



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

November 2011

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Phone: 503-357-2689 FAX: 503-357-8410
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ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Sunday, November 6th, we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday during worship. It will include Holy Communion and a Service of Remembrance in which we remember in a special way all the members of the church who have died since last year's All Saints' service. The families and friends of those we remember are especially invited to attend. This year we remember our church members **Arleigh Berget, Sally Green, Florence Metz, Leota Trofitter**, and others who have been associated with Forest Grove UMC.

ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Many of us miss the deep mystery of Christ coming at Advent. Too often, during that time which is given to us for waiting, watching, and paring down, ours is a story of consumption and consumerism, and we're obsessed with the climax. We worship less and spend more. As a way of preparing ourselves to perhaps celebrate Advent in a different way this year, we will be exploring during worship in November the four themes of the "Advent Conspiracy," an invitation to: 1) worship fully, 2) spend less, 3) give more, and 4) love all. We started the series on October 23rd; we'll be continuing that theme Nov. 13th, 20th, and 27th.



THE JOURNEY: AN ADVENT STUDY

For four consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning November 29th, Pastor Dan will lead a Bible study on the preaching theme for Advent: *The Journey*. We will journey with Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem, seeking to understand what these stories tell us about God, about those involved in the stories, and what they tell us about ourselves. The class will run one hour from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., except for the last session on December 20th, which will run two hours from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining the study, please notify Pastor Dan or the church office so we can be sure to have materials ready for you.

ADVENT PREACHING SERIES: THE JOURNEY

If you think you know the Christmas story, but want to take a closer look, join us in worship in December as we dig deeper. In the upcoming Advent preaching series, Dec. 11th, 18th, 24th, and 25th, we will walk the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem, following the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and others, gaining insight into the nature and character of God, our own journeys with Christ, and a new understanding of Christmas.

Submitted by: *Pastor Dan*

WESLEYANS MEET NOVEMBER 1ST

Wesleyans will meet at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 1st in the Garden Room. The guest speaker will be Amy Reid, who is teaching with Ameri-Corps at Joseph Gale School. All ladies are welcome to come meet her and learn about Amy's work and plans. Members are reminded to please bring an item for the **Backpacks For Kids**.

Submitted by: *Virginia Heald*

SECOND SATURDAY GARDEN PARTY

You won't want to miss the last Garden Party of the year! November 12th, come at 8:30 a.m., quit at noon. Bring your gloves, rakes & garden tools and join the camaraderie. Weeds and fallen leaves furnished. Refreshments at half-time!

Submitted by: *Margaret Hoerber* 503-357-0579

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

At our weekly church staff meetings, we begin by sharing where we had an experience during the week of the presence of God in our lives. As we share, there are sometimes tears, sometimes laughter, often awe.

Our youth director, Emily, regularly asks our youth during or at the conclusion of various youth activities: “Where did you see Christ during this time?” or “Where did you sense God’s presence?” or a question of a similar nature.

If we believe God is real, alive, present with us...if we believe that Jesus came from heaven to earth, and “became flesh to dwell among us full of grace and truth,” as the Scripture says, then as a person of faith, I try to be aware of and open to those “God moments.” I assume we all have them. But the question is, how often do we share them? How often do you have someone ask you: “Where did you sense God’s presence in your life today?” It’s not a common question we ask each other. But when we do ask one another, especially in a group setting, some powerful stories almost always come forth.

I’m praying about how we can make this more of a possibility for everyone in our faith community. The most likely place for this kind of sharing to happen is in a smaller group...like the youth group. It makes me think more and more that we need to develop some small groups in an intentional way in our church. As people of faith, we need venues where there is trust and acceptance, to share about our faith experiences.

Part of the reason we do this is not for our own benefit, but for the growth of others. When I hear other staff members tell of where they’ve met God during the week, it broadens my perspective of where God is present and at work in the world, and it moves me beyond my own circle of awareness. I find myself having experiences of awe and deep gratitude as stories are shared about holy moments. Sometimes I tear up.

