

Fremont United Methodist Church

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

Pray for the
Feb 23-25 Special General Conference
of the United Methodist Church

Mark your calendars for
Ash Wednesday, March 6
Green Brunch, April 10
Americanah Book Discussion, April 11

Communing Across the Divide

We love our individualism. We of the USofA hold it as a precious thing: the freedom be *self*-determined--to be able to pursue our interests and express our preferences without interference from others (so long as we don't interfere with them). And there's merit to this kind of freedom, to be sure. It certainly encourages creativity and innovation.

Individualistic self-determination is good yet so is collaborative community. These two things are in tension, though, and they are, in their extreme, mutually exclusive.

And when either is practiced in the extreme dark things emerge. Right now, we're in an extreme expression of individualism: identity politics we call it wherein we gravitate to people we perceive to be just like us—who affirm our rendition of what it means to be an individual, an individual in company with like individuals. Some might think this a good thing. Some might think this is collaborative community. It is not.

Collaborative community is an amalgam of diverse individuals who join together for a common goal. Individuals within such community effort must often subvert their own interests for the sake of the community. They must also embrace the company of people with whom they have little in common.

Our penchant for individualism has overshadowed our affection for collaboration with the result that we as a people are spinning in an ever-narrowing circle.

I believe the challenges we face as a society present an important opportunity for people of faith. The three great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam call their adherents to community. Our God asks us to keep our private interests in check for the sake of the greater good. I believe these me-above-all times call us to rise to our full height as Christians and lead the way, set the tone, radiate a model of radical-yet-joyful cooperativeness, of true greater-good living.

To make this so, though, we are going to need to take the initiative and reach across the divides we see and seek fellowship with people with whom we disagree: people who hold a theology in conflict with ours, people who hold political views in conflict with ours, people who live in economic circumstances different from ours. I wish I could lay out a specific map for this, but I think it might be a matter of each of us lowering our filters, shelving our preconceptions and purposely seeking out fellowship with unlikely friends.

Some of you may already have done this. If so, I invite you to share your experience (whatever it was) with us all. We can make room in the newsletter for your story—what you learned, what we could learn from your experience. The adjustments you made to reach out might identify some we'd like to make as a congregation. Let's not do this in a private individualistic way, let's do it in a public communal way. It could yield a compelling dimension to what it means to live by faith—a full-height faith, other-embracing faith, greater-good yielding faith.

Yours, in the fellowship of Christ,



WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Prayers for the Special General Conference

This is the Conference that will weigh our best way forward with respect to the matter of Inclusion. As most of you know, there are deeply held beliefs on both sides of this question making reconciliation difficult. Let us pray that each and every delegate will be willing to be good listeners to each other, respectful in debate, and in prayerful discernment for God's guidance. And pray that God will prepare us for the outcome. Thank you, Pastor Q

A Study of the Book of Acts

There's so much more to this book than most of us know. We can recite the highlights but it's a story of great depth with insights particularly suited to our day and times. Rev David Weber will lead this study, offering two sessions for 6 weeks: evening sessions began Tuesday, Jan 15 at 7:00 pm and a day-time session began Sunday, Jan 20 following worship at 11:00am. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Native American "First Foods" presentation at Fremont and Great Spirit United Methodist

Women's Joint Meeting, Saturday, February 23rd

Linda Meanus' presentation starts sometime between 10:30 and 11:00 am in the Sanctuary- ALL ARE INVITED!

Fremont and Great Spirit United Methodist Women (UMW) are holding a joint gathering on Saturday, February 23 at Great Spirit Church (3917 Shaver Street, Portland). Women who haven't attended a prior UMW meeting are especially invited! The meeting starts at 10:00 with refreshments, announcements, flute playing and prayer concerns! Linda Meanus will speak on the Native American "First Foods" of salmon, roots, berries, deer and elk and the key importance of Celilo Falls in the early history of Native Americans in Oregon and Washington. Everyone at Fremont and Great Spirit congregations and their friends are invited to join us for Linda's very special presentation. Ramp entrance available on NE Cesar Chavez.

