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ADVENT ARRIVES

Advent arrives like a soft knock before dawn -- gentle, persistent, almost shy. It asks us to open our eyes before we're fully awake, to stretch our spirits toward a light that's already shining. We often talk about *waiting* for Christ to come, but this season whispers a different truth: Christ is not waiting to arrive. Christ is already here, stirring at the edges of our days, brushing past us in the places we rarely think to look.

The early church called this holy attentiveness *keeping watch*. Not a tense, sleepless vigilance, but a widening of vision -- like lifting your head from your daily routine and suddenly seeing the world shimmering with possibility. Advent invites us into that kind of awakening.

And so, we ask ourselves, gently but honestly:
Are we seeing Christ in our most vulnerable neighbors?

Christ appears in tender disguises:

- in the weary parent figuring out how to stretch groceries until Friday
- in the elder on a fixed income wondering if anyone still remembers their story
- in the teenager navigating loneliness with bravery we never notice
- in the migrant family seeking safety under the weight of fear
- in the neighbor whose smile hides a week's worth of worry

Inside this issue

Advent Arrives.....	1-2
Congregational Care.....	2
Praying for One Another.....	3
Celebrate Joy.....	3
Youth Led Worship.....	3
HopeFest.....	4
Joys and Concerns.....	5
Lay Leader's Report.....	6
Serving in December.....	6
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	6
Advent Schedule.....	7
December Calendar.....	8
Christmas Baskets.....	9

(continue on page 2)

ADVENT ARRIVES *(continued from page 1)*

These aren't metaphors—they're encounters. Every story Jesus told points us here: to the margins, to the overlooked, to the ones whose lives quietly echo his own. If we want to draw near to Christ this Advent, we don't have to wait for angels or a star. We look into the eyes of those who need hope most urgently.

This season is not only about preparing our homes or our sanctuaries. It's about preparing our attention. Advent asks us to wake up to the holy presence woven through our community—to remember that God chooses to be found not in palaces or secure places, but in vulnerability, humility, and need.

So we open our eyes.

We wake up to the Christ who keeps showing up beside us.

We look for him where he promised he would be.

And when we recognize him—in compassion, in justice, in tenderness—we greet him with joy, generosity, and the courage to love our neighbors as though the Christ child were cradled in their arms.

This Advent, Christ is already here.
If only we are awake enough to notice.

Peace,
Pastor Rhett



CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT FGUMC

The Congregational Care Team is committed to increasing the way the church is present to those who need additional spiritual care. This includes visits, cards, special treats, and ongoing communication with those who are experiencing a difficult time. Scripture reminds us that no one should have to bear their burdens alone.

You can help! If you would like to participate on this team, please email the church office at fgumcorg@gmail.com. If you would like someone from the team to visit you, or you know someone who is experiencing a difficult time, please email the church office at fgumcorg@gmail.com.



PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

One of the ways we participate in the ministry of the church is through prayer. Because our services are streamed live and it is important to use discretion in how we share concerns about other people, I have decided that our time in worship will include lifting names for prayer and responding, “Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.”

That doesn’t mean we stop praying for the specific needs of others. You are encouraged to continue writing your prayer requests on the blue cards found in the Sanctuary or you can email them to fgumcorg@gmail.com. These will be compiled and sent by email on Mondays. If you would like to actively pray for the needs of others, please sign up to receive this email by sending an email to fgumcprayers@gmail.com or calling Noelle in the church office at 503-357-2689.



CELEBRATE JOY!



What are you celebrating at Forest Grove UMC? What brings you great joy? Not everyone feels comfortable speaking in front of the church, so here’s a great way you can share stories of joy. Tell us how you are experiencing joy through the ministries of Forest Grove UMC by sending an email to fgumcprayers@gmail.com. Then watch for your “joy story” on social media, in church emails, on the church website, or wherever you get your FGUMC news!

YOUTH LED WORSHIP (AND CONGREGATION)

What does it look like for us to be in relationship with Cornelius and Hillsboro United Methodist Churches? On Sunday, November 30, our youth led us in worship. They did a great job, but what we saw in worship is only a glimpse of the beautiful thing that is happening.

These youth are gathering every Sunday evening for United Methodist Youth Fellowship. They are building relationships and setting aside the belonging to a specific congregation while trading it for belonging to Christ and one another. There is no “my church,” but only “our church.” They are not hesitating to show up in various locations because they recognize they aren’t showing up to a space, but to one another. Maybe Isaiah was right when he said, “A child shall lead them...” Thank you, Youth!



