



Messenger

January 2026

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ROOTED IN HOPE

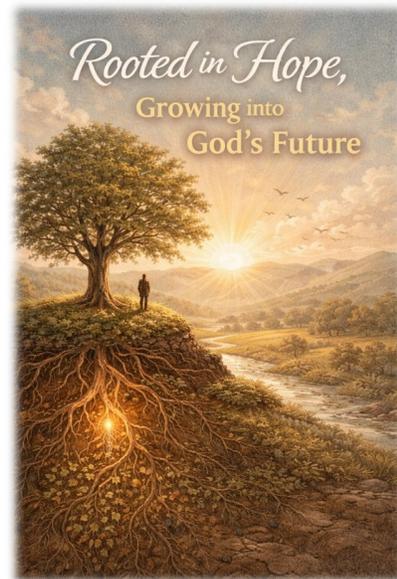
January often invites us to look ahead -- to set intentions, to imagine what might be possible, to wonder what the year could hold. As a church, we are doing the same, but we are doing so grounded in a deeper truth: **our future does not begin with uncertainty, but with God's faithfulness.**

Scripture often speaks of hope not as wishful thinking, but as something rooted like a tree planted near water, drawing life from a source deeper than the surface. Hope, in this sense, is not optimism that everything will be easy. It is trust that God is present, active, and already at work ahead of us.

This January, we are taking time in worship to reflect on what it means to be *rooted in hope* and to grow together into the future God is opening before us. We are listening for where God's light is leading. We are practicing trust rather than scarcity. We remember that belonging comes before contribution, and that every act of participation (no matter the amount) matters. *(continue on page 2)*

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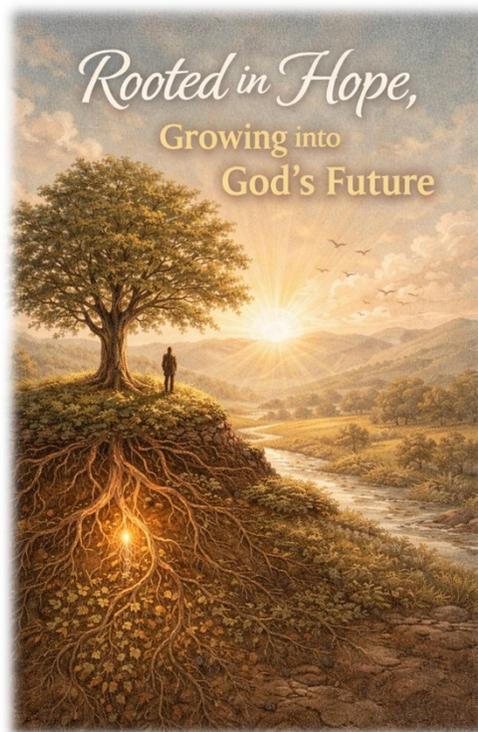
As part of this season, we will soon invite one another to make an estimate of giving for 2026. This invitation is not about pressure or fear. It is about intention.

Giving, at its heart, is a spiritual practice. It is one way we express trust, gratitude, and commitment to the shared life we are building together. Our commitments become prayers we offer to God, trusting that God will continue to provide what is needed for faithful ministry.

We make these commitments not because we have everything figured out, but because we trust the One who does. We give not to secure the future, but because we believe God already holds it.

Wherever you find yourself this January -- hopeful, cautious, tired, or somewhere in between -- you are invited to be part of this shared journey. Together, may we remain deeply rooted in hope, and may we continue to grow into God's future with trust, joy, and confidence.

Blessings,
Pastor Rhett



**You're invited to coffee in the
Fireside Room, Thursdays @ 9—10 AM.**

We'll share a devotional, tell good stories,
join in a time of prayer, and have coffee!
Other beverages are acceptable.

This is a great time to invite others
to join you at Forest Grove UMC!