For me, I have an awareness that God is stirring my heart in moments, for example, when I’m talking on the phone with my son who is away to college, or when I’m driving the streets of Forest Grove seeing those gorgeous fall-colored leaves on the trees in bright sunlight. I have a “God moment” sometimes when hearing the story someone else is telling of a God moment, sometimes when I witness or hear about acts of extravagant generosity. Sometimes...no, often, I sense God’s presence in children – it’s where Jesus said we could meet him.

I know you have your own moments. I encourage you to write them down. Start a journal if you don’t have one already. Listen to your life. Notice those moments when tears spring to your eyes. Be aware of the things that make you take a deep breath, moments that make you say “OMG” (that’s texting shorthand for “Oh my God”). Pay attention to when your heart is singing for joy and in celebration. And when it’s breaking. These are God moments. Actually, all moments are God moments, even when we’re unaware of them. But when you do become aware of the presence of God, of Jesus, receive it for the gift it is. And simply say: “Thank you, God.” “Thank you, Jesus.”

Deep blessings,



Pastor Dan

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

Recently I attended a gathering where we spent our time in information about and discussion of “**A Spirituality of Justice. . .for times that try our souls.**” I’d like to share some of what I learned.

“Do Justice.” That’s part of what we claim as the mission statement for Forest Grove United Methodist Church. How well are you primed to understand what that means for yourself individually and for all of us as a Christian community? Unfortunately, much of our understanding of justice has been skewed by popular notions and ends up being more closely related to revenge and legalism than anything else. We looked for biblical roots for justice as we began the day with reflection on several Biblical passages. I’m going to list them here without comment and invite you to spend some time with them. Maybe you’d find it helpful to choose one a day and spend some time in reflection or journaling about what the passage says to you and how it affects the way you live your life. Be prepared to have some of your notions reordered.

Here they are: Exodus 3:7 – 10, Isaiah 1:15-17, Luke 4:14-21, Luke 1:46-55, Matthew 5:43-44, Amos 5:21-24, Micah 6:6-8, Genesis 1:1-3a, 26-27, 31; Matthew 23:23-26, Matthew 25:34b-40, 45b-46; Isaiah 2:4.

We discovered that our understanding of the nature of God is important. The Character and Nature of God emerges out of the over-arching themes of the Bible which, when placed in conversation with the Wesleyan quadrilateral, enable us to encounter the God of love, peace, and justice as most clearly seen in Jesus Christ. We talked about Jesus as a social revolutionary. We discussed the idea that God has a higher category for us than right versus wrong that is about love and justice and forgiveness. We talked about the power of story and paying attention, in particular, to the stories of Jesus.

The final thing I want to share with you are some of the justice issues we explored – issues that are before congress and in the news. These are often misrepresented by media as so many outlets have their agendas that don’t really have much to do with the issue. (If you’re interested in some sources that strive to give unbiased information I have a list of websites I’d love to share with you.) These are the issues – they may be issues you will be needing to vote on. Will you let a biblical understanding of justice be your guide?

- DREAM ACT – immigration status of students
- Labor Issues – the right to organize
- Health Care – the role and function of government
- Death Penalty – human fallibility and redemption
- Free Market Capitalism – God’s economy

I love the third verse of a hymn we sang:

