

The Focus

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

September 2020

Pastor's Notes

*"If it is possible,
so far as it depends on you,
live peaceably with all."*

- Romans 12:18

*"Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth."*

- Matthew 5:5



One evening, while on my “vacation,” having little to do and unable to really get into the book I was currently reading, I turned to my “go-to” – PBS. As luck would have it, it was just in time for a documentary about the domestication of dogs. A show about the domestication of cats had just ended. That would have been a good one to watch as in my opinion and the opinion of others, cats have *not* been domesticated toward humans, but that’s a discussion for another time.

This documentary explained that dogs most probably evolved from wolves at a single location about 20,000 to 40,000 years ago based on the research of Krishna Veeramah of Stony Brook University in New York. (Write this down, you’ll need it for *Jeopardy*.) The process of dog domestication began when a population of wolves moved to the outskirts of human hunter-gatherer camps to scavenge for leftovers. "Those wolves that were tamer and less aggressive would have been more successful at this. While the humans did not initially gain any kind of benefit from this process, over time they would have developed some kind of symbiotic relationship with these animals, eventually evolving into the dogs we see today."

What we see today are humans and dogs living together as “best friends.” There’s a cooperation between us – we feed, shelter, play with and give them space on the couch while they give companionship, working partnership, unconditional love and even, when necessary, their lives by going into places we can’t or won’t go. They bring us food, turn on light switches, herd livestock (including children), lower blood pressure and even add years to the lives of their people.

Darwin theorized that evolution resulted in “survival of the fittest” with the weak being pushed/bred out by the strong. Usually we think of that in terms of aggression and brute strength. Yet the development of the symbiotic relationship with our “best friends” developed from less aggression and cooperation. It wasn’t “survival of the fittest,” but “survival of the friendliest.”

Maybe this is a lesson for us today. I don’t know about you, but all the hostility, divisiveness, suspicion, judgment and hurtful rhetoric is really getting to me with those who see themselves as the fittest end up not being the friendliest. So much of it seems to come from the mindset of “me and mine” without giving a lick for “you and yours.”

Maybe we can look to the domestication of dogs with humans as being a model for our life with one another. Jesus repeatedly taught us to love others and live together cooperatively. When those wolves came near to human camps, they didn’t go in and destroy its inhabitants and claim it as “wolf country.” Instead, they cleaned up the leftovers. They didn’t go in with teeth barred; they went in with tails wagging. They weren’t greeted with knives, rocks, bows and arrows. Maybe slowly at first, but eventually friendly met friendly and they all had a place at the table and by the fire.

What if we tried that? Of course we are always going to have disagreements, but what if we faced those with a spirit of cooperation. You know, the “life, liberty and pursuit of happiness for *all*” stuff of our Constitution. You’ve heard it said, “it’s a dog’s life.” What if we try to make it a “dogs with humans” life?

Yours in Christ’s service,



OUTDOOR WORSHIP BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 6

At 10:00 on September 6, those who wish may come to the church for in-person worship that will be held outside in the open field by the back parking lot. We have been blessed with a beautiful setting that is conducive to this type of service. Even so, a great deal of work has gone into insuring the safety of all participants. The following conditions will be followed:

- All will be required to wear a mask covering both the mouth and nose.
- Temperatures will be taken upon arrival.
- Seating will be in marked areas (6 feet apart) only.
- Paper bulletins will be available pinned to the rolling partitions to allow for single contact.
- Prepackaged communion elements will be available for participants to pick up (on communion Sundays).
- There will be a single offering basket placed at the entrance to worship.
- Indoor bathroom facilities will be available on a one-person-at-a-time basis.
- Hand sanitizer will be used upon entering and exiting the building.
- Participation waivers must be signed and handed in at the service before admittance. These will be kept on file for future participation. Extra waivers will be available on the day of worship.
- Volunteer Ushers will be used to take temperatures and seat people (please contact the office if you are willing to volunteer).

Please remember that each Sunday's service will still be available live using Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782.

