

Fremont United Methodist Church

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

Toast with Forgiveness on the Side Please

Ever done anything which you thought was unforgivable? Peter did. He betrayed Jesus when he swore he wouldn't no matter how bad things got. But he did. And at that very moment Jesus turned and looked at Peter.

*Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about."
And immediately, while he was still speaking, a cock crowed.
And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. (Luke 22:60,61)*

Can we imagine how Peter felt? Oh, the wrenching anguish--to realize, in an instant, what kind of person you really are and also, what kind of person it is you've just betrayed.

And he went out and wept bitterly. (Matthew 26:75)

Ever been forgiven for something you thought was unforgivable. Peter was. The account of this is in a beautiful encounter recorded in John 21.

Jesus stands ready to serve a breakfast of forgiveness to each and every one of us too.

"Come and have breakfast," he said to them (John 21:12)

"Come and have breakfast," he says to us.

There were several days between the time Peter betrayed Jesus and was overtaken by bitter tears and the morning Jesus invited him to embrace forgiveness. I don't think it would be too far afield to image that Peter did a lot of soul searching in that post-betrayal time. That betrayal forced him to recognize his cowardice--to see himself in unflinching, honest light.

The time he spent reflecting on his betrayal and the aspects of his own nature that led to it was a time of repentance. Peter needed to come to terms with his weakness and brokenness. The self-awakening and reflection that followed his denial, the regret that engulfed him after it, activated a desire to be something--someone--better. Peter had had a good bit of time to ponder all of what he'd done (and other things as well) before he met up with Jesus on the shore that morning. He was bowed, he was humbled. And he was ready to become the new, redeemed person Jesus knew him to be. He was ready for his own sort of resurrection.

That's the purpose of Lent. The wise forebears of our faith knew that it is essential to our spiritual wellbeing to take time to look honestly at who we are; how it is we fall short of the glory of God. This reflection and the prayer and abstinence that facilitates it is meant to take us to a posture of repentance. Our repentance allows God to speak forgiveness to us and the realization that we are truly forgiven allows us to see ourselves as God sees us and to excite us to live into that blameless, fruitful, joy-filled life God intends for us.

Lent prepares us for Easter resurrection.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'LH'.

WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL FORMATION



Invitation to Woodlawn MIC

Though Woodlawn United Methodist is no longer a brick and mortar church, that doesn't mean they have stopped their work in the community. The church has become a well-known community center in northeast neighborhood for the large number of people of color who call that area home, now known as Woodlawn Multicultural Impact Collective – Woodlawn MIC. The Woodlawn MIC was designed to amplify voices of color in the community and it involves people outside of the church. In October they hosted their first Open MIC night to showcase the poetry of people of color. Now, every first and third Sunday from 6-8pm, MIC hosts an open-mic focused on the voices of the community, and you are always invited to join! Come celebrate and share in the voices of the Woodlawn community, and support their efforts to amplify those voices!

Christena Cleveland Video

is available on the conference web site. Some of you who were not able to attend the forum on Feb 3 have asked if there would be a tape and Yes, there is! The link is

<https://www.umi.org/faithjusticereconciliation>

***Disunity in Christ* Book Discussion**

Pastor Q is hosting two conversations on Christena Cleveland's book, *Disunity in Christ*. One session was postponed due to weather and is rescheduled for Tues, Mar 6. The second session is 10:00 am, Thurs, Mar 8.

Maundy Thursday

will be a Tenebrae service this year; sometimes called the service of darkness or service of shadows. It is a service wherein the light is gradually extinguished to mark the crucifixion and death of Jesus. We will be reading the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of John, interspersed with congregational song. This service draws us into the shadow of the cross but it also readies us for the light of the open grave.

