



August 2017 Newsletter

# Fremont United Methodist Church

*We seek to share the joy of God's love so that all might live with dignity and purpose.*

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## Leonard Cohen and Utah

Rolling down a California Freeway, listening to Leonard Cohen's London concert, my mind wanders and meanders and a wailing saxophone solo brings Peter's anguish to mind and the refrain "that's how the light gets in" causes me to think of the light that split the heavens that first Christmas Eve (and how the light of God has sparked through the cracks over the eons). I don't know that these highway thoughts will mature to anything, but they do remind me that a mind set free makes room for other deeper ruminations.

Gazing up at the towering wind-crafted sandstone structure known as The Three Gossips of Arches National Park, I'm reminded of the cosmic scale of things and "who is humankind that You are mindful of them." I'm awestruck and humbled.

We all need space in our lives but it's hard to come by. You all gave me a great gift and I want you to know how grateful I am.

We integrated vacations into our working lives for a reason. But we don't have to wait for vacations to be gifted with inspirations (great or small). They're the fruit of quieting, of evicting rapid-fire listing and solving and inventorying, and connecting with that exercise that draws us into *unthinking* spaciousness where another Voice can claim our attention and the Light of inspiration can shine through.

I wonder if I were more intentional about entering these moments of reflection I'd discover that I've reason to wail like Peter for the ways in which I betray the life Christ offers me. Or, that I'd be ignited by some insight that, if enacted, could effect something important. What are my missed confessions? my shunned obediences? What might my life look like, really, if I spent just a little more *unthinking* time, giving the Spirit of God space to speak? I ponder this in light of the role I have as your pastor and how I might better serve you (and God!).

You know how often we see folks gathered together, each of them busily tapping on their cell phones, not attending to each other? I wonder if that isn't how I appear to God. There God is, sitting right beside me and I with my head down, my eyes focused, my fingers tapping away on that little rectangular device, oblivious to who it is would like a word.

As we gear up again to attend to the things we've committed to as a church, I'm making a commitment to you: to set aside more frequently that "phone" of distraction in favor of *unthinking* space so that God, more frequently, can get a word in edgewise.

I look forward to being with you all again--and excited to discover what's in store for us as a community.

## SERVICE & MISSION



### **Northeast Emergency Food Bank**

Thanks to Prineet Pottmeyer, George Sacks, Marilyn Mauch and Beth Skillern for helping out 64 families at the food pantry in July. HEY FREMONT YOUTH (and your parents) - you are on deck for helping out on August 26th. Marilyn Karr and Les Wardenaar will be there also and they will need your help. Email Jeff Michel for details on the when and where. For that matter, anyone else interested? Let me know!

### **Fremont Trip to the Holy Lands: May 2018**

The Fremont Holy Land Team is planning to meet on the second Sunday of each month, starting August 13, following Worship. We will be discussing all the details of our trip including dates, itinerary, and fundraising. Please join us if you are interested in going on this adventure, want to support those who are going, or just want more information!

### **Portland Backpack**

It's finally happened! Your 'child', the Northeast Portland Backpack Lunch Program has grown up into -Portland Backpack- and has moved out of the house. Portland Backpack is now an independent nonprofit organization!

It's like parenting when you do such a good job that your child is ready to be on their own. It's a sad and happy thing when our child grows up and moves away. That's what we wanted all along, but the house seems a little quiet.

In the nine years of Backpack being a program of Fremont United Methodist Church hundreds of congregants have contributed, time, talent and treasure. Under Marilyn Mauch's visionary leadership more than 25 people from Fremont UMC volunteered on a regular schedule with the Backpack program, giving hundreds of hours each year. We have stored food bins here at the church, had packing events after church with whole families helping out, had our bookkeeping handled by the office, and been given solid advice and support by church members.

Obviously, Portland Backpack would not exist on its own without Fremont UMC guiding it. Just because Portland Backpack is out on its own now, that doesn't mean that there is no relationship. Fremont should proudly proclaim their role in birthing Portland Backpack! At Portland Backpack we hope that you will still be there for us! We still have 20+ Fremont UMC people as volunteers. We like having you help us pack lunch sacks! Our official address is the church. We store our full bins in the fellowship hall. We hope that you keep an eye on what we are doing and that you continue to contribute your time, talent and treasure.

Cheer us on, and be there with advice and support! Congratulations on raising this self-sufficient organization, let's all celebrate!

## FUN & FELLOWSHIP



### **The WaySide Sunday Cycling Event**

The WaySide and the WaySide Outside, hosted an all church event Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup>. We provided a BBQ lunch for all, and then a group of people decorated their bikes, and rode on the Portland Sunday Parkways cycling route.

What fun! It was great to enjoy a picnic on our front lawn and participate in a community event as a group.

Why was this event chosen by The WaySide and Outside team? Because two of our four focus areas are to be more connected to our neighborhood, and as a community at Fremont UMC. We got to do both at once! As a missional intentional community we are paying attention to "The Art of Neighboring". Some of the goals include being visible and active in neighborhood events. It was a joy to have the support of our Outside Team. They did much of the work by contributing the side dishes and helping with set-up and clean-up. Those of us 'inside' are incredibly thankful for this team!

There is more to come as we learn what it means to be neighbors here on Fremont!

