

# *The Fremonter*



## **God Is Love!**

As a reconciling congregation Fremont UMC affirms without equivocation that all human beings, having been created in God's image and having received the breath and grace of God, are God's children.

Sexual orientation or gender identity have no bearing on one's status as a beloved child of God. Our LGBTQI+ siblings are welcomed, affirmed, and fully embraced in this faith community.

We are a church that embodies love and relentless unapologetic pursuit of equity and social justice.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Fremont UMC Women Meeting**  
February 18 at 10 am via zoom

## OPBS special about the history of Black churches and Gospel Music

February 21

### Informational Workshop on Planned Giving

March 2 at 7 pm via zoom

### Book Club Meeting

March 8th at 7 pm via ZOOM

# Pastor's Greeting

Greetings, Fremont Family:

In the month of February, the season of Lent will begin. It is hard to believe that this time last year, your Lenten season at Fremont was disrupted by a thing called a “global pandemic.” With no idea of how long it would last, you shifted to on-line worship and held the first ever virtual Holy Week services and Easter celebration. As we come upon the 1-year mark, this reality is heavy on my heart. Has it really been nearly a year? Yet, we know now what we didn’t know then, that we can and will enjoy this season of Lent together but apart.

Lent is a beautiful time of repentance and reflection, and it always begins with Ash Wednesday. This year, Ash Wednesday is on February 17, and instead of gathering in the sanctuary, we will be offering, “**Ash Wednesday at Home.**” The gift of this new way of being continues to be flexibility, simplicity and technology, and so our approach to Ash Wednesday this year will be to embrace these things. We will provide you with ashes to have at home. We will record a short devotion that will include a “thanksgiving over the ashes” with instructions on how to mark the sign of the cross on your forehead. We will post this devotion on Facebook. At your convenience and in a way that works best for you and your family, you are invited to watch the short worship and mark yourself and your family with ashes. Even in this totally transformed way, the call of this significant day remains, to “remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Also, we will be partnering with Sanctified Art again to create another powerful experience for Sunday morning worship like we did during Advent. For Lent, our theme will be “**Again and Again,**” and it will include special music, visual art and other wonderful worship components. Here is a description of

the theme from the creators at Sanctified Art: *“In Lent, we’re reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, “Again?! How long, O God?” And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: ‘I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair.’ Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.”* Gorgeous, right? I can’t wait to begin this beautiful season with you. Highlights of our partnership with Sanctified Art will include **a Lenten daily devotional that can be sent to you via email (sign-up required), an interactive Prayer Wall that we will install outside (Feb. 21), a special equity-focused Stations of the Cross experience on Good Friday, and lots of beautiful poetry, visual art and liturgy.**

Yes, it has been nearly a year since COVID began, and in many ways, we are more aware of our mortality, our vulnerability, and our sorrow more than ever. May this year we keep a Holy Lent and walk with Jesus and one another through the wilderness, through death and into new life.

Grace and peace, Pastor Erin

## Worship & Spiritual Formation

### Ash Wednesday at Home

The journey through Lent to Easter begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 17. The Worship Team is planning an Ash Wednesday service that each family, couple, single can participate in at home. We will provide a link to the service that can be accessed any time that day and ashes to be used for imposing (placing) on family members during the service. We hope that you will find this to be a meaningful worship experience.

The ashes will be available for pick up at the church on Sunday, Feb. 14 from 2 to 4. If you need to have them delivered to you, we can do that. Please email Trina Leschber at [aleschber@aol.com](mailto:aleschber@aol.com) to reserve your ashes or arrange for delivery.

### Reflections from Reckoning with Racism by David Weber

We are on land here in Alameda, on Fremont, in Portland, that has been

footstepped upon continuously by humans for at least 10,000 years, although there is heightening evidence that it may be 15,000 to 17,000 years. For me, our story here begins in a language I don't know, can't know, but am endeavoring to imagine.

It is language of **place**, of **place** that is not apart from anything else, but is a part of everything else. (Already I am defaulting to my language- the language of separate things fitting together.) This was, for many millennia, and all time before this time a **place** where there were no humans, bears, salmon, beavers, or wattoto roots, acorns, or berries. There was only **place**, a **place** where all that had been, was; a **place** where all that was, would be. Bear was beaver, was human, was fish. Acorns were trees, bushes, berries, roots. All fed the rest; and the rest were the breath, the sustenance, the memory, the tomorrow of **all that was**.