The What and Why of an Easter Vigil

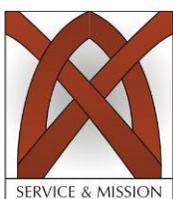
Easter Vigil, also called the Paschal Vigil or the Great Vigil of Easter, is a service held in Christian churches as the first official celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Historically, it is during this service that people are baptized. It is held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day and is the first celebration of Easter.

Within more liturgical denominations the Vigil is the most significant service of the Christian year. Since the Methodist church had origins that were less liturgical, the Easter Vigil has often been overlooked within our Passion Week observances. But this service has ancient, first century origins, has been observed by Christians throughout the eons, and is movingly beautiful and warrants a place in our practice.

So far as we know, this is the first time the Vigil has been observed at Fremont and in this, our first observance, we will have the privilege of baptizing two adults and one child and we will also be honored to witness six other adults reaffirm their baptisms. We all of the Sacramental Living group pray you will participate in this service and celebrate with us the first light of the resurrection.

The service is **7:00 pm, Saturday, March 31.**

SERVICE & MISSION



NE Emergency Food Bank

Thank you to Scott Overton, George Sacks and their daughter, Beth Skillern and Tracy Bardell for their help with 68 families in February at the pantry. On deck for March 24th are Laurel & Nathan Cambell, Diane Rheos, Trina & Allen Leschber and Prineet Pottmeyer.

Gun Violence Forum After Church March 11

We are witnessing something that could be momentous right now: the clear, articulate call from the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School to take action to address school shootings. They are calling on legislators specifically but their call extends to all of us. They are pleading with their society to examine its attitudes, values and policies with regard to fire arms.

We think we should heed these young people and consider ways to amplify their voices and efforts. We're putting out a call to you of our church family to tell us what ideas you have for how we might go about this. To that end, we are scheduling a forum following worship on Sunday, March 11. The purpose of the forum will be to identify possible ways to support these Florida youths and to educate ourselves about the Second Amendment as interpreted by the Supreme Court. This will not be a forum to argue positions.

If you can't attend March 11, please feel free to respond to this email privately with your comments. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,
The members of your Ministry Council

Other events in which you may wish to participate include a National School Walkout for 17 minutes at 10 am on March 14 (closest location to FUMC is Beaumont Middle School) and March for Our Lives, below.

March for Our Lives, Mar 24

Some Fremonters plan to participate in this national event (that begins 10AM in Waterfront Park), and if others are interested in joining them we will work out car pooling. Please contact the church office: 503-284-4647 or office@fremontumc.org.

Portland Backpack Update

Thank you for all of the ways that Fremont UMC makes it possible for Portland Backpack to provide food sacks for 330 children at risk of hunger each weekend. You know that the program you created is about more than food. On March 4th Fremont Community Outreach is hosting a family community packing event. We want our neighbors to know that they can join us in service even if they don't come to church with us on Sunday. We will be sharing a meal of the same food we are packing and then work side-by-side with our neighbors to pack some healthy meals. Portland Backpack is now officially a 501c3 nonprofit. We have just received our IRS determination letter!

Would you like to help? We need:

Healthy Smiles lead to collect the dental supplies and get them packed.

Scott School coordinator; keep track of deliveries.

If interested, contact Diane Rheos.

A Special Help Day on Sun, Mar 18

Come to church in your work clothes with yard tools in hand and stay after worship to help us spruce up our grounds in preparation for Easter. We'll have snacks available. Thank you, your Trustees



Special Thanks

To all of you who have served this congregation in some way, great or small, we thank you.

If you know someone you would like to see recognized in this Thank You box next month, email office@fremontumc.org!



FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Fremont United Methodist Women

The next meeting of the Fremont United Methodist Women will be on Wednesday, March 21 at 10 a.m. in the home of Trina Leschber. The program will be given by Dorothy Stoudt. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Fremont UMC Green Dinner

The Fremont UMC Youth Group will be hosting their annual Green Dinner on Saturday, March 17 from 5:00pm-7:00pm. The event will take place in the Fellowship Hall and will include a silent auction, a fantastic meal provided by Fremont's finest junior chefs, and a live auction to wrap up the evening, hosted by our youth emcees!