HopeFest

Free Event for All Ages

Art | Carols & Cocoa | Photo Ops |
Santa & Mrs. Claus | Refreshments



Saturday, December 6 | 2-4 PM
Forest Grove United Methodist Church
1726 Cedar Street

JOYS

- Janet said it was a joy to hear the Organ again!
- Amy said it was a joy to watch the World Series
- Pastor Rhett said he was proud of us with how we nurtured the King family at the memorial for Karthik on Sat. the 8th, and gave a big thank you saying "what a beautiful gift of God's grace you shared".
- Janet said she was so thankful for the good weather this weekend, both for today and for the memorial service yesterday
- Sharon said she was so grateful for the Kings sharing with us all the memories of Karthik, and that we were able to shower them with love and care
- Janet was so glad her son, Addison was at church
- Emily said that her 4th graders were taking a big step as they have been commissioned as altar servers.
- Robbie said his students were going to have a concert later in the week
- Sharon said she was so thankful for the beautiful Thanksgiving banner in the Sanctuary
- Janet was joyful that her neighbor, Kristi, was in church with her
- Robbie was joyful that his students' concert was a success, they had standing room only!
- Robbie was joyful that he had a successful procedure the previous week



**PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
FOR PRAYERS AND CONCERNS**

submitted by Cricket O'Neill

Lay Leader Report

Submitted by Chuck Pritchard, Lay Leader

Have you ever washed the dishes? I bet you have, if not the washing, then the drying, at home, with friends, at camp, at various activities, or at church. At church we have “The Beast”. This machine rinses, washes and then sanitizes the dishes. This makes helping with cleaning up a lot easier.

But this machine is getting old and constantly needs attention and some TLC. Now I bring this up not to ask for a new one (it is working now – keep your fingers crossed!) but if we didn’t have people doing the “little things”, constantly without thanks or praise, what would the church look and feel like?

So look around and give a small thank you to those who are keeping the church running smoothly. Thank you!



For December:

- Spaghetti (all kinds of pasta)
- Cooking Oil
- Masa

SERVING IN DECEMBER

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



Shirley Gamble	12/03
Laura Thompson-Aue	12/06
Ron Ray	12/07
Sharon Adame	12/07
Ethan Ansley	12/13
Lois Oakberg	12/19
Robbie Boles	12/23
Shirley Peloquin	12/26
Patti Rose	12/28



Chuck & Betty Pritchard	12/12
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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year” and it’s the busiest time of the year. Our Advent and Christmas calendar have been prepared with both things in mind. Rather than create a long list of things to attend, we want to make sure the things we do attend are meaningful. Please make note of these opportunities for worship and fellowship then take time to invite a few people to join you!

Sunday, November 30 - 1st Sunday of Advent
10 AM Worship at Hillsboro UMC with Hillsboro, Cornelius, and Forest Grove

This joint church worship will be at Hillsboro UMC: 168 NE 8th Avenue, Hillsboro OR 97124.

Saturday, December 6
2 - 4 PM HopeFest at Forest Grove UMC

We begin Advent with an event that welcomes our community and invites them to begin preparing for Christmas. Anticipate great food, fun art projects, music, and an opportunity to build new relationships.

Sunday, December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent
9 AM Worship at Forest Grove UMC

Sunday, December 14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
9 AM Worship at Forest Grove UMC
3 - 5 PM Christmas Open House at Parsonage
Pastor Rhett and family invite you to come for a quick mingle and tour of the parsonage: 1737 Birch Street, Forest Grove OR 97116

Thursday, December 18 - Blue Christmas
6 PM - Service at Forest Grove UMC

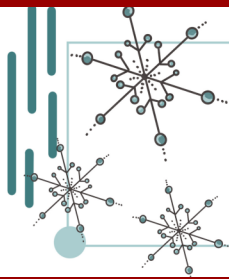
Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people. This service brings Christmas into dialogue with our experiences of grief and pain.

Sunday, December 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent
9 AM - Worship at Forest Grove UMC
4 PM - Bells of the Cascades Concert at Forest Grove UMC

Handbells music at Christmas – what a great way to enjoy the holidays! \$20 admission

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
4 PM - Worship, Communion, and Candlelight Service at Forest Grove UMC