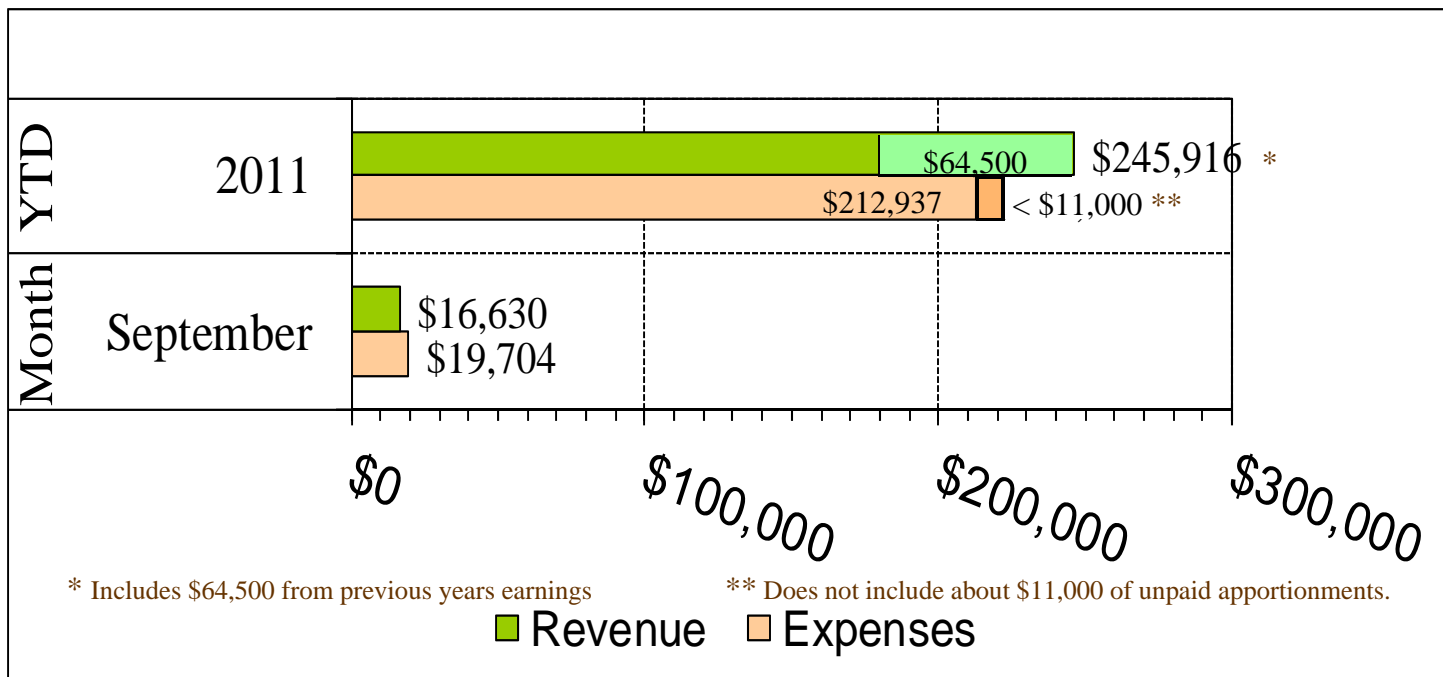
Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we’ll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love!
We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

The Faith We Sing #2172

Submitted by: Your servant in Christ,
Deacon *Rhoda Pittman Markus*

MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Income/Expense Comparison (As of 9/30/2011)



FINANCIAL NEWS

Matching Funds

The Church Council has approved a proposal from the Finance Committee to provide matching funds to any member who contributes more to the church in 2012 than they contributed in 2011. The matching amount will be the increased amount over what was contributed the previous year. In other words, if someone contributed \$2,000 in 2011 and contributes \$3,000 in 2012, we would match the \$1,000 increase in giving with an additional \$1,000. This dollar match would come from the endowment fund. The Church Council approved these matching funds up to a maximum of \$20,000. The match is available to all church members whether or not an estimate of giving card is completed. The match would be made on actual giving, not on what is submitted on the estimate of giving card.

An all church meeting to discuss this program and respond to questions is scheduled for Sunday, November 13th, immediately after church. In the meantime, if you have questions or comments feel free to direct them to any member of the Finance Committee or Church Council.

2010 Audit Completed

An audit of our financial records for 2010 was recently completed. While there were several minor improvements suggested, our auditor found the church's finances to be in good order. Many thanks to the efforts of Dan Gustafson, Financial Secretary and Laura Dionne, Treasurer, for all of their efforts in handling our finances. If you would like to review the audit, it is available in the church office.

