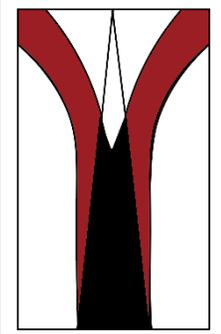


# THE FREMONTER

August  
2020



By Fremont United Methodist Church

*WE SEEK TO SHARE THE JOY OF GOD'S LOVE SO THAT  
ALL MIGHT LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND PURPOSE.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

August

7

Launch of our  
new updated  
website

August

22

Beach Day  
Orientation for  
Youth!

August

23

Everyday  
Disciples  
Youth Program  
Launch

August

30

9:30am  
Children time  
launch via  
ZOOM

September

14

Book Club  
Meets

November

9

Book Club  
Meets

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

This month's fremonter looks a little different because Jocelyn Hart, our communication coordinator has taken it over. If you want to put anything in the coming newsletters please email them to [Youth@fremontumc.org](mailto:Youth@fremontumc.org) by the second Friday of the month.

# PASTORAL GREETING

July 29, 2020

Greetings, Fremont Family:

The end of July marks the completion of my first month as your newly appointed pastor at Fremont UMC. It has been an incredible joy for me to begin to be in ministry with you, even as this start was not at all what I imagined it would be when Bishop Elaine Stanovsky first announced her intention to appoint me to Fremont back in February. Of course, I would have much preferred to be with you in person. I would have loved leading gathered worship with you in the sanctuary followed by ample time afterward for fellowship, stories and laughter. Instead, we have met weekly over ZOOM. We have worshipped on-line, each of you in your own homes with me in the empty sanctuary.

Yet, even so, I cannot help but think that God has plans for us in this “in-between time.” First, there is still deep connection between us even as we are apart. I have felt your love for each other as you greet each other before and after worship. I have experienced your care for one another as you rejoice over seeing each other’s faces. I have felt welcomed and received by you in worship and beyond. I have felt your deep call to justice as we gather on Thursdays on the sidewalk in front of the church to proclaim, “Black Lives Matter!” I believe with all my heart that God has joined us together for “such a time as this,” and even as we are apart, God is with us.

So, what if we could embrace this time of social distancing, not only as a call to keep one another physically safe and healthy, but also as an opportunity to inquire of God and each other, “what would God have us do in this particular season?” How might we steward these challenging days in ways that would bear fruit? I have called upon the Ministry Council to begin to work with me on a vision for this extended season of separation. How will we “watch over one another in love” while we are apart? How will we continue to address systemic racism in ourselves and in our city? How will we use this time away from our building to address deferred maintenance and needed renovations? How will we partner with our neighbors to be a blessing to children and families as schools remain closed until November?

In this season of separation, each of your voices will be important for me to hear. I would welcome meeting with each of you and speaking with you one-on-one, either over the phone or on ZOOM. I would love to hear how you are doing, what your life is like in these days, and how we might welcome your presence, your gifts and your service especially at this time.

As we go forward from here, may we draw near to God and to one another so that when the time comes to return to in-person worship, we will come home to one another rejoicing.

Grace and peace to you,

Pastor Erin

# NORTHEAST EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM



For years, our church community has supported the Northeast Emergency Food Program by sending a crew of volunteers to help out on the fourth Saturday afternoon of each month, even during the current public health crisis. As you can imagine, community need has increased greatly over the past months and the food bank is currently serving approximately 5,000 families per week. The need is great.

NEEFP has implemented new protocols and procedures to keep everybody safe, primarily by distributing pre-assembled food boxes to clients in a drive-through line. Clients do not exit their cars and contact with volunteers is limited to just loading the boxes into the cars.

Even with these new protocols, some of us who have health concerns of our own, or are living with somebody who is vulnerable, are unable to participate, so the number of available volunteers has dropped some. If you are healthy and so inclined, please consider volunteering at the food pantry on August 23rd or September 24th. For more information, please contact Wiki Smith at [wikismith8267@msn.com](mailto:wikismith8267@msn.com).

To donate to the Northeast Emergency Food Program, go to <https://emoregon.org/give> and choose this program name from the drop-down list.

