



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

February 2008

1726 Cedar St., Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434
e-mail: fgumc@teleport.com

Phone: 503-357-2689 FAX: 503-357-8410
website: www.forestgroveumc.org

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: LOVE, MARRIAGE, SEX, AND SINGLENESS

(Continued from January)

This series will examine the Biblical perspectives and realities of our most intimate relationships. Plan to join us as we examine some of the most difficult, yet most rewarding aspects of our lives:

- February 3 Biblical Perspectives on Sex
- February 10 Biblical Perspectives on Singleness

Pastor Dan

VOLUNTEER FOR ALTAR GUILD

Each person serves for one month, and it's really not that hard. Most, if not all, preparation can be done on Saturday. *Margaret Hoerber* can give you more information on what it involves; her number is 503-357-0579.



WESLEYANS MEETING FEB 5TH

Margaret Hoerber has graciously offered to host our meeting at her house, since the St. Bede's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be going on at the church. Please call Margaret if you need directions; 503-357-0579. Carpooling is advised, as parking is limited; the church bus will also be available. For bus pickup, call Delva Johnson at 503-992-0267.

Patty Davie

VALENTINE POTLUCK

The 5th Annual Valentine's Potluck luncheon will be held on Sunday, February 17, after the worship service. If you can't bring a dish, come anyway—there will be extra food, and good fellowship for all!

LENT IS HERE!

The season of Lent, which is the 40 days before Easter, starts next Wednesday, February 6th, which is Ash Wednesday. We mark the beginning of the season by a worship service of repentance and the traditional imposition of ashes upon our foreheads to remind us of our mortality and the somber aspects of our lives and actions. Lent is a time of reflection, preparation, and walking the journey with Christ to the cross. It culminates with the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter morning, which this year is March 23rd. The earliest Easter can occur is March 22nd, and that won't happen again until the year 2285. The next time Easter will be celebrated on March 23rd will be 2160. So for this year, we can contemplate how some events, even though we expect them, may come much sooner than we had anticipated. Join us, Wednesday, February 6th, at 6:00 p.m. for our Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary.

Pastor Dan

SERMON SERIES: ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

In this series, which will run the five Sundays from February 17th through March 16th, Pastor Dan will explore the unique and different version of the stories of Jesus as presented by the writer of the Gospel of John. We will also be reading the entire book of John during this series. Join us for worship as we delve into the depths and richness of this Biblical writer's perspective of the life of Jesus.

Pastor Dan

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Last Sunday in worship we welcomed six persons into the membership of this church: **Matt & Terri Jones, Juanita Kautzmann, Robert Nickerson, Loretta Clayton Evans, and Cecilia Brungard.** Each of these have been called by God to join their lives with ours as we together continue to learn the ways of Christ, to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, to make disciples of Jesus Christ, and to care for, support, encourage, and bless one another in love. We celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for two of these: **Matt Jones and Loretta Evans.** We'll introduce each of these persons further in next month's Messenger.

Every time we receive new members, the whole congregation is invited to pray for and encourage these new members, to welcome them and support them on their faith journey. One way we do this is by renewing our commitment, the promises that we made when *we* joined the church, to support the work of God carried out inside and outside of this church, by our prayers, presence, gifts and service. I see people of this church doing this daily in amazing and often unknown ways.

In my preparation for the current sermon series on love, marriage, sex and singleness, I was reminded how marriage is a calling from God, and that the promises that we who are married make on our wedding day are not always easy to live out in the years that follow. There eventually comes a time or times of disillusionment which is a normal part of any marriage. So, too, with the church. There come times when we become disillusioned with the church or certain people in it for any number of reasons. And we're tempted to turn away from the vows we made. It's the story of God's people Israel throughout the Old Testament, and God's New Covenant people, that follows down to this day. It's the story of God's people saying: "But you promised..." And of God responding: "But you promised...." And the question is: Who yields first?

I know I stayed away from the church for many years because of disillusionment with people in the church who I did not think were acting in the ways of Christ. Eventually (and it was God's doing, not mine), I remembered my baptismal vows, and God's Holy Spirit led me back to God's people. I renewed, 25 years ago, the baptismal vows my parents once made on my behalf 52 years ago. It was when I joined the United Methodist Church that score and a quarter years ago that I chose and promised, in faith, to support and work together with this group of God's people, some of whom I had not yet met, to be the best representatives of God's love and purposes and life-giving ways that we could be. Sometimes we fail or fall short. Disillusionment sets in. But through loving honesty, repentance, forgiveness, hope, and encouragement, I find I am able to continue to honor the vows that I made, both in my marriage and in the church. You who do this know it's not easy.