Submitted by: **Barbara Huson**, Finance Chair

F. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 6th!		1 7:00 p.m. Wesleyans	2 3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group	3 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 Pastor's day off	5 Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group
6 8:45-9:45 Youth Council 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship: Communion 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal 1:30 p.m – 4:15 p.m. Destination UnKnown	7	8	9 3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group	10 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11 Pastor's day off 11:00 a.m. Have October committee minutes in office	12 Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group 8:30—Noon Second Saturday Garden Party
13 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship Craft Sunday 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal	14	15	16 3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group 6:00 p.m. Grant Committee (If needed) 6:00—7:30 p.m. Trustees 6:00—7:30 p.m. SPRC 6:00—7:30 p.m. Finance Committee 7:30-9:00 p.m. Church Council	17 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 Pastor's day off <i>December Messenger articles due</i>	19 Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group
20 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal	21 3:00 p.m. Jennings-McCall Gathering w/ Pastor Dan	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25 Pastor's day off	26 Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group

<----- Family Bridge ----->

27 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 12:00 p.m. UMW/UMM	28	29 2:00 p.m. The Elms Gathering w/Pastor Dan	30 3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group Dress Rehearsal	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">October</th> <th colspan="7">December</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	October							December							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1					1	2	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	30	31												
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CROP WALK

October 2nd, 2011 found the Church hosting the Crop Walk in Forest Grove. The walkers met at the church and received maps for the walk. They began walking for the 'more than three miles' with their friends new and old at 9:00 am. By 9:40 walkers began to return to church with their pledges and were ready for coffee and refreshments as they related their work and thoughts.

The Apostlips Band welcomed the returning walkers and played for more than an hour for those who wanted to hear more music. The Youth were great supporters of the walk, raising money as well as music.

Total receipts of the event were more than \$2,500 for Church World Service. A portion of the funds will return to this community where it will go through the Food Bank and other hunger ministries. A most generous gift of \$1,000 was received from a participant who had had the opportunity to be on the receiving end of funds for her work in Africa helping to build water systems.

Submitted by: *Lela Baskins*

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Your congregation or organization is invited to be part of the 14th Annual Washington County Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, to be held on **Sunday, November 20th** from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. with a fellowship meal following the service. The event will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Cedar Mill Stake, located at 955 NW 173rd Avenue in Beaverton. The sponsoring group is the Inter-Religious Action Network of Washington County (IAN). A special offering appeal will be made for the Family Bridge Homeless Shelter.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, and in the true meaning of community, we hope that many different congregations and organizations will help bring something to our Thanksgiving table.

Please see the flyer next to the church office for more information.

*The Inter-Religious Action Network
Thanksgiving Committee*

ADVENT FESTIVAL SUN. DEC. 4TH

Advent will begin early this year, in November. And on Sun. Dec. 4th we will have our annual Advent Festival after worship. Adults will make wreaths, swags, and other decorations for our homes. Children will make Advent Chains.

Never made a wreath? Come learn. There will be expert instruction. Evergreens, ribbon, wire, and decorations are provided, though if you want to use a favorite decoration of your own, please bring it. And if you don't feel crafty, there will be an extra for you to take home. Come join us!

Submitted by: *Liz Swenson*

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Our church has agreed to make up and deliver Christmas Baskets for 30 families this year, and it's not too early to start collecting items, as the baskets will be assembled December 14th - 16th.

Starting November 6th, you may bring non-perishable food and place it in the food box in the Narthex. We are only doing food again this year, (no toys, as other churches and organizations will be doing that). Think **Holiday Dinner** when buying your food for donations.

You can choose a family and buy the food, including the meat that the family asked for, or get the Ham, Chicken or Turkey from the church. If you are buying the meat, please let us know, so we can plan accordingly. You can deliver your items, or have someone in the church deliver it for you.

Below is a list of items for you to choose from:

- Turkey, Ham, Chicken
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Sugar, flour, maize
- Pasta, rice, beans, baking mixes, canned pumpkin
- Oil, evaporated milk, holiday candy, nuts
- Paper goods: towels, bath tissue, etc.
- Fresh fruit and potatoes, bread or rolls (Bring to church a few days before delivery.)