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



Can you believe we have over 20 youth in our youth database? The busy schedules of these incredible students make it difficult for us to all be in the same place at the same time, but we offer one another the gift of staying in touch and being of prayerful support to one another.

Weekly Gatherings: Sundays | 4:00 – 5:30 PM | Forest Grove UMC

We stay in touch through an app called “Band.” You can download the app and then use this QR code to stay connected!

thank you

We want to express our heartfelt thanks for the care, compassion, kindness, and support you have shown our family since Karthik died. Every story shared with us is treasured, and every gift of food, donations, flowers, yardwork, and time together is appreciated.

We ask you to remember us as we continue to grieve and learn to live without our beloved Karthik. We are deeply grateful for each of you.

Melissa, David, Kiahla, and Kaylah

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT FGUMC—MEETING 1/13—3 PM

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL / TRUSTEES UPDATE

Submitted by Brian Hawkins, Chair

The Church Council made the decision to begin the process of moving from the committee model of governance to the One Board model. This will take place over a number of months in 2026. The entire Church Council will meet on January 24 for a working retreat to plan the budget for 2026 and to set goals for the church.

The Trustees established a policy for overnight parking. Once the signage is in place, overnight parking will be by permit only. Those who want to park overnight will have to call the office to register. We are also looking at the insurance coverages for the church to make sure that we are sufficiently insured.

In addition, the Trustees worked on the following projects in 2025:

- Approved extension of the rental agreements for the Ciudado de Refugio and Tabernaculo de Forest Grove with a few changes to times and costs.
- Approved working on establishing a rental agreement with another church. Once the parameters of the agreement are reached, we will begin a series of 3-month rental agreements that carry through 2026.
- Installed and/or replaced smoke detectors in the Education Wing rooms.
- Replaced the batteries in the thermostats of the Education Wing rooms.
- Changed the time clocks for the Education Wing exterior ceiling and can lights to account for Pacific Standard Time.
- Began the process of replacing the lights in the Education Wing exterior can lights with LED retrofit lights.
- Began the process of replacing the lights in the Education Wing exterior ceiling lights with LEDs.
- Contracted the gutters and downspouts of the church, Education Wing and parsonage to be cleaned.
- Began making some repairs to the dishwasher in the kitchen to address the wash water heating issues.
- Adjusted the timer for the parking lot lights that were impacted by the power outage.
- Facilitated the Fellowship Hall mechanical room water heater replacement.
- Replaced the dishwasher at the parsonage.
- Requested Green Thumb spray moss killer on the walkways between the parsonage and the church to minimize the chances of people slipping.
- Repaired a leak in the handwash sink in the kitchen.
- Replaced two light switches that control the lighting for the Fellowship Hall.

Lay Leader Report

Submitted by Chuck Pritchard, Lay Leader

I hope you have had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Now that January is here, you can sit back and relax until ???, because of all the personal, social, and professional things we all must get done. Oh well! We do what we have to do.

The four most requested food donations for this month are canned tomato products, hearty soups with pull-top lids, canned tuna, and peanut butter, but all donations are accepted and passed on.

In December, we were able to pass on over 250 pounds, which included the donations brought to the Bells of the Cascades concert and then donated through us for St. Vincent de Paul.

Through what we have donated and passed on in food products, the **“3 church co-ops have shared food with about 6,000 people in 2025”**, and this does not include the articles of clothing donated nor the twenty pounds of food Virgil is able to take out to our Little Pantry two or three times a week to keep it stocked. I think it is awesome what we can do with a can, a four pack, or even a case of food at a time.

Together we are making a difference. Thank you!
Chuck

Food Pantry Items for January:

- Canned tomato products
- Soup with pull-top lids
- Canned tuna
- Peanut Butter

Souper Bowl is Here!

January through February 8 is Super BOWL time! Please bring 1-2 cans of SOUP to give to the Food Bank from now till February 8.

Place your donations on the special table in the Fellowship Hall.



SERVING IN JANUARY

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

KITCHEN ELVES NEEDED!