That's why it's a gift. For those who faithfully persist in fulfilling their vows to a partner in life, to a community of believers, or to God, when those vows lead to actions that give life and embody the ways of love that Jesus came to show us, then the miracle of Christmas happens once again. And again. And again.

Thank you to all of you who help me remember and live out the vows I have made.

Thank you, God.

Pastor Dan



FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

I am so pleased and proud to be part of a church that has chosen to focus, in the next year, not only on the spiritual and communal needs of the congregation, but on the needs of the world and our community.

Discussions have been energetic and overall positive, but I have noted some tinges of fear as we open our doors more widely and to more unknown persons. This is only natural and often happens because we let ourselves stay in one mode of thinking – and the fears begin to pile up. For example, as we think about providing emergency shelter in extreme weather, who are the homeless people in the communities of Washington County? Does this information bust the image you carry in your heart? Here are some facts.

- The faces of the homeless include the working poor, families with children, victims of domestic abuse, the elderly, veterans, and those with physical or mental disabilities;
- Of the over 1200 officially counted homeless in the county 86% are families with children, not the stereotypical single adult male;
- The average age of a person in a county shelter is a 12 year old child;
- Over 1300 public school students in the county are homeless;
- More than 43,000 of our neighbors are one catastrophic illness or job loss away from becoming homeless.

(These figures are probably low as it is hard to document homelessness.)

I'm hoping to attend an event on April 4th working with the marginalized in Old Town Portland learning more about the issues of poverty and the Gospel call to serve those in need. This is sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Downtown Chapel's Hospitality Center and in the Brother André Café. If you are interested in joining me, please let me know immediately.

Your Servant in Christ,
Deacon *Rhoda Markus*

MESSENGER SCHEDULE

The cutoff date for the March Messenger is February 18th. Late items will be carried over to the following month's issue. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Patty Davie, editor

HAVE YOU MOVED?

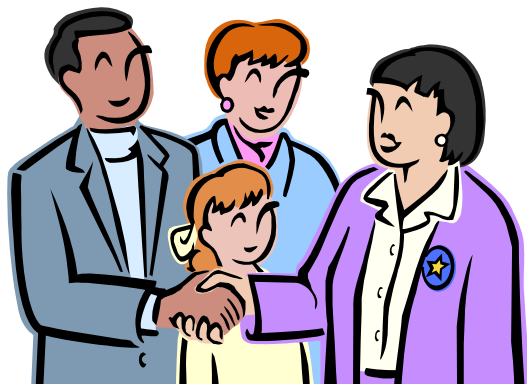
Please be sure that the church office has your new address as soon as possible. Thank you.

Liz Swenson
Church Administrative Assistant

ATTENTION GREETERS!

My heartfelt thanks for volunteering to welcome people to our Church for 2008. Happy New Year and may God bless each of you.

Erma Heisler



SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER – WHAT’S HAPPENING?

In December, the Church Council voted to join with a group of churches in Washington County who offer shelter to homeless people when the weather gets bitter. This program is connected to the County Emergency Services agency, to police and fire services, and to the 211 service. People who need shelter will be given directions to the nearest open church shelter.

The Forest Grove UCC is also part of this program. It seemed to us that we didn't need two churches opening shelters at the same time in one small town, so we agreed to collaborate. To begin with, the UCC has opened as the shelter site, with volunteers from both churches to stay overnight and to provide food. We may still open both churches, for either of two reasons.

- The UCC can accommodate up to 25 people. If we need more space, we'll open our building as a second site.
- We may want to house some people separately. For example, if we get families with children, plus a few old drunks, we may send the families to our church, and everyone else to the UCC.

At first we had few guests, only two to three in any one night. Recently, since the word has gotten out, we have had over ten guests per night, including one family of four.

Since we have been busy with Family Bridge, only one volunteer from our church has stayed the night at the Severe Weather Shelter. We'd like to offer more! We especially hope men will volunteer, since we need at least one man in the church when guests are there. If you can help, please call the church office.

Liz Swenson

PHOTOGRAPHY OPPORTUNITY: WHAT'S SACRED IN DAILY LIFE?

All photographers - amateur and more - **YOU** are invited to share a photo or two telling where you see God in your everyday life. I'd like to collect photos - no smaller than 5 x 7 - along with your statement describing the choice. For example, (from Interpreter magazine January/February 2008): "I see God in my baby girl - her laughing..." or "I feel God near me on this, my journey home....." accompanied by appropriate pictures. There may be a Bible verse that works for you.