You're invited to deepen your spiritual life

Covenant Groups are a way fortify your spiritual life by joining a small group of individuals who pray together and encourage one another in life's circumstances. The health and vitality of a congregation directly correlates to the spiritual depth and vitality of its members. Participating in one of these options will enrich you, and you will enrich the life of this faith community. Please contact Joanne Poff if you would like to know more: jepoff@gmail.com



SERVICE & MISSION

A BIG THANK YOU to all of you that donated gloves, hats, scarves and socks. The boys their dad and I delivered these wonderful items on Christmas day to some very grateful people. The items that were handmade were made with much love. We had some children's items left so Larry Thomas (the boys Dad) delivered them to Good Shepherd Women and children's shelter out on Halsey. Again, thank you for your generosity. It feels so wonderful to be able to share your gifts with others on Christmas day. We just completed the 8th year and look forward to continuing this outreach ministry. Thank you and blessings to all -Trudy & the Thomas brothers

Christmas Tree Sale Report

Number of Trees Sold: 1084

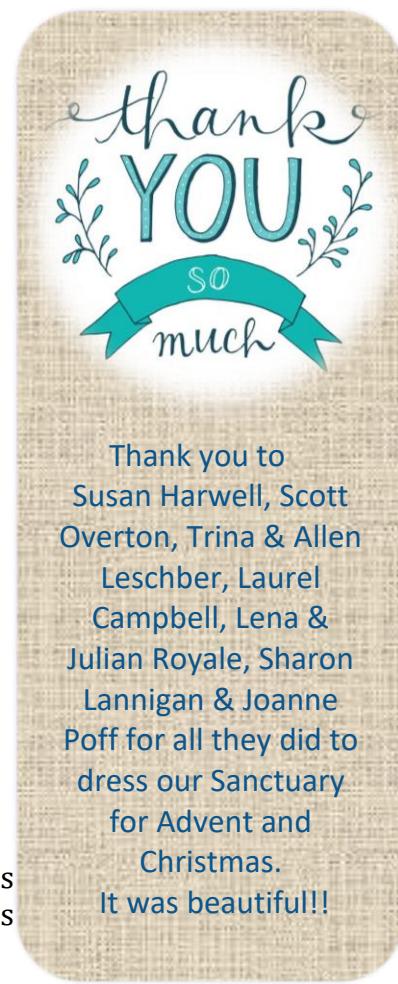
Gift to NEFP: \$2,300

To Church Budget: \$20,464

Fremonters, it is your work and support that made this possible. Thank you!

Christmas Offering

As is our tradition, a portion of the special Christmas offering is sent to one of the organizations we support. This year, \$250 was sent to the Backpack program. Thank you for your generosity!



'Lead the Way' Launch Party

A new movement is emerging in the Columbia District out of the dreams of the laity. New relationships are forming, community is being created across congregations and a new vision is taking shape. Come be part of this highly participatory event, featuring the 'World Cafe' model! Share your voice, your thoughts, your passion, and lead the way!

Registration will open January 7th, 2019.

Lunch and snacks provided. More information coming in early January.

When: February 2nd, 2019 | 10am to 2pm

Where: Oak Grove UMC 14700 SE Rupert Drive Oak Grove, Oregon 97267

NE Emergency Food Bank

Thank you to Susan Helms-Peyer and Prineet Pottmeyer for their help for 55 hungry Portlanders on 1/26/19. We had expected a greater need than those who came because of the partial federal shutdown. The suspicion is that when the government early released February SNAP benefits people used them for January. If that's the case, February could be very busy. The shelves could especially use more peanut butter, toilet paper, tooth brushes/paste and other personal hygiene products. On deck for February 23rd are Tracey Bardell, Marilyn Mauch, Scott Overton, George Sacks, Beth Skillern, and Wiki Smith. It is projected to be busy so see you and anyone else there!



FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Fremont United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will hold their March meeting on Wednesday, March 20 at 10:00 am at Trina Leschber's, 4555 NE 74th Ave. The program will be a "Good Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing", with Janet Orjala at the piano. All women are invited to attend. Contact Trina at 503-257-9342 or aleschber@aol.com if you will be attending.

Stone Soup Meet and Eat

We are an inter-generational group of Fremonters and friends who enjoy a pot luck dinner and fellowship one time per month. We are open to singles, families, young and old. Just fix a dish to share and come at 5:30 PM. All supplies will be provided. We are usually done by 7:30 PM. For more information you can contact Claudia Roberts at clarobb@juno.com. We would love to have you join us. If driving is a problem, let us know and we can pick you up. February's meeting will be held Saturday the 16th.

Americanah

Everyone is invited to an event hosted by your Fremont UMC Book Group! On Monday evening, March 11th at 7 pm, we hope many of you, plus friends and neighbors will join us at church as we discuss Portland's "Everybody Reads" choice for this year: Americanah, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche. It is a National Bestseller by a highly acclaimed author. Copies and audio books are readily available at Portland's libraries.

This is a remarkable story of a Nigerian couple fleeing to the US and UK in search of a home. The topics of immigration and racism are in our lives every day, so let us inform our experience and hopefully better understand what other people are experiencing.

Please, put this event on your calendars now, and find a copy to read!

Mark Your Calendar

For our annual Green Brunch, food, fellowship & fun fundraising for youth camp and retreats Sunday, March 10 following worship.

WANTED

Two or three people to co-chair Fremont's 2019 Basement Sale May 30, June 1 & 2. After a number of years as Co-Chairs, Janet Orjala and Paul Karr are stepping down. Janet will be moving to Washington this spring to live with her daughter and family. Paul will be traveling with family and giving his back and feet a "summer - break".

Along with the Christmas Tree Sale and the Silent Auction, the Basement Sale is a significant fund-raiser for Fremont as well as a much-anticipated annual event for the neighborhood and the greater community.

No experience is required, but good organizational and communication skills are essential as well as a willingness to have fun and work hard! With many years of experience, Janet and Paul have kept and will make available good records and calendars of the process that begins as early as mid-March with internal communication to church members and friends.

Janet has been responsible for: contacting and scheduling volunteers to work before, during and after the sale; organizing and supervising the Book Room that also includes toys and children's items, arranging for dispersal of all items remaining after the sale and offering support in other areas as needed.

Paul has been responsible for: internal and external publicity and communication; arranging for storage space of items before the week of the sale; identifying, collecting, moving and storing items from members and friends who are moving, downsizing etc. before the month of the sale; overseeing the placement and pricing of items not included in the Book Room or Clothing Room prior to the sale and assisting as needed during the days of the sale.

A third person, John Shapland, was indispensable last year in being "on-call" to assist Paul in hauling, transporting and storing items prior to and during the sale. John won't be available this year either so a replacement for him is essential.

If you even THINK you MIGHT be interested in stepping into any part of this significant fund-raising event Paul would love to hear from you. The sale is four months away, but it'll be here before we know it! Paul – 503-284-2802 paulwkarr@yahoo.com

OTHER NEWS OF NOTE

Looking for a vacant room

Curious about what's going on the church today? Looking for a room to meet? Check out our new room use board located across from the Bob Nelson room for up to date schedule of room/event bookings.

Finance Committee meets Thursday, February 21 at 7pm in the Bob Nelson Room

The Trustees will meet on Thursday, February 12 at 7pm in the Bob Nelson Room.

Ministry Council meets on Thursday, February 28 at 7pm in the Bob Nelson Room.

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	Madalyn Bach
Bookkeeper	Alan Silver
Custodian	Patricia Bailey

Office Hours: Monday 9:00am-5:00pm & Tues-Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm
Monday is the pastor's scheduled day off.