Like last year, a Christmas tree will be up in the Fellowship Hall; each ornament will list a family and note how many adults & children are included. Please, pick an ornament, and sign up to help a family in need; I will appreciate it and so will they.

If you have questions, call me at 503-359-4424.

CHURCH COUNCIL AND FIVE FRUITFUL PRACTICES

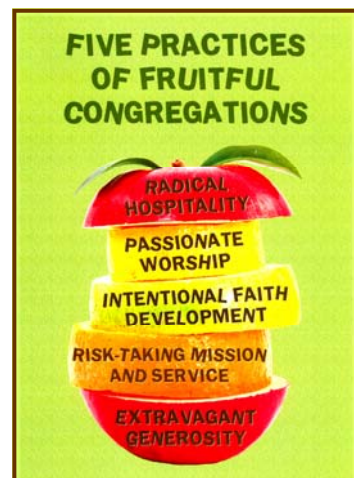
At the Charge Conference in September, we reduced the Church Council membership to twelve and established a Five Fruitful Practices management organization. By doing this we moved routine decision making into the Fruitful Practices level. This is a significant change.

Normal activities of our Church will now be with the Fruitful Practice committees, with members that are closest to the activities. Your Church Council will focus on the overall direction of the Church. This empowerment to the Five Practices teams will allow faster and more focused work to be done. It will allow the members with the most knowledge and interest in an activity to support our Church Mission with that activity.

There will be communication between the Five Practices and Church Council to ensure all activities are supporting our Mission. Each head of a Fruitful Practice will have a Council member as a contact, someone to talk with, to check ideas and to get some direction. The Council member will report activities of their Fruitful Practice to the Council. Your Council will not try to manage the fifty plus activities of our Church, many of which are running very well now. Yes, fifty plus; Family Bridge, Christmas Baskets, Ushers, Sunday Fellowship time, and on and on. This change has two objectives, first, fewer meetings with fewer members attending. It is my goal that Church Council will meet less frequently and committees will meet as required. The second objective is to have members work with more freedom.

This leads to my final point. Our Church depends on members doing what they want, with love and energy. Some jump forward and charge into the work. Others hold back, wanting to be asked or have questions about the task. How and to what extent you want to support our Church Mission is up to you. But if you feel you need to drop hints that you want to be asked, then drop hints. If you have questions, ask. I hope this organizational change will make helping each other and helping our communities more efficient.

Submitted by: **Harold Jensen**, Council Chair



SPEND LESS, MAKE SOMETHING

I am certain that at some time in the past few years, many of us have found ourselves waiting in a line to buy a gift and have asked if it was the right thing to do.

Inspired by Advent Conspiracy, on Sunday November 13th during Fellowship, we are going to have craft time. Please bring a craft to share, a talent to teach, or simply a desire to make your gifts. We will share our talents, and make treasures.

If your craft has a cost, don't hesitate to ask for payment for the supplies. If your item will take longer than an afternoon, please be prepared to teach enough so that it can be finished at home. Call me with questions or ideas.

Submitted by: **Carole Heun**

BLANKETS FOR NORTH DAKOTA

We counted the pounds today and the total is about 185 pounds of blankets that we have sent to Rhonda Trullinger for the disaster work in North Dakota. That is eight or ten boxes filled with the new and gently used quilts and blankets furnished by you here at the church.

Rhonda's letter to us states "I wish it were possible to show the joy on the faces of those receiving the quilts. It is not just a quilt to them, it is something made by caring people for hurting people."

Recovery is on hold as the winter approaches, and the efforts by our church are welcomed.

Thanks again for helping.