Please bring your own lawn chair if at all possible. This will reduce the need to sanitize the church chairs. If you need a chair, please contact the church office. We want everyone to be comfortable and have a place among us!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUTDOOR WORSHIP

It takes many people behind the scenes to create any worship service, but the outdoor service will take even more. Volunteers are needed for the following tasks:

- spray paint the lawn marking physical distancing on either Saturday or Sunday morning
- Ushers to help people from their car to their designated seating area
- Temperature takers
- Equipment set up (9:00 AM Sunday morning)
- Technology team to run the Zoom meeting and control the camera
- Greeters (check for waivers and welcome)

If you would like to help in any of these areas, please contact Pastor Su or the church office. Remember, we are a team led by the Spirit!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Christian Education Committee has been gathering information about how we will conduct “Sunday School” this fall. A survey was sent out and it is clear that using Zoom is the more favored method of teaching our young friends. With secular classes using the same means, we recognize that this is for many a less than ideal solution. Still, the Christian formation of our children is as important as any academic education.

The Christian Education Committee is planning to begin Zoom education by the end of the month. Meanwhile any suggestions and volunteer teachers are appreciated. Please contact Beth Conti or Pastor Su with your offering.

THURSDAY EVENING STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP

After a vacation hiatus, the Thursday evening Zoom gathering will resume on Thursday, September 10. This group explores the background of hymns that are favorites and favorites we haven't met yet. Often the composer's own story and theology plays a significant role in the hymn's composition. The study has provided a different way to explore our faith. It is also a way to stay connected as we do spend time catching up with one another, sharing our joys and concerns and what's going on in our lives. All are welcome to join at 7:00 using Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782.



NEW MEMBERS

Do you trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? Are you looking for a church home where you can worship, grow in your faith, serve using your gifts for the building of God's kingdom all while finding fellowship? Has Forest Grove been a place that feels like home? Maybe it is time to make a commitment to Jesus through the church. Usually new member classes are held over a series of weeks at the church but during these extraordinary times, Pastor Su will come to your home and while socially distancing talk about faith and the church in preparation for meeting virtually with the session to be welcomed into membership.

The church of Jesus Christ at Forest Grove wants and needs you. If you are interested or have questions, please feel free to either call the church office or Pastor Su. This could be a silver lining moment!

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group has been meeting through Zoom this summer. In person, however, we had a “drive through celebration” of our three high school graduates, Charlie Dell’Orefice, Jack Bush and Ethan Dobbins. Many showed their support as we all are excited for their accomplishment and continue to pray for them in their transition. Prayers are needed for all of our students and their teachers as they start the school year in these uncertain times.

Looking ahead, youth group will meet through Zoom and explore ways to safely meet in person. Stay tuned for more details.

Peter



*Things continue to happen on the
Capital Campaign projects!*

Rear entrance: Demolition of the old entrance took place in August. The construction of the new entrance is in progress. During the construction of the new entrance, access to church is restricted to the door via the wooden ramp.



Playground restoration:

I am excited to be writing this article as I am starting my Eagle Scout project!

To me it was obvious the church was always going to be the beneficiary. This church, you all, have always supported me and I want to give back to the community I love.

There were many projects I could have chosen from. During this renovation I noticed the playground removal and I want to bring it back. I went to preschool here, this was the first consistent playground I played on, and I want to make it a safe, fun space for children to use once again.

I am currently working on the proposal and waiting on feedback from my mentor. Once that is approved, I can get started on the planning phase. This may include fundraising. My hope it to have this project completed by year end. I'll keep you posted...

Nathan Holton

Hi!! My name is Ryon. I am excited to be the new intern at Forest Grove Presbyterian Church. I come from Frankfort, Indiana. I went to Ball State University for undergraduate and studied psychology. I am halfway through my M.Div. at PTS. Last year I was given the opportunity to be an intern at Metuchen Presbyterian Church in New Jersey, specializing in pastoral care. This year, my goal will be to learn everything I can about the small church social distancing in the digital age. I hope to get to know each and every one of you!! Some of my hobbies include running, hiking, and camping. I am passionate about small town and rural ministry, having grown-up in rural Indiana, and engaging in pastoral care. I pray that God might bless this time that we share together as we continue to seek what church looks like during these times. Until next time, be well!