The plan is to mount and display the pictures and perhaps create an online display as well. You can email photos to me at revrpm@verizon.net along with your statement, or you can copy them and give them to me.

Let's see the glory of our world in its myriad of ways!

Rhoda Pittman Markus

503-357-3998 home; 503-201-1233 cell



F. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">January 2008</td> <td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">March 2008</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">M</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">F</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">M</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">F</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">22</td><td style="text-align: center;">23</td><td style="text-align: center;">24</td><td style="text-align: center;">25</td><td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">22</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td><td style="text-align: center;">28</td><td style="text-align: center;">29</td><td style="text-align: center;">30</td><td style="text-align: center;">31</td><td></td><td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td><td style="text-align: center;">24</td><td style="text-align: center;">25</td><td style="text-align: center;">26</td><td style="text-align: center;">27</td><td style="text-align: center;">28</td><td style="text-align: center;">29</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td><td style="text-align: center;">31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>							January 2008							March 2008							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5							1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28	29								30	31					
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<p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship; Communion, Biblical Perspectives on Sex</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Fellowship</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Youth Super Bowl Party at Dionne's</p>		<p>4:30 to 7:30 p.m. St. Bede's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Wesleyans @ Margaret Hoerber's</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>3:30-6:00 p.m. PLUnGE</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Church Council</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Youth Open Room</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Chimes choir rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>4:00-10:00 Quilt Day I</p>	<p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>8:00 -3:00 Quilt Day II</p> <p>9:00 a.m. -3:30 p.m. W. District Event McMinnville UMC</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Youth Ministries Team</p> <p>Mt. Olive Health Day</p> <p>Youth Destination Unknown</p>																																																																																																																
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<p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Fellowship; Valentine Potluck</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Youth Group</p>	<p>2:00 p.m. Jennings-McCall Gathering w/ Pastor Dan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March Messenger articles due</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Trustees</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>3:30-6:00 p.m. PLUnGE Birthday Celebration</p>	<p>5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Youth Open Room</p> <p>6:15 p.m. Chimes choir rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>Pastor's Day Off</p>																																																																																																																
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<p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Fellowship</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>NO Youth Group</p>	<p>11:00 a.m. Have committee minutes in office</p>	<p>2:00 p.m. The Elms Gathering w/Pastor Dan</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Finance Committee</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>3:30-6:00 p.m. PLUnGE</p>	<p>5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Youth Open Room</p> <p>6:15 p.m. Chimes choir rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>2:00 p.m. UMW @ Jennings McCall</p>																																																																																																																	

2008 ESTIMATES OF GIVING

12,000	1,200
8,184	1,200
8,000	1,200
7,800	1,200
7,500	1,040
6,000	1,040
6,000	984
6,000	960
5,564	720
5,000	700
4,800	700
4,200	660
3,600	640
3,600	600
3,600	600
3,380	600
3,360	600
3,360	600
3,300	520
3,180	432
2,700	360
2,700	324
2,640	300
2,640	300
2,600	300
2,600	300
2,400	260
2,400	240
2,400	240
2,100	240
2,080	240
2,000	180
1,820	120
1,800	120
1,800	120
1,680	100
1,620	60
1,500	60
1,500	60
1,500	52
1,440	52
1,320	

The Finance Committee wants to share with you, in gratitude and thanksgiving, the final results of our Stewardship Campaign conducted last Fall for the **2008** budget year. A total of 83 *Estimate of Giving* cards have been returned with a **total of \$173,892** on those cards. This is nearly a 4% increase in the dollar amount in comparison to 2007 where 89 cards held \$167,557. Thank you so much for your generosity, faith, commitment, and involvement! This assists the Finance Committee greatly in our work of supporting financially the church's ministry priorities.

We thought it would be interesting, too, for you to see the estimated giving for 2008 listed on every card. The annualized amounts are shown here in descending order. If you have any questions about this, do not hesitate to ask **Dan Gustafson**, our Financial Secretary.

Again, thank you very much.

Finance Committee
Steve Huson, Chair

LIVEWIRE

Bobby has once again started to publish *Livewire* each month for the youth. Here is a section from this month's issue:

- "Each month the *Livewire* will contain
1. A delightful little article by me (Bobby)
 2. A list of upcoming events
 3. A focus scripture for the month
 4. A Youth Spotlight article

Anything else you might contribute

I really believe the *Livewire* can become something pretty big. Something you can hand to friends, or read in the bathroom, or hand to friends to read in the bathroom. So help me out for February by sending me pictures (drawn or photographed), articles, poems, breaking news, or suggestions.