**The four focus areas are:**

- Fremont UMC; building community and giving added value
- Connecting ourselves and Fremont to our neighborhood
- Personal development
- Service opportunities together

**The WaySide Outside** is a group of Fremont UMC people who are walking alongside the WaySide community. They are partners in the experiment to see what being an intentional missional community means.

**Thank You, Wayside!**

Thank you to the members of the Wayside Community, and all the others who helped with a wonderful bar-b-cue on our Fremont lawn. The event was a great time for Fremonters to socialize and have some tasty picnic food before the NE Portland Sunday Parkways event. As our Wayside members explained, one of their goals is to link Fremont to the wider community in meaningful and tangible ways, and the bar-b-cue certainly demonstrates that purpose. Thank you! --Kathy Elliott

**Brewpub: Save the date**

Good food, good beer, good company. That's the plan for our next brew pub discussion! Mark your calendar: Monday August 7. We meet at 6:30, usually at Columbia River Brewing, 1728 NE 40th Ave. If you'd like more information, contact Michele.

**Rock concert for all ages!**

August 20 (Sunday) 12:00-1:00pm Rock concert for all ages! We are opening our Fellowship Hall doors to our broader community for a rock 'n' roll concert featuring the local musical creations of 'FIR'. This will be on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00-1:00 pm. Save the date for a simultaneous pizza lunch after our regular Sunday service. Curious and want more information? Ask Jean Root!

**Save the Date:**

Church Camping Trip at Haystack Reservoir on

Labor Day Weekend, Sat Sept 2nd- Mon Sept 4<sup>th</sup>.

We'll have space reserved for two nights; more info to follow!

**We "Turned up the FUN!"**

FUMC has had another auction success--raising \$6500 for the church's annual budget and who knows how much FUN! Thanks from the auction organizers to those who donated items and especially events. We understand the effort, time and spirit that goes into them. Thanks also to the bidders/winners. Without you, of course, there would be no auction--and we really do appreciate your generosity. And to the Congregational Life team that prepared and managed the food, what can we say except we loved your efforts (and the popcorn and M&M's weren't bad either).

The auction is not over, of course. We have events going on weekly into October and early feedback suggests they are as much Fun as ever. Some events have some spots "open"--notably Scrabble, Pinot and Piano, the Soiree (a first for FUMC), Wine-tasting with Eric Pottmeyer, and the annual tea. So contact Les or Suzanne Wardenaar to get your name on the "list." We really would like to fill all events, not only for the fun but also for even greater contribution to the budget. Equally important, if you have not already, please pay for the events/items you signed up for by writing a check to FUMC, with "Fun-raiser" or auction on the memo line and mail to the office or put in Sunday's offering ASAP. We are doing well on "collections" but it is so much easier if we can minimize the follow-up. Ask the Wardenaaers if you need a new copy of your "statement."

So once again, thanks to all of you for helping Fremont UMC to "Turn Up the FUN!" while meeting its important financial goals. It's a great tradition.

**OTHER THINGS OF NOTE**

**In Memoriam**

We mourn the death of Norma Miller, who died on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. A service was held on Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Patricia Kessel officiated.

If you'd like to follow the Millers on their yearlong sailing journey, please go to their blog site and check it out (there is also the option to sign up for weekly updates): [sailingseamonkey.com](http://sailingseamonkey.com).

**A word from your Finance Committee**

Statements reflecting your 2017 giving through June 30 were mailed this week. If you did not receive one and believe you should have, give Alan a call. It is good news that 11 % of the pledges for 2017 are paid in full and 40% are paid through the halfway mark. The remaining 49% are below the one-half year target. If your circumstances have changed and you will not be able to meet your giving pledge, please let Alan know.

The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 30 at 7 pm. The main agenda item will be our annual review of Fremont's investment accounts. As always, you are invited to attend.

**Sundays at Fremont:**

- Worship, 10 am
- Sunday School for children, beginning at 10 am (and lasting throughout the service, during summertime)
- Youth group, 4-6 pm, most Sundays. Contact the youth director at [youth@fremontumc.org](mailto:youth@fremontumc.org) for upcoming event details
- Nursery care is available during worship, as well as private space for nursing or quiet time

**August Birthdays**

2—Amelia A.	15—Eileen W.
3—Tim R.	16—Dave L.
6—Mary K.	17—Macie Jo S.
7—Sarah A.	18—Nicole W.
7—Paul B.	19—Ani S.
9—Cassandra A.	20—Jarod J.
9—Megan L.	21—Maren R.
10—Jeffery P.	21—Marilyn M.
10—Colin T.	25—Beth S.
10—Scott M.	26—Janet E.
10—Ginger J.	26—Liezl R.
10—Betty P.	27—Elin B.
10—Diane R.	27—Shawn L.
13—Janet O.	29—Cory R.
14—Lilly S.	

**FREMONT UMC MINISTRY TEAM**

Ministers	All the People
Pastor	Linda Quanstrom
Director of Music	Lynn Rognsvoog
Music Assistant	Janet Orjala
Director, Children & Youth Ministries	Jarod Jacobs
Childcare	Béatrice Kanyandekwe
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper	Alan Silver
Custodian	Patricia Bailey
Office Hours: 11:00am - 5:00pm Monday through Thursday	
Monday is the pastor's scheduled day off.	