Submitted by: **Lela Baskins**

PREPARING FOR ADVENT

- Nov 6** **All Saints' Day**
 Communion
 Cloud of Witnesses
- Nov 13** **Advent Conspiracy II**
 Spend Less
- Nov 20** **Advent Conspiracy III**
 Give More
- Nov 27** **Advent Conspiracy IV**
 First Sunday of Advent
 Love All

EXPERIENCING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

- Dec 4** **Second Sunday of Advent**
 Communion
 Youth Sunday
 Advent Festival
- Dec 11** **Third Sunday of Advent**
 The Journey
 Bethlehem Marketplace
- Dec 17** **Christmas Basket party**
- Dec 18** **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
 The Journey
- Dec 24** **Christmas Eve service**
- Dec 25** **Christmas Day**
 The Journey
- Jan 1** **New Year's Day**
 Communion

STREETS OF BETHLEHEM

The fourth annual Streets of Bethlehem (formerly Bethlehem Marketplace) is scheduled for December 11th, 2011. This is a fun event during Advent that combines fellowship with an experience of a marketplace during Jesus' time. Watch the Bulletins for opportunities to participate. New and experienced volunteers are invited; costumes will be available, and Fellowship will feature foods of the same period. Contributions are welcome. Straw for the manger is needed, as are small children to wear lamb costumes. Questions? See Janet Hummel or Beth Hall.

Submitted by: *Janet Hummel*

BIRTHDAYS

- L. F. McClelland November 1st
- Addison Hummel November 2nd
- Tom Stewart November 3rd
- Leonard Uppinghouse November 4th
- Chuck Ashton November 5th
- Eleanor Fitzgerald November 6th
- Bill Gulacy November 10th
- Debbie Gamble November 13th
- Lester Heisler November 14th
- Martha Tunall November 15th
- Debbie Knight November 15th
- Chanté Gustafson November 17th
- Dorothy Manley November 20th
- Dan Wilson-Fey November 23rd
- Gage Pittman November 24th

ANNIVERSARIES

- Dan & Eunice Gustafson November 6th
- Dick & Sue Brenner November 12th

UMW-UMM MEETING

The United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men will share a potluck lunch on Sunday, November 27th at 12:20 p.m., followed by separate meetings and a program. Please join us!

Submitted by: *Lela Baskins*

HAVE YOU MOVED?

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

Submitted by: *Liz Swenson*

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

Lay Leader	Ann Ulum
Altar Guild	Jan Schrock
Bus Coordinator	Lois Oakberg, 503-357-8129
Bus Driver	Dale Heun
Ushers & Greeters:	Luther & Jan Schrock Fred & Linda Raycraft
Coffee Coordinator	Janet Hummel
Fellowship Time November 6 th November 13 th November 20 th November 27 th	Caroline Dau & Janet Craig The McCaughey Family Volunteers needed Bring Your Leftover Thanksgiving Goodies
Nursery Supervisor	Melissa Holcomb
Web Master	Jenny Lyn Englin
Kitchen Elves	Lela Baskins & Caroline Dau
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

MISSION STATEMENT

Do justice.
Love kindness.
Walk humbly with God.

CHURCH CORNER – JANET CRAIG

Daughter of a Methodist minister, Janet loved MYF and church camp, joining her family at Annual Conference every year. Throughout her childhood in California and Arizona, “I felt God guiding my life.” His calling led her to earn her R.N.; His gift of a loving sense of humor has allowed her to work with severely emotionally disturbed children and then adults, at Children’s Hospital in Boston and the Neuro-psychiatry unit at UCLA.

Janet worked in Tucson for 12 years, and then, after visiting one of her three sons and his wife in beautiful Oregon, she moved to Hillsboro, where her youngest son lives with her. Janet worked at St. Vincent Hospital for 14 years. She enjoys two grandsons in Carlton and one grandson and her only granddaughter in Indiana.

Janet has been with FGUMC for three years and helps as an usher, and with the outreach to Joseph Gale School. She visits at Jennings-McCall. Her joy is United Methodist Women, and she has just been elected to the District board to help with program resources.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Volume 2011, **November**, Issue No. 11.

Messenger monthly.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
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Rhoda Markus	503-357-3998	Deacon
Emily Tabb	503-707-4971	Youth Pastor
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
Bless you for getting your articles to me by the 18 th of each month! e-mail: plc2fd@frontier.com		