This was the **place**. The roots of all of this **place** did not reach down into the earth. Rather, all that was had risen from the earth- the soil, the waters, the rocks. And all that had risen were, inseparably the drum, the heartbeat of the place. The heartbeat that was the sound of River, of Tides, of Wind, of Fire- the sounds, the same sounds that were heard in footsteps of elk, the coyote songs, in the falling of rain and snow, and falling ash, and in silence.

I want to elaborate here a little on how I imagine a human would have seen the day, a life, a community in the **place** they had always known. And then how the white Settler who encountered this place of others would have seen the **parts** of this place- because that is how, for centuries (not millennia) they had understood the world. Those who understood how they were made in the image of a god, now encountered those who had risen from a **place**. How did they see- each the other?

For me, that question's answers, surmised as they must be, are a starting point for my further understanding of how and why we are the way we are today, and where hope may be found for tomorrow. All other American stories have been written in a language that does not regard **place** as anything other than something to be discovered, used, feared, able to be tamed, and necessarily reformed into the shapes of documents, courts, weapons of power, and contrived mythologies. To imagine (based on things we do know) those 17th and 18th Century encounters in that place gives (me) a foundation for better understanding all subsequent encounters with the others-to-come.

What place is me? Is there a place? What is the place of our country? What now is the place of Beaver, Elk, Berries, River, and Humans?

The United Methodist Women will meet on Thursday, Feb. 18 at 10:00 via zoom. We will finish off our study of *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*. Suzanne Wardenaar will lead our discussion and Jan Plummer will provide an opening devotion. All Fremont women are invited, contact Trina Leschber, 503-257-9342 for more information.

The United Methodist Women Of the OR/ID Conference are making blankets to be presented at Annual Conference 2021 and eventually given to projects that serve children in crisis. In 2020 the Fremont Women made 5 tied fleece blankets that were given to Community of Hope. If you would like to help make Fremont's contribution larger this year, feel free to crochet, knit, tie or quilt one to donate. Approximate sized wanted are 45" x 45", 45" x 60" and 56" x 84". Contact Trina Leschber if you want to know more about this project.

Are you still looking for a good daily devotional? Trina Leschber has an e-version of the Upper Room Disciplines available. The Disciplines follow the lectionary throughout the year, giving the reader time to meditate on the weekly Bible readings before they are read and talked about on Sunday. Contact Trina for the link to the devotional, [aleschber@aol.com](mailto:aleschber@aol.com).



**Again & Again**

Daily Lenten Email Devotion  
Available Now!  
To Sign up Email  
[Youth@fremontumc.org](mailto:Youth@fremontumc.org) by  
February 15th

@sanctifiedart / sanctifiedart.org



**WEEKLY FREMONT  
KIDS EVENTS**

On Sundays:  
We zoom from 9:30-9:50am

On Wednesdays:  
The YouTube channel  
and Facebook page are updated  
with kid-focused content!

## Service & Mission

### Community Outreach - Care Bags

We have quite a few individuals who come to our office to see if we can help them. One thing we can offer to each person is a pack of care items. We have just run out and need more! Donate to the fund to purchase items by

putting Care Bags in the memo field.

- hand warmers
- \$20 grocery gift card
- mini pack of wipes
- hand sanitizer
- granola bar
- toothbrush
- toothpaste

Bring purchased items to the office and give to Madelyn or Diane.  
 Packing - Friday Feb 12th at 4pm. Please register with Diane if you want to pack since we need to limit attendance.  
[DianeRheos@gmail.com](mailto:DianeRheos@gmail.com)

***“GIVING COUNTS” AT FREMONT***  
**News from the Finance and Stewardship Team**  
**January, 2021**

Many of us are wondering, as the year begins, how did Fremont do financially in 2020. It was a year of needing to quickly adapt to so many changes and to learn to deal with unpredictability. Your Finance team is happy to report that thanks to steady giving patterns, Fremont ended the year with a nearly balanced budget.

Pledged and regular giving came in at 100% of what was anticipated before the pandemic hit. That is surely a reason to offer praise and gratitude! We had slightly fewer pledgers for 2021, but we anticipate close to the same amount in giving for the coming year. About half of those who pledged were able to increase their pledge for the coming year.

Thanks to the innovations we were able to put in play, we had a safe and successful Christmas tree sales that netted \$26,000. Our customers contributed an additional \$171 to a free will offering jar. As is the tradition, we made a tithe of \$2,771 to the NE Emergency Food Program. Each tree, each hour of volunteer service, brought nourishment to those who are hungry in this community.

One thing remains true in every year; *Generosity is a constant in our lives as Christians*. Our giving actually enlarges and enriches each of us. And, because of the wonderful ministries and the good news we proclaim, lives are changed. Our giving helps advance justice and health in our community and our world.