PLEASE SAVE THE DATE- **BLOOD DRIVE *SEPT 12TH***

The Forest Grove Session has approved continuing our community outreach with a blood drive this fall, and the date will be Saturday Sept 12th from 8AM to 1PM. This will be our 8th consecutive yearly blood drive, and the need for blood is ongoing. In light of Covid concerns, there will be additional safety precautions and screening of all donors, and prescheduled appointments are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED. Whether you would like to donate in honor of a loved one, or just to help someone in need, it's wonderful to consider the different components from every blood donation can be used to help save *three* lives. To schedule an appointment, or for more information about Covid safety precautions & screening, donor age requirements & health considerations & medications, you may call 1-800 Red Cross, or please visit their website www.redcross.org. For questions call Dana Daniels 215 450 0705.

Race and Racism Group

We have been meeting bi-weekly to discuss the issues of race that have plagued our country. Various topics have been examined as they intersect with this topic. Our next two meetings will be on September 9th and 23rd from 7:00-8:00 PM on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782. This is a huge issue and so we have begun a weekly prayer group that meets each Monday, 7:00 – 7:30 PM on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782, to lift up to God these issues and all those of deep concern in our country. All are welcome and encouraged to join either of these opportunities. Together, with God's help, we hope to discern tangible ways that Forest Grove can get involved.

Silver Linings



As the saying goes “there is always a silver lining”. Well, I found my silver lining during the coronavirus.

I retired 5 years ago with a very long “to do” list and had many ideas on how I was going to enjoy all my new free time. After the first two weeks of just relaxing, I got to work on my list. It wasn’t long before I got more involved in my volunteer work, which seemed to take up a lot of my time, and my to do list was getting ignored. After almost 5 years of this it became a little overwhelming. So in January of 2020 I decided I would have to cut back on my volunteer work and go back to my original plan for retirement, which was to spend more time on things I needed/wanted to do for myself. I mean I hadn’t even done a needlepoint project yet and I had a bunch that I wanted to complete.

Shortly after making the decision to cut back, the coronavirus hit. Now I had no choice but to stay home, and boy did I take advantage of that time. I’ve read several books, I’ve built many puzzles, I’ve gotten quite a few items checked off my to do list, but sadly found out that my eyes are not as sharp as they once were for needlepoint so I have to use a magnifying glass (but I still started a needlepoint project).

So except for the fact that this virus has made me nervous for my friends and family who have to be out in the world trying not to get infected, I have enjoyed my time at home doing all the things I wanted to do when I retired. I am very aware that my volunteer work is also important. So when we get back to “normal”, I will work on a better balance between volunteer time and “me” time.

Dee Tori

Silver Linings -

Our weekly “Lakeland Today” blog last month asked for people to sign up for Penpals chosen randomly, from several of our sister cities in NC and TN. I am 71 and got assigned a young woman of 34 from Asheville NC. Who’d a thunk that we’d share so much in common. She is a Christian, she loves to travel and she loves clowns! If you know me, they are all right up my alley. I hope to meet up with her in 2021.

Blessings to ya’all from Florida. Sandy Rekemeier



**Family continue to provide us with moments of joy and thanksgiving. Our grandson-in-law, Daniel, finished his residency in dentistry school and is now practicing in the Richmond, VA, area. He was fortunate to be able to take over a practice from someone who is retiring. We also were blessed on August 17th with the birth of our second great grandson, Leo Preston Huang. He joins our great granddaughter, Violet, who is very happy to be a big sister. As she says, “he is berry, berry small”. Bless them all and all of you our Forest Grove family. We hope to be able to actually see you all soon.
Carol and Preston**

CHURCH COOKBOOKS



What's for dinner? Tired of the same old menu? Looking for some tried and true delicious, mouthwatering culinary delights? Get ready to put on the feedbag because in November the Forest Grove Cook Book will be available for purchase. It's a collection of some of the best hash slinger/chefs in our congregation. But wait, we are still missing some! If you haven't submitted any of your favorite winning yummies, it's not too late. Susan Flanagan, our office administrator, will be collecting recipes through mid-September. You can email, send by regular mail or call and dictate your recipe over the phone. With your recipe and that of others, it truly will be a keepsake of the best of the best.