Starting in February we are looking for 2 volunteers a month to help with the clean up activity after fellowship time. Its a really fun and easy way to help!
Training available!

So grab a friend and sign up - sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall or talk to Janet Hummel or Val Hawkins after worship.



Kent Mueller	1/04
Gary Eddings	1/08
Jan Stewart	1/20
Betty Weekley	1/21
Donna House	1/22

JANUARY 2026

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>28</p> <p>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</p>	<p>29</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 1:00pm Music Bridge in Garden Rm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A</p>	<p>31</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 9:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Sanctuary for New Year's Eve</p>	<p>1</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A New Year's Day 7:00pm Choir in Sanctuary 7:00pm SA Group - Rm. 8B 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Library</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Sanctuary</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00am Tabernaculo de FG Prayer Group 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Food Drive Collection 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Sanctuary 4:00pm Youth Gathering at FGUMC in Rm. 8B</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 11:30am Music Bridge in Garden Rm 6:30pm PEO in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A</p>	<p>8</p> <p>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</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Sanctuary</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00am Tabernaculo de FG Prayer Group 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Sanctuary 4:00pm Youth Gathering at FGUMC in Rm. 8B</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 11:30am Music Bridge in Garden Rm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 3:00pm Congregational Care Team Mtg.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 9:00am Coffee & Company 7:00pm Choir in Sanctuary 7:00pm SA Group - Rm. 8B 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Library</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Sanctuary</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00am Tabernaculo de FG Prayer Group 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Sanctuary 4:00pm Youth Gathering at FGUMC in Rm. 8B</p>	<p>19</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A Martin L. King, Jr. Day 11:30am Music Bridge in Garden Rm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00pm SPRC Mtg. in Library</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 9:00am Coffee & Company 7:00pm Choir in Sanctuary 7:00pm SA Group - Rm. 8B 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Library</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 6:00pm Game Night @ HUMC 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Sanctuary</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00am Tabernaculo de FG Prayer Group 8:00am Church Retreat Day 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Tabernaculo de FG in Sanctuary 4:00pm Youth Gathering at FGUMC in Rm. 8B</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 11:30am Music Bridge in Garden Rm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00pm Church Council in Library</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 9:00am Coffee & Company 7:00pm Choir in Sanctuary 7:00pm SA Group - Rm. 8B 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Library</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:30pm Ciudado de Refugio in Sanctuary</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Growing Baby USA in Rm. 7A 7:00am Tabernaculo de FG Prayer Group 10:00am—2:00pm Memorial Service for Elsie Purcell-Marx 10:00am Chair Yoga - Rm. 8A</p>

FELLOWSHIP HAPPENINGS

Music Bridge—Mondays—11:30 AM

The group is facilitated by Lisa Peterson, a certified Music Therapist. The focus is on seniors, but the group is open and welcoming to anyone of any age and musical experience.

Craft Ministries at Cornelius UMC - Wednesdays—12:30-2 PM

Meet on Wednesdays at Cornelius UMC. Gathering of folks with varied interests and skills coming together to support and encourage one another while working on projects. Come to learn and teach new skills, creating gifts to be shared far and wide.

Coffee & Company—Thursdays—9-10 AM

You're invited to coffee in the Fireside Room at Forest Grove UMC on Thursdays @ 9—10 AM. We'll share a devotional, tell good stories, join in a time of prayer, and have coffee! Other beverages are acceptable. This is a great time to invite others to join you!

Game Night at Hillsboro UMC—Third Friday—6-8 PM

Gather on the fourth Friday of each month from 6-8 PM at Hillsboro UMC. All ages gather for board games, video games, and good laughs. Bring a snack to share and a friend!

Youth Fellowship—FGMC—Sundays—4:00 PM

Youth will meet at Forest Grove UMC on Sundays at 4:00 PM in Room 8B.

Open Hearts.

Open Minds.

Open Doors.

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