## BOOK CLUB

We had a lively discussion of "Girl, Woman, Other" on Monday evening. Afterwards, we decided what we want to read next.

Our next book is a moving story of paradise lost and the bond between two siblings who grew up living in "The Dutch House". Ann Patchett explores questions of inheritance, love, forgiveness and identity.

We will meet to discuss it on Monday, September 14th at 7 pm. Find a copy, and start reading. Share the book with a friend and invite them as well.

For November 9th, we will read "The Nickel Boys" by Colson Whitehead. Its a recent Pulitzer Prize winner about boys sentenced to a notorious reform school in Florida during the 1960s. Whitehead also wrote "Underground Railroad", and is a voice for Black Lives Matter.



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Oregon Idaho Conference United Methodist Women

July 11, 2020

Dear Fremont UMC members, Pastor Linda, and Pastor Erin,

We on the United Methodist Women's Conference Charter for Racial Justice Committee would like to commend your church and its leadership for your advocacy for racial justice and outreach into your community. We believe that your weekly demonstrations in support of "Black Lives Matter" are an important way to stand in solidarity with our Black brothers and sisters. We rejoice in the boldness of your action.

United Methodist Women is deeply committed to the ongoing work of racial justice. Our Charter for Racial Justice Committee seeks to facilitate the implementation of the United Methodist Church's *Charter for Racial Justice*.<sup>\*</sup> The Charter states that "our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured." The Charter calls us to unite our efforts to eliminate racism by "supporting and participating in the worldwide struggle for liberation in church and community."

The action that you are taking in your weekly outreach demonstration challenges and encourages all of us to unite our efforts to continue responding to racial injustice and to examine what role we will play in ending systemic racism in our church and society. May God continue to empower you to be bold in your work for racial justice.

Blessings from all of us on the Charter for Racial Justice Committee,

**Becky Warren, Chair**

**Trudy Pollard   *Janice Stevens*   Eva Johnson**

**Judy Halverson   *Chris Mitchell*   Donna Ward**

\* <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjusticecharter>

# GIVING COUNTS

## News From Your Finance and stewardship team

We're halfway through 2020; a year filled with unexpected challenges and also opportunities for our church and community. So how are we doing financially? Below is a brief summary on income and expenses so far and our financial forecast for the second half of this year. With all of us sharing from our abundance, we are changing lives and making a difference!

### **FREMONT MID-YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30, 2020**

**INCOME: \$150,000 YTD** (53.5% of annual budgeted amount)

Pledged and regular-giving income up slightly (62-69% of annual budgeted amount; partly because 8 donors have already paid their pledge in full for 2020)

Parsonage rent and cell tower income are each current  
Building use fees are down (no current income; 34% of amount budgeted paid prior to stay-home quarantine)

**EXPENSES: \$133,000 YTD** (46% of annual budgeted amount)

Building repair and maintenance and Building capital expenditures YTD are approximately the amount budgeted for the entire year (HVAC re-placement)

Utilities are lower (42% of annual budgeted amount)

Pastor and staff are lower (43% of annual budgeted amount)

Program costs are lower (15% of amount budgeted)

**NET YTD (INCOME - EXPENSES): \$16,500**

**FORECAST (SEMI-EDUCATED ESTIMATE):** Shortfall of \$30,000 - \$35,000 year end

Income budgeted for 2020 includes approx. \$19,000 of investment income generated by endowment (that is the same amount of "shortfall" required to "balance" the budget in 2019).

Cash flow has been good so we still have not "taken" any money out of the endowment.

Income: giving typically declines in the summer months; expect giving to be slightly less than amount budgeted by end of 2020.

Income: there will be no summer "fun"-raisers (\$1,000 budgeted).

Expenses: expect amount to be about amount budgeted or slightly less.

Wild card variables: continuing impact from Covid-19; effects of capital campaign; Christmas tree sales (\$16,000 budgeted)

## **PLEASE CONTINUE TO "KEEP THE FAITH" WITH YOUR GIVING...HERE IS HOW!**

Mail a check to the office: 2620 NE Fremont St., Portland

Use the Fremont website's secure online giving platform: [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)

Send checks directly from your bank to Fremont UMC