In November, the cookbooks will be on sale. This 3-ring binder collection will make wonderful gifts as well as provide new meal choices in your own home and offers the opportunity to add to the compilation. All proceeds will go toward the repair of the church steeple.

Corn Fritters

**2 cans whole yellow corn
(strained)**

Pinch salt

6 egg whites

6 egg yolks

Pinch flour

Beat the yolks

Beat the whites

Add Flour

Add Yellow corn

Cook in hot canola oil till done

Size is optimal

Serve with ketchup or maple syrup

Submitted by Joan Curran

Ended July 31, 2020

FGPC FINANCIALS

Operating Fund
Seven Months Ended
July 31, 2020

Offering & Misc Income	\$	118,983
Large Fund Income		<u>13,220</u>
Total Income		<u>132,203</u>

Expenses

Pastor Compensation	55,555
Staff	29,464
Office	9,656
Music & Worship	1,698
Christian Education	677
Property	11,958
Stewardship/Finance	256
Parish Life	0
Mission	<u>3,400</u>
Total Expenses	<u>112,664</u>

2020 Operating Fund

Surplus (Deficit) 19,539

Fund Balance @ 12/31/19 38,060

Fund Balance @ 7/31/20 \$ 57,600

Capital Campaign @ 7/31/20

Pledge Receipts	<u>\$ 304,618</u>
Pledge & Non-Pledge	\$ 280,572
Construction Loan	<u>150,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 430,572</u>
Disbursements	<u>\$ 428,673</u>

Benevolence Fund

31-July-20

Balance @ 6/30/20	\$4,496
Receipts & Transfers	
Disbursements:	
Balance @ 7/31/20	<u>\$4,496</u>

It was a beautiful day to celebrate Su's birthday outside under the Maple tree. Clouds and a nice breeze kept us cool on this hot summer day.



Address updates:

**Barbara McCorkindale
P.O. Box 802
Pocono Pines, Pa 18350**



**Check our social media platforms for up to date information and pictures.
Follow and share !**

Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
ForestGrovePresbyterian-
Church/](https://www.facebook.com/ForestGrovePresbyterian-Church/)

Webpage:

www.forestgrovetchurch.org

Instagram:

Forest Grove Presb Church

September Birthdays

Amy Raab	9/1
Pete Mills	9/2
Christopher Woolslayer	9/3
Sally Wiley	9/4
Ava Ripp	9/9
Liam Hyndman	9/10
Aaron Lang	9/10
Alex Lang	9/10
Andrea Myers	9/12
Beau Bradney	9/13
Amanda Kilgore	9/18
Merrily Henley	9/18
Jesse Ruth	9/19
Leanne Yerkes	9/20
Ralph Tinari	9/22
Linda Bowers	9/23
Keegan Fullman	9/23
Sarah Lucera	9/23
Doris Elliott	9/27
Adelaide King	9/28

Blue Cheese Dip or

Salad Dressing

**4 oz. Crumbled blue cheese
8oz. Softened cream cheese
8oz. Sour cream
½ Small onion minced
1 tsp. Worchestershire sauce
Dash of salt**

**Mix ingredients together
and store in refrigerator
in covered container.**

Use promptly!

Submitted by Vini Christie



Ok everybody, while you're looking at your home-field Phillies game, you must look for Esther Welsh who is sitting in the stands (well sort of). Her photo has been submitted. Look for her in a red blazer with a Phillies pin. At 99, she will be the oldest fan in the seats !!!

Fishing - Hiking - Kayaking - Eating - Sleeping under the Stars Su and Keegan Camping



Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road
PO Box 462
Forest Grove, PA 18922

**COME
WORSHIP
with us!**



S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 0

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Schedule

**10:00 am Worship
Church Office Hours
9am-2pm (Monday- Thursday)
Phone 215-794-8575**

Pastor: Reverend Susan L. Fall

**Email: pastorsu@forestgrovechurch.org
Director of Youth and Family Ministry
and Seminary Intern: Peter Jonescu**

Seminary Intern: Ryon Herin

Music Director: Leanne Yerkes

Administrative Assistant: Susan Flanagan

**Email: office@forestgrovechurch.org
www.ForestGroveChurch.org**