Until then, have a great January and live vertically.

In Christ's love,
Bobby"

This is something anyone is welcome to read, and an opportunity get to know the youth and know what's going on. If you would like more information or would like to get your hands on a copy, contact Bobby. Thanks so much!

Emily Tabb



Valentine's Day Pot Luck 2007

BUS DRIVERS

Volunteer drivers are needed for September and November 2008. Many members of our church family depend on the bus to come to worship. To serve in this very valuable way, please call **Linda King** at 503-522-1215.

CAMP FUND RAISER AND TALENT SHOW

Attention all campers and camp supporters! This year's Camp Fund Raiser will be on March 9th. We count on all your support – so plan on joining us for lunch on March 9th for great stews, salads and dessert and a fabulous Talent Show!

PS - All you talented people, let me know if you would like to be in the talent show. Please contact **Janet Hummel** or **Sue Brenner** with questions.
Janet Hummel

ALL-CHURCH DINNER IN APRIL

We haven't set the date yet, but we want you to know that there will also be a Book Sale at the same time. Check your bookshelves to look for used books in good condition that you would like to donate. Please collect them **at home** for now – we'll notify you when we are ready to set up for the sale.

Edythe Westlund

BIRTHDAYS

Jenny Coy LaCombe	February 1 st
Emily Tabb	February 1 st
Vic Albro	February 3 rd
Edythe Westlund	February 6 th
Linda King	February 8 th
Betty Pritchard	February 10 th
Maxine Nichols	February 13 th
Earl Nordgren	February 14 th
Lois Zumwalt	February 19 th
Jan Schrock	February 22 nd
Val Miller	February 25 th
Lilly LaCombe	February 26 th
Amanda Garland	February 27 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Carl & Doris Traub	February 6 th
Tom & Donna House	February 14 th
Bill & Lyn Boysen	February 27 th

THANK YOU

I want to say "Thank You" to my friends who remembered me with cards and prayers upon the passing of David. It is comforting to know others care & I am thankful for 55 years of his life.

Maryellen Wirtz

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

Liturgist	Marilyn Carr
Altar Guild	Ella Collins-Colcord
Bus Coordinator	Linda King, cell: 503-522-1215
Bus Driver	Morris Haney
Ushers	
February	Dionne Family Frank Colcord
Greeters	
February	L.F. McClelland Pat McClelland
Coffee Coordinator	Volunteer needed
Fellowship Time	
February 3 rd	Volunteer needed
February 10 th	Laura Dionne
February 17 th	Valentine Potluck Lunch
February 24 th	Volunteer needed
Nursery Attendant	Lindsay Marsh
Childcare Coordinator	Delva Johnson
Web Master	Jenny LaCombe
Acolytes	
February 3 rd	Connor Dionne & Fletcher Johnson
February 10 th	John Huen & Cade Ashton
February 17 th	Henry Gulacy & Noah Wilson-Fey
February 24 th	Sarah Hampton &
Kitchen Elves	Pat McClelland & Delva Johnson
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Tape Ministry	Media team
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

CHOIR CORNER — KENNETH LARSEN

Kenneth's beautiful tenor voice has opened up a number of opportunities for him. Born and raised in small Darrington, WA, where his father ran a hardware store, Ken was chosen to participate in "Music in May" in 1971, just before graduating high school with his class of 39 seniors. It was his first trip to F.G.

He was a millwright in hardwood and plywood lumber mills in Washington, loves hunting and fishing and riding motorcycles – and singing in Karaoke bars, where Elizabeth heard him sing and became an instant fan. They've been married 10 years. For his 50th birthday, Elizabeth got him his Harley.

Kenneth has a son in Arizona, but the Larsens moved to Forest Grove to be near their grandkids. We're so glad!

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Forest Grove United Methodist Church is to welcome all people, wherever they are on their journey of faith, into nurturing relationships with Jesus and with one another, through worship, small group fellowship and service to others.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Volume 2008 Issue No. 2, **February**

Messenger monthly.

Periodicals Postage (USPS 970920) paid at
Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1726 Cedar Street, Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434

Daniel Wilson-Fey	503-359-4249	Pastor
Rhoda Markus	503-357-3998	Deacon
Bobby & Emily Tabb	503-844-7694	Youth Pastors
Liz Swenson	503-357-2689	Administrative Assistant

Church Office Hours, Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Patty Davie	503-357-3185	Messenger Editor
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e-mail: plc2fd@verizon.net