

# The Focus

*Forest Grove Presbyterian Church March 2022*

## Pastor's Notes

*"...an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." -- Matthew 2:13*

Jesus' parents were forced to leave their family, home, and all their stability and flee to a foreign country to escape the wrath of a power-hungry, deranged despot. They were refugees along with the Messiah.

Today, another power-hungry, deranged despot is forcing people to flee the sanctity of their homes to become refugees in order to save their lives. The Russian attack on the Ukraine has sparked a refugee crisis the proportions of which have not been seen in this century. It is estimated that over 660,000 have fled to neighboring countries, and that number continues to rise.

Leadership from our denomination met on March 1 to discuss how the church can respond. The conversation focused on the unfolding situation within Ukraine and in bordering countries who are receiving refugees and carrying emergency supplies over the border into Ukraine as the situation there deteriorates. The decision was made to help the situation by supporting the refugees.

Jesus repeatedly taught that we are to care for those in need and now, the need is great. Our session has agreed to provide the means for anyone to financially support the Ukrainian Refugees by making a donation to the church which will then be channeled to our denomination's mission. We will do this in two ways. First, our One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be designated for this cause. Fish banks as well as offering envelopes will be distributed. The final offering will be taken on Easter Sunday.

The second way to give is to make a donation at any time between now and Easter Sunday. Please indicate that your donation is for Ukrainian refugees. We will send these gifts to the denomination for distribution once a week until Easter.

I have heard from many who are feeling great distress over this situation as am I. Remember, God cares for all God's children and therefore has not forsaken the Ukrainians. May the Spirit move us all to compassion and love as we follow in the ways of Jesus during this crisis. Pray for peace. Hold fast to the goodness of God whose steadfast love endures forever. Be the light of Christ in this dark hour.

Yours in Christ's service,

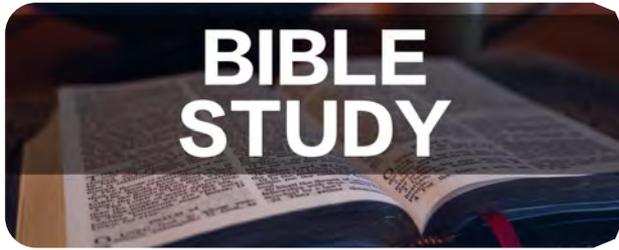


*Pastor Sue*



## **MIDWEEK LENTEN COMMUNION SERVICES**

Each Wednesday morning throughout Lent there will be a Communion service. This brief half-hour service begins at 11:30 AM both in-person and on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> **Meeting ID: 127 591 875** or by phone: **301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782**. Please provide your own communion elements of bread and juice if you are joining from home otherwise elements will be provided in the church. Following the service, all are invited to join in a time of fellowship. Bring your lunch or a cup of coffee. This is a way to take a mid-week pause to remember and share in God's steadfast love.



## **THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

A new study has begun. Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a truly epic story. Whether you've read the novel, seen the Broadway musical, heard its soundtrack, or seen the several screen adaptations, you already know the power in the story. In the six-week Lenten study the group will dive into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo's story. The discussion will bring the group to the intersection of Church and Pop Culture by drawing parallels between the iconic story and musical and our Christian calling, inspiring both an understand of our faith and how to live it out in the world.

The study is held each Thursday evening 7:00 on Zoom:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875. Contact Pastor Su if you have any questions.

## **FAREWELL TO JASON GORDON, OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR**

It was only a short while ago when we were welcoming Jason to our congregation. Now, due to a family health need, Jason is leaving us. Even in this short time our youth have developed an attachment to him and learned a great deal from him. He will be missed, but we wish him well. Jason's last Sunday with us is March 13<sup>th</sup> before he moves to Allentown, PA. We know that wherever he is, God goes with him. God bless you, Jason!

As a new Youth Director is sought, Missi Dell'Orefice will continue to volunteer with the group and Pastor Su will step in to also provide leadership.

# PER CAPITA OF THE PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA

*We invite you to participate in Christ's work  
as we sustain our shared witness*

## \$30.00

### 2022 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION PER MEMBER



**\$18.62 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION**  
to support Presbytery  
infrastructure necessary  
for shared ministries in  
Philadelphia, Delaware, Bucks,  
and Montgomery Counties



**\$2.40 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION**  
to the Synod, which consists  
of 16 Presbyteries across  
Pennsylvania and parts of West  
Virginia and Ohio



**\$8.98 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION**  
to the Office of General  
Assembly, which supports our  
Synods, Presbyteries, and over  
9,000 congregations

Per Capita is the amount constitutionally required of each church per member to enable the work of the PCUSA on the local, synod, and General Assembly levels.

Every year Forest Grove Church along with every other Presbyterian Church USA congregation is asked to contribute their fair share in support of our denominations higher governing bodies. We believe we are a connectional church, tied together in faith and practice. We gain strength from each other. It allows us to be in ministries that no single church could accomplish. Our higher governing bodies provide leadership and support to local congregations.

Members of the congregation are asked to please consider give your apportionment support by donating \$30 for the per capita assessment. Our assessment is \$3,900.00. Please help cover this cost, if you are able so that it isn't necessary to use money from our operating budget.



