bend church
UNITED METHODIST

May Chimes 2025 THE CHIMES Volume 2025 - Issue 193

The veneer of ethics and moral behavior in the public square can be surprisingly thin. Human beings are easily swayed and enraptured; peer pressure and crowd behavior are powerful forces. We are used to living by a particular set of rules, values, and expectations of behavior, individually and socially, and it is often easier for institutions like the civil service, universities, businesses and religious bodies to conform than to resist. When the rules change it can be difficult to find our bearings, let alone chart a new course that can address and if necessary challenge what is happening around us.

"These are the themes that Dietrich Bonhoeffer addressed in "After Ten Years." His context was Nazi Germany, but his observations about what happens to human decency and courage when a political culture disintegrates continue to resonate around the world today."

– Victoria J. Barnett, Scholar and Former Director of the Programs on Ethics, Religion and the Holocaust at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

As an ordained elder in the UMC I am called to a ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service. Elders preach and teach the Word of God, provide pastoral care and counsel, administer the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and order the life of the church for service in mission and ministry. I want to preach the good news, cheer you on, and praise God, but the moment we find ourselves in calls for courage and discernment, not business as usual.

Thanks to Chris Guthrie I have been reading "After Ten Years" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. It speaks of the 10 years after the Nazi party took over the German government and how difficult it was to navigate the ethical and moral dilemmas they faced daily. It is a short book of essays that I highly recommend everyone to read. Bonhoeffer asks what is the duty of a person living in such a time? What is the call for persons who claim to follow Jesus? After ten years living under the Nazi regime, he questions why so many remain silent under the evil they were experiencing:

Continued on next page

FINANCE CORNER

Thanks to our Finance Committee, we will be providing ongoing monthly financial information. You will find it in this corner in every Chimes.
Due to publication deadlines the financial information will lag by a month.
Thank you for your understanding!

Year to Date (through March 2025)

Income: $ 251,949 (includes $50,000 transfer from the Endowment)
Budget: $ 144,925
Expenses: $ 137,300

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In flight from public discussion and examination, this or that person may well attain the sanctuary of private virtuousness. But he must close his eyes and mouth to the injustice around him. He can remain undefiled by the consequences of responsible action only be deceiving himself. In everything he does, that which he fails to do will leave him no peace. He will either perish from this restlessness or turn into the most hypocritical of all Pharisees.

Who stands firm? Only the one whose ultimate standard is not his reason, his principles, conscience, freedom, or virtue; only the one who is prepared to sacrifice all of these when, in faith and in relationship to God alone, he is called to obedient and responsible action. Such a person is the responsible one, whose life is to be nothing but a response to Gods question and call.

Where are these responsible ones?
What does it mean to be a responsible one when our beloved country is ignoring the rule of law?

- People with legal status are being deported with no due process to prisons in other countries.
- International college students are being asked to self deport within days or face time in an ICE prison.
- Our president is threatening to invade other countries, including our closest ally Canada, Greenland, and Panama. He has antagonized all of our allies and they are publicly announcing that they can no longer trust that the United States will fulfill its obligations.
- Women and anyone who is not white are being erased from even being mentioned in government literature of all kinds. Think I'm kidding? According to a compilation of government documents; agencies have flagged hundreds of words to limit or avoid including: women, female, racism, race, bias, LGBTQ, and disabilities.
- DOGE is in the process of defunding education, our healthcare system for children and the poor, social security, national parks, research grants of all kinds, infrastructure projects, environmental protections, libraries, museums…the list goes on.

I would love to pretend that none of this is happening and that we are in a normal political season, but we are not. Our baptismal vows demand that we accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

Will every worship service include protest? Of course not, but we cannot ignore the context in which we are all living. Our faith is a lens through which we see the world and respond. If our faith demands nothing of us in a time such as this than it is weak and ineffectual. What is the point of believing in the Prince of Peace if we are not willing to work for the good of all God's children? History is watching.

So yes, we will celebrate God's love at every opportunity, but do not ask me to ignore our slide into authoritarianism. It is our call, our duty, a matter of deep faith, to speak up on behalf of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Join me.

Pastor Jen Stuart

A Message from Music Ministries

He is risen! He is risen indeed! As we head into May, I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of the musicians I am blessed to lead in this congregation.

This was the first Easter cantata I've directed at this church, and I am in awe of the way the choir, along with Julie and Jo, all poured their hearts into making it beautiful and meaningful, a true gift for all who heard. It is an honor to direct this choir.

Some of you may notice I use a baton to conduct when we do cantatas. I always have when conducting an orchestra, or a larger work with instrumentalists. The baton I now use was my father's. My dad conducted a U.S. Navy Band when he served, and continued after retirement with a Veteran's Band. He left his baton to me when he passed in 2018. I cherish this baton and when I use it, I feel his presence with me and imagine him nudging others to say, "That's my daughter." as he did whenever he was in the audience for a performance of mine.

Several of you have expressed appreciation for the music we do at the 9 a.m. service, particularly those with a social justice theme and a soothing, uplifting message. While we all have varied taste in music, I think the message within certain songs can speak to us in profound ways.

"God hears every voice as sweet." Those words came to me several years ago, and I've used them frequently. One of my former pastors was terribly self conscious when singing during services, especially when standing next to me. Once I assured him that I don't judge singing voices, but rather hear potential, I used the above catch phrase, which seemed to resonate with him. He even used it in a sermon in which he bravely sang "Amazing Grace" a cappella. His face was red, and his hands were shaking, but as he continued, his confidence grew. He didn't fancy himself a singer, but he let go of the fear, feeling free to lift his voice in song during worship. He later told me it was incredibly healing for him.

It brings me joy to hear your voices on Sunday mornings. Singing releases dopamine, serotonin, and endorphins. Singing can reduce stress levels and create a sense of internal balance. Singing can also help improve mental alertness, memory and concentration. Singing in groups can help build a sense of connection and belonging, and those are all things that I think we need more than ever. Sing out, Louise!

Happy Spring!
Karen Sipes,
Director of Music and Arts
music@bendumc.org / 541-382-1672 Ext 119

Karen Sipes

Greetings From Your Health Ministry Team!
CPR class is coming to Bend Church!

May 31st from 10:00 to 1:00, in our sanctuary. The cost is $75