All of the proceeds from this wonderful evening of fellowship and food will go toward sending our children and youth to Camp Magruder this Summer. The Fremont community has been blessed with rising interest from our children and youth to form personal relationships with the Lord. One way to provide them with a sacred and safe atmosphere to do so is to allow them the opportunity to have the same "camp experience" that formed many of our spiritual journeys. Magruder is an exceptional place to have this experience because it is accessible to all ages. Our children who have completed grades 1-2 are invited to attend the mini camp, which only goes for half a week while children who have completed 3rd-12th grades will be able to attend the full week of camp within their own age ranges. Fremont expects to see between 15-20 children and youth show interest in attending camp this year, which is an incredibly exciting prospect, but it certainly means that we need to raise funds to assist in making it possible for all of them to attend.

I have chosen to provide our children and youth with the camp experience because of the significant impact it can have on their lives. Through the lasting connections that are made, the biblical themes that are explored, and the spiritually moving experiences that are had, camp has a unique ability of shaping a child's spirituality. I have never found a happier, more sacred place.

Blessings,
Tanner Morton
Director of Children/Youth/Family Ministries

Pancake Breakfast to Kick Off Holy Week

Please come to church a little earlier than usual on March 25th because some of the men of the church will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast. We will have pancakes and sausages and some fruit and will be ready to serve you as early as 8:45 AM and will have to finish up about 9:45 AM so you can all make it in time to services at 10! We are not asking for any definite entry fee but would welcome your donations to help pay for the cost of the meal as well as add to the offering if we bring in more than the cost.

"Street Roots" Comes to Fremont

"Street Roots," the Portland-produced newspaper sold on street corners, will soon be available in the Fremont narthex before and after services. The new Advocacy for Equity and Justice team is making the paper available starting Sunday, March 4. You can consider a copy "complimentary," but there will be a small donation bowl in case you do want to cover the \$1.00 purchase price.

"Street Roots" has won a variety of journalistic awards for its 3-4 in-depth features and editorials each week, articles that typically deal with equity and justice issues such as housing and homelessness, hunger, racial discrimination, and the environment. Puzzles, games, and poetry, sometimes very moving poetry, complete the paper's feature set. Take a copy home and give it a "good read."

The paper is excellent in itself, but its more important feature is that it represents an opportunity for its street vendors to earn a living. Vendors purchase the paper for \$.25 and sell it for \$1.00, keeping the margin as income (buyers often offer more than the \$1.00 but that is not required and too much excess can seem condescending or demeaning). So think of the vendors you encounter as entrepreneurs and treat them accordingly. They are not asking for a "hand-out" and their work is not easy considering the weather and sometimes threatening street conditions. None get rich, of course, but most are self-supporting and your purchase makes that possible.

The paper's availability at Fremont is a pilot project that hopefully will blossom into the presence of an actual vendor after the service (starting in April after Easter). We have tentatively invited (contingent on the support shown by Fremonters) a particular vendor and we will include a feature on him in next month's Fremonter. We are confident you will enjoy his presence when Fremont hopefully joins other Congregations in the "interfaith Alliance on Poverty" in offering this opportunity.

A WORD FROM FINANCE

The Finance Committee will be meeting on Monday March 19.

FREMONT UMC MINISTRY TEAM

Ministers	All the People
Pastor	Linda Quanstrom
Director of Music	Lynn Rognsvoog
Youth & Family Ministries Program Director	Tanner Morton
Music Assistant	Janet Orjala
Childcare	Béatrice Kanyandekwe
Administrative Assistant	Meg Hall
Bookkeeper	Alan Silver
Custodian	Patricia Bailey

Office Hours: 9:00am - 2:00pm Monday through Thursday
Monday is the pastor's scheduled day off.