## **Fight Against Hunger Contest**

**All are challenged to bring in food items to be donated to the Doylestown Food Pantry.**

### **Be part of a team!**

**Create a team that will work together to purchase food items to be donated. Teams can be as small as 1 but not larger than 8. Name your team. Create a team logo. Have fun!**

### **Prizes will be awarded for donations.**

**Prizes will be awarded for the following:**

- v Most balanced food group items**
- v Most coupons used**
- v Most green (the color) items**
- v Most items using all the letters of the alphabet (first letter)**
- v Largest pile of items**
- v Most items found in the Bible**
- v Heaviest pile of food**

**Please bring all items to the church on Sunday morning, April 10 before worship. The Youth Group will serve as judges and deliver all items to the food pantry once prizes are awarded.**

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## **FOOD BANK DONATIONS NEEDED:**

Protein: Canned meats such as tuna, chicken, and salmon. Beans, canned or dried. Split peas and lentils. Peanut butter.

Grain: Pasta, rice, or quinoa. Oatmeal or breakfast cereals (whole grain or low sugar).

Dairy: Shelf stable milk, non-fat dried powder milk, or dry-grated Parmesan cheese.

Prepared meals: Pasta sauces, stews, canned pasta, baked beans, or Mac & Cheese. Chunky soups.

Fruits: Canned fruit in its own juice or 100% fruit juice.

Vegetables: Especially carrots, potatoes, yams, or tomatoes.

Baking goods: Cake mix, flour, or sugar.

Fresh Produce that does not require refrigeration, like onions, garlic, oranges, carrots, potatoes, sweet potatoes, apples, pears, or bananas.

Other items: Olive oil, canola oil, broths, lemon juice, or vinegar. Spices such as pepper, cinnamon, oregano, parsley, or chili powder.

Healthy snacks. Ketchup, mayo, or salad dressings.



## **BLANKET-MAKING GROUP**

Each Wednesday right after lunch (about 12:30) a group has been gathering and making blankets, knitted, crocheted or fleece, that are to be given to Doylestown Hospital for hospice or cancer patients. As they see it, it is a way to blanket others in the love of God. Some in the group are quite skilled in this craft while others are learning. All are enjoying one another's company as well as providing care for those who can surely use it. Any and all are welcome to join this mission even if it is from the comforts of your own home. The blankets will be blessed during worship and then sent to their new home.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 27 – July 1



We are getting ready for what will be an epic adventure this summer for our children, pre-k – 6<sup>th</sup> graders. For the first time we will be joining with The Anchor Presbyterian Church. This joint venture will be held each day, 9:00 – noon. Registration will begin on March 14 on the church website or call the church office. Adult help is also needed. Talk with Pastor Su if you can lend a hand.

## YOUTH ADVENTURE CAMP July 11-15



It's time to sign up for Adventure Camp! This year it is being extended to all rising 7<sup>th</sup> – high school graduates. Each day will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 4:00 PM. Please bring a lunch each day. The cost for the week is \$50 but scholarships are available. Enrollment is limited to 10 and friends are welcome. Contact Pastor Su or the church office to sign up.

# SAVE-THE-DATE!

## JULY 24-27, 2022

### **SUMMER YOUTH TRIENNIUM IS HAPPENING BUT IS MODIFIED**

This summer was to have been the year of the national gathering of youth called Triennium (it happens every three years). The pandemic has led the national leadership team to cancel this year's event. But wait, an exciting alternative has been planned by our presbytery. Instead of going to Indianapolis, our youth are invited and encouraged to travel with the presbytery's delegation to the annual Youth Conference at Montreat, NC. It's being called "Triennium 2.0 at Montreat" and Pastor Su is one of the co-leaders organizing and attending the trip. The dates are July 23 – 30, 2022.

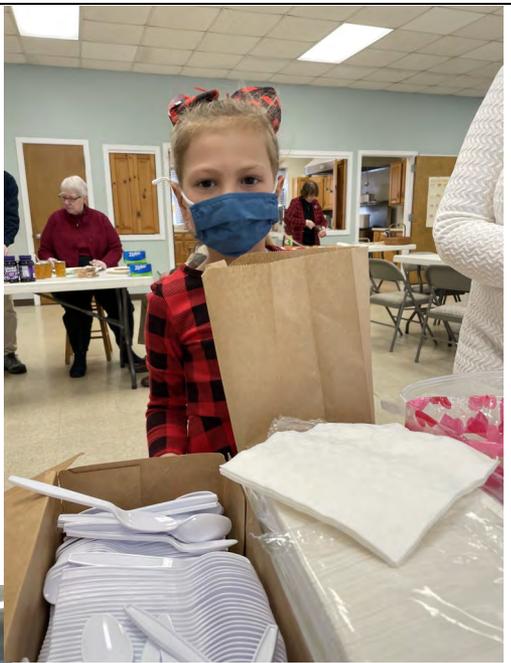
Montreat is one of the two large conference centers owned by our denomination. Nestled in the mountains of North Carolina, it will host over 1,200 youth from around the country that week. In addition to worship and discussion groups (with lots of active learning), led by nationally acclaimed leaders, there will be plenty of outdoor recreation opportunities – planned and free time. Youth will be able to take advantage of the natural resources of hiking trails and Lake Susan (named after our pastor?) for paddle boating and canoeing. There is also a pool.