HELLO december



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 1:00pm Music Bridge in Garden Rm	2 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 6:30pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm	3 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00pm Trustees Mtg. in Garden Rm.	4 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00pm Choir in Sanctuary 7:00pm SA Group - Rm. 8B 7:30pm Ciudadado de Refugio in Library	5 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:30pm Ciudadado de Refugio in Sanctuary	6 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7-8am Tabernaculo de FG Prayer Group 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A 2:00pm HopeFest in Fellowship Hall
7 Food Drive Collection 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm. 4:00pm Youth Gathering at FGUMC in Rm. 8B	8 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 1:00pm Music Bridge in Garden Rm	9 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 6:30pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm	10 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A	11 Food Delivery Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00pm Choir in Sanctuary 7:00pm SA Group - Rm. 8B 7:30pm Ciudadado de Refugio in Library	12 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:30pm Ciudadado de Refugio in Sanctuary	13 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7-8am Tabernaculo de FG Prayer Group 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A
14 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Christmas Open House at Parsonage 3:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm. 4:00pm Youth Gathering at FGUMC in Rm. 8B	15 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 1:00pm Music Bridge in Garden Rm	16 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 6:30pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm	17 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A	18 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 6:00pm Blue Christmas Service in Sanctuary 7:00pm Choir in Sanctuary 7:00pm SA Group - Rm. 8B 7:30pm Ciudadado de Refugio in Library	19 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:30pm Ciudadado de Refugio in Sanctuary	20 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7-8am Tabernaculo de FG Prayer Group 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A
21 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 2-3pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm. 4:00pm Bells of the Cascades Concert in Sanctuary/ Fellowship Hall 4:00pm Youth Gathering at FGUMC in Rm. 8B	22 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 1:00pm Music Bridge in Garden Rm	23 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 6:30pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm	24 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 4:00pm Worship, Communion, Candlelight Service in Sanctuary	25 Christmas Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00pm Choir in Sanctuary 7:00pm SA Group - Rm. 8B 7:30pm Ciudadado de Refugio in Library	26 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 12:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Game Night @ HUMC 7:30pm Ciudadado de Refugio in Sanctuary	27 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7-8am Tabernaculo de FG Prayer Group 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A
28 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm. 4:00pm Youth Gathering at FGUMC in Rm. 8B	29 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 1:00pm Music Bridge in Garden Rm	30 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 6:30pm Tabernaculo de FG in Garden Rm	31 Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 9pm-2am Tabernaculo de FG New Years Event			

CHRISTMAS BASKET FAMILIES

We will be supporting two families this year.

Family 1

Mom: Susana
Cristian, 7, boy
Lidia, 17, girl, her baby is 5 months
Edgar, 16, boy
Mario, 10, boy
There are four adults in this home.

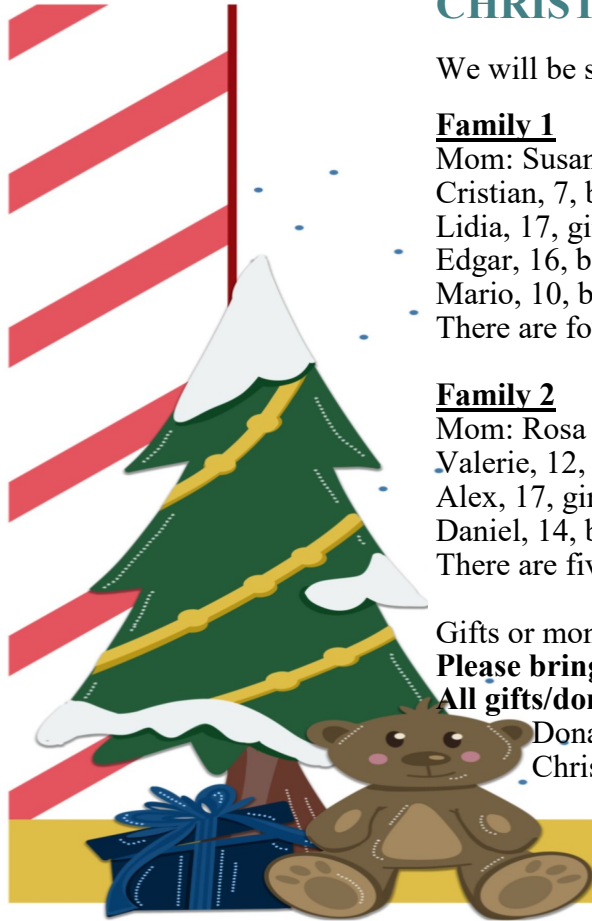


Family 2

Mom: Rosa
Valerie, 12, girl
Alex, 17, girl
Daniel, 14, boy
There are five adults in this family.

Gifts or monetary donations will be appreciated!
Please bring in wrapped gifts with nametags for each item.
All gifts/donations due by Wednesday, December 17.

Donations can be made out to FGUMC -
Christmas Baskets. Thank you for your support!



Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.

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