## ***You're Invited...***

to an informational ZOOM workshop on Planned Giving  
**Tuesday, March 2 at 7p.m.**

For almost 40 years, Fremont has been generously blessed by members and friends who've included Fremont UMC in their estate plans. Their Planned Gifts live in perpetuity as the principal and foundation of Fremont's Permanent Endowment Fund.

The Fund is carefully invested and professionally managed in socially responsible investments. Earnings on the principal provide a perpetual source of financial support, as needed, for the benefit of Fremont and its programs. These gifts help insure that Fremont will continue to be a vital and vibrant source of hope, help and healing for our congregation, our neighborhood and the world - for years to come.

This FREE informational workshop is open to adults of all ages including Fremont members, friends and neighbors. The 90-minute informational ZOOM presentation will cover topics including: durable powers of attorney, health care directives and various ways you can pass on your assets including: real estate, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, IRA rollover gifts and much more. You'll also hear how your planned giving can provide personal and financial benefits, while benefitting Fremont and creating a living legacy that will enrich the lives of generations to come.

Rev. David Nieda, the presenter, is Associate Director for the Northwest United Methodist Foundation and a former UMC pastor in California and Washington as well former Superintendent for the Vancouver District.

This workshop is offered to provide information only about Planned Giving. There is no obligation to make a decision or commitment during or after the presentation.

To register for this free 90 minute ZOOM workshop, please e-mail Paul Karr [paulwkarr@yahoo.com](mailto:paulwkarr@yahoo.com), or the church at [office@fremontumc.org](mailto:office@fremontumc.org). or 503-284-4647.

**Please respond by 5p.m. Thursday, February 25.** A ZOOM link will be e-mailed to those who have pre-registered.

*"Blessed are those who plant trees under whose shade they will never sit."*

*ymous*

*Anon*

# Fun & Fellowship

## Book Club

Fremont's Book Group will meet again on Monday, March 8th at 7 pm. We will be discussing *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker. All are invited to read and discuss this classic work.

Suzanne Wardenaar



## You Can Make Someone's (Valentine's) Day!

In these times when we are not physically close to one another in worship or other social events, we can still bring some welcome contact to each other by sending a card or note in the mail. Fremont's Congregational Life team is working to help us stay in touch and connected, building community even during the pandemic. One idea is for each of us use the church directory to send a card or simple note to someone from our church family. Everyone enjoys getting a piece of 'real mail'. You will brighten someone's day! If you do not have a current directory, please contact the church office, and Madalyn, our administrative assistant, will provide one for you.

Happy Valentine's Day!



## How to Stay Connected

### Log-in instructions for our virtual Sunday Worship Services

Click <https://zoom.us/j/429790924>

Enter Meeting ID: 429 790 924

OR, choose a phone number to call to LISTEN-ONLY:

+1 312 626 6799

+1 346 248 7799

+1 646 558 8656  
 +1 669 900 9128  
 +1 253 215 8782  
 +1 301 715 8592  
 then, enter the Meeting ID: 429 790 924

### **Log-in instructions for our virtual Wednesday Night Prayer Service**

click <https://zoom.us/j/752185399>

Enter Meeting ID: 752 185 399

OR, choose a phone number to call to LISTEN-ONLY:

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

then, enter the Meeting ID: 752 185 399

### **There's help**

If you have questions about how this works or problems connecting, you can send an email [help@fremontumc.org](mailto:help@fremontumc.org). Now this email is not an all-purpose help line, it is for issues relating to the ZOOM feature we are using to conduct these services and other gatherings. Randy Poff will respond to you as quickly as he can to help you out.

### **“Like” FUMC on Facebook & share a story**

If you like us, please “like” and follow our Facebook page. This helps people find us. Also, share our posts with your friends! And one last thing: If you would write a review for us on our page, it also helps people find us. Thank you.



### **FREMONT UMC MINISTRY**

#### **Ministers**

All the People

#### **Pastor**

Rev. Erin Martin

#### **Family Ministry Associate**

Ashley Brassea

#### **Director of Music**

Lynn Rognsvoog

#### **Music Assistant**

Jonathan Roberts  
**Childcare**  
Béatrice Kanyandekwe  
**Youth Ministry / Communication**  
Jocelyn Hart  
**Bookkeeper**  
Carol Hancock  
**Custodian**  
Patricia Bailey

**Office Hours**  
Monday-Thurs 10:00-3:00  
(Monday is the pastor's scheduled day off)  
Friday: Closed

Fremont United Methodist | 2620 NE Fremont St, Portland, OR 97212

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