The cost for what will be a life-enriching and memorable experience is only \$350 due to heavy subsidizing from our presbytery. An information event is being held on March 20, 3:00 – 7:00 at First Presbyterian Church of Germantown. The Youth Group will be traveling there together to learn more about it that day. Dinner will be provided. More information will be sent to youth group families or you can talk with Pastor Su as she has the inside track on the trip.

*We just couldn't  
Do this without  
Volunteers and  
People Like  
YOU!!*



**SOUPER  
BOWL  
SUNDAY**



*Turning Hunger into Hope*





## SCOUT TROOP 71

This year we are celebrating Scout Sunday on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Fourteen youth and five adult leaders will assist Pastor Su with the service. It is a Sunday to remember the gift of Scouting to our young people and observe how their core values overlap with those of our Christian faith.

The weekend of March 11-13 the troop will once again camp out behind the church for their Patrol Olympics. Please keep them in prayer and let's hope it's a little warmer than their last camp out when there was a winter snow storm. Check out the photos.

At their recent meeting, Cub Scouts who are ready to move into Boy Scouts were invited to check out our troop. There were over a dozen potential new recruits. It is a testimony to the outstanding leadership of the adults and the Scouts as well as the parent volunteers. The troop meets each Monday evening. Contact Terry Holton, our liaison with the troop, if you have any questions or would like to know how you can help.







**Forest Grove Presbyterian Church  
Bell Choir**



Sue Lewis - Director  
Martha Greenwood  
Sally Thiessen  
Leanne Yerkes  
Paul Wachtendorf

Donna Jencks  
Missi Dell'Orefice  
Courtney Woodslayer  
Charlie Dell'Orefice

As announced in the bulletin, the handbell choir has restarted with this smiling group of ringers. This is a wonderful way to fellowship with others while learning, laughing, and enjoying each other's company. There is always room for one, two, or three more ringers with no previous experience necessary. Anyone is welcome to come to a rehearsal to see what it is all about. The rehearsals are Monday evenings at 7 pm and last about an hour. You will be seeing and hearing the choir ring very soon.





Dolores Albert	3/1	Terry Holton	3/20
Mary Bode	3/1	Craig Jencks	3/22
Duke Ripp	3/2	Eloise Hyndman	3/27
Hailey Guarracino	3/6	Shane Ledyard	3/27
Brad Sanders	3/10	Rick Wiggins	3/28
Richard Wright	3/11	Regina Guarracino	3/30
James Conner III	3/12	Gail Shaffer	3/30
Sally Thiessen	3/15	Evin Kimbel V	3/31

#### **Elder of the Month:**

Terry Holton

#### **Deacon of the Month:**

Marilyn Cook

#### **New Addresses:**

Ryon Heron  
101 Church Street  
Rockaway, NJ 07866

Amy and Lisa Ruhf/Brien  
1130 Florida Street, Apt. B  
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

### **Carillon March 2022 Schedule**

The carillon plays each day at 12 noon and at 6:00 in the evening and plays 3 different selections each time

**March 6 In Honor of Scouting**

**March 13 In memory of Alice Gilbert**

**March 20 In memory of Martin Klair**

**March 27 In memory of Watson F. Rockafellow**

**Operating Fund**

For the month Ended  
January 31, 2022

**FGPC FINANCIALS Ended January 31, 2021**

<b>Offering &amp; Misc Income</b>	\$	49,618
Large Fund Income		<u>1,976</u>
Total Income		\$ 51,594

**Expenses**

Pastor Compensation		7,672
Staff		4,032
Office		955
Music & Worship		92
Christian Education		30
Property		3,750
Stewardship/Finance		125
Parish Life		0
Mission		0
Other		<u>0</u>
Total Expenses		\$16,656

**2021 Operating Fund**

**Surplus (Deficit)** 34,938

Fund Balance @ 12/31/21 71,217

Fund Balance @ 1/31/22 \$ 106,155

**Capital Campaign @1/31/22**

Pledge Receipts		<u>\$ 304,618</u>
Pledge & Non-Pledge		\$ 425.00
Construction Loan		<u>0.0</u>
Total		<u>\$ 425.00</u>
Disbursements		<u>\$ 0.00</u>

**Benevolence Fund**

**1-January-22**

Balance @ 12/31/21		\$ 4,734
Receipts & Transfers		
Disbursements:		
Balance @ 1/31/22		<u>\$4,734</u>

# Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road

PO Box 462

Forest Grove, PA 18922

*All are Welcome*

**M A R C H**

**2 0 2 2**

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](mailto:pastorsu@forestgrovechurch.org)

Music Director: Leanne Yerkes

Director of Youth Ministry: Jason Gordon

Administrative Assistant: Susan Flanagan

Email: [office@forestgrovechurch.org](mailto:office@forestgrovechurch.org)

[www.ForestGroveChurch.org](http://www.ForestGroveChurch.org)