-357-2689.

# ADVENT

## TOGETHER TOWARD CHRISTMAS

One of our goals for Fall 2025 is to begin Advent with an event that welcomes our community and invites them to begin preparing for Christmas. We anticipate great food, fun art projects, music, and an opportunity to build new relationships.

Also, we have agreed to support two families for Christmas this year. Contributions can be made to FGUMC—Christmas Baskets. **If you'd like to help plan and implement this event, please see Pastor Rhett.**

## SUPPORTING GROWING BABY USA



Every child deserves to feel loved, supported, and properly equipped to grow and thrive. That's why our congregation partners with Growing Baby USA—an outreach ministry in Forest Grove that provides children's clothing, shoes, toys, and blankets to families in need (newborn through teens).

Growing Baby USA is preparing for a distribution day in preparation for Christmas, and there will be opportunities for you to help prepare for the day and serve. We'll share more information with you as we have it.

Let's join together to meet tangible needs in our community, reflect God's love in action, and give children the resources they need to flourish. Thank you for standing in solidarity and generosity with Growing Baby USA.

## THE CHOSEN

For an eight-week period, alternating between Forest Grove UMC and Hillsboro UMC, we watch *The Chosen* Sunday afternoons at 4:00 PM. Each viewing, less than an hour, is followed by a soup and salad supper and discussion. We finish about 6:00 PM.



**All are welcome! Episodes are stand-alone so drop in when you can.**

## JOYS

- Emily is so proud of her son Chase who is having his Sr Soccer celebration on Thursday at 6pm at Banks HS. Anyone is welcome to come celebrate his soccer achievements
- Robbie was so excited and happy for the new sound system at church
- He was also happy that over 40 kids at his school are trying out for All State
- Amy said she is feeling joyful that she got to go to the St Mary's Quilt show and sale. The quilts were beautiful and she bought herself a scarf and is so happy.
- Robbie is feeling joyful, happy and grateful that he has a new bed that is so comfortable to sleep on AND that he got a lightsaber!!
- Emily is having conferences this week with 30 families and prays that God will give her the right words when talking with each of them
- Joy asked for prayers for safe travels for her daughter and grandchild as they drive back home after seeing her grandson at Western Washington Community College



## CONCERNS

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE  
503-357-2689 FOR PRAYERS AND CONCERNS.**

## Lay Leader Report

*Submitted by Chuck Pritchard, Lay Leader*

Boo! I hope you had a Happy Halloween, but now it is November and time to get serious. It is a time to give thanks, to enjoy the family, and be thankful for all the things we have including adjustable belts especially after the big Thanksgiving Day meal. I remember one T-day meal with the whole family, when passing the food around the table, what with the turkey, the baked potatoes, the yams, the green bean, the string beans, the Jello, and all the salads and types of cranberries. We were so busy passing the food no one could eat, the youngest son started crying and said, "Aren't we ever going to eat?!"

Another time, when we were far from family, we got to share a meal with a group of others, and we had fun then too. It is not just a meal with family, it is a meal with "family" that is so joyful, so have a good Thanksgiving Dinner.

Thank you for all the food and cans you have brought in, along with the toothbrushes and the clothing. We have passed the donations on and they are appreciated. This month, the various food banks have not changed their requests, so keep it coming in.

Have a Happy and filling Thanksgiving Day!!

### SERVING IN NOVEMBER

Lay Leader	Chuck Pritchard
Altar Guild	Valerie Hawkins
Liturgist	Janet Hummel
Choir Director	Robbie Boles
Organist	Alisa Hampton
Coffee Coordinators & Bulletin Boards	Sharon Adame Amy Scott Cricket O'Neill



Addison Hummel	11/02
Amy Scott	11/06
Alicia McConnell	11/10
Sandy Mueller	11/28



### For November:

- Cooking Oil
- Masa
- Bags of Beans
- Socks—especially Men's

## NEXT STEPS YOUTH RETREAT

*submitted by Emily Tabb*

**Where and When:** West Side Gathering: November 21-23 at Portland First United Methodist Church.

**What:** All youth grades 6-12 are invited for the “Next Steps” fall retreat! This is an Oregon-Idaho Conference-wide event planned for and by youth within our conference. There will be 2 events on the East Side and West Side so that it’s easy and accessible for youth groups to attend!

**Come and take a next step and connect with fellow youth  
from across the connection!**

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

**Thank you to all who helped with the Celebration of Life for Lela Baskins:**

Pastor Rhett Ansley, who presided; Alisa Hampton, our piano accompanist; Brian Hawkins, sound tech; Miranda Newman, sang a beautiful song; Sharon Adame, helped to coordinate the reception; Margaret Hoerber, flowers; Val Hawkins, beverages and helper; Lynn Anderson, Jan Schrock, Janet Hummel, Amy Scott were busy helpers and brought delicious cookies.

Your kind service was appreciated by the family, helping to make a wonderful service and reception.

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



## HALLOWEEN FELLOWSHIP

**COLORING & COSTUMES  
& TREATS**

**THANKS EVERYONE!**





# HELLO november

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 All Saints Day Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A
2 Daylight-Saving Time Ends Food Drive Collection Youth Gathering @ HUMC 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm. 4:00pm The Chosen @ FGUMC	3 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 1:00pm Music Bridge in Garden Rm	4 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 6:30pm Tabernacu- lo de FG in Garden Rm	5 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A	6 Food Delivery Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00pm Choir in Sanctuary 7:00pm SA Group - Rm. 8B 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Library	7 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Sanctu- ary	8 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A 2:00pm Memorial Service for Karthik King
9 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm. 4:00pm The Chosen @ HUMC	10 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 1:00pm Music Bridge in Garden Rm	11 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A Veterans Day 6:30pm Tabernacu- lo de FG in Garden Rm	12 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A	13 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00pm Choir in Sanctuary 7:00pm SA Group - Rm. 8B 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Library	14 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Sanctu- ary	15 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A
16 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Charge Conference in Sanctuary 3:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm. 4:00pm The Chosen @ FGUMC	17 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 1:00pm Music Bridge in Garden Rm	18 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 6:30pm Tabernacu- lo de FG in Garden Rm	19 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A	20 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00pm Choir in Sanctuary 7:00pm SA Group - Rm. 8B 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Library	21 Conference Youth Retreat Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Sanctu- ary	22 Conference Youth Retreat Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 8:00am Tabernacu- lo de FG Confer- ence in Sanctu- ary/Fellowship Hall 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A
23 Conference Youth Retreat 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm. 4:00pm The Chosen @ HUMC	24 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 1:00pm Music Bridge in Garden Rm	25 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 6:30pm Tabernacu- lo de FG in Garden Rm	26 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A (Private) Rose Family Thanksgiving Din- ner Set-up Fellow- ship Hall	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A Thanksgiving Day 10:00am (Private) Rose Family Thanksgiving Din- ner in Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Choir in Sanctuary 7:00pm SA Group - Rm. 8B 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Library	28 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 6:00pm Game Night @ HUMC 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Sanctu- ary	29 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A
30 Advent Youth Led Sunday @ HUMC 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm.						



## CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

We will be supporting two families this year:  
one from the middle school and one from the high school.

Information and Wish List should be available soon.

Stay tuned and make contributions to:  
FGUMC—Christmas Baskets.



**Open Hearts.  
Open Minds.  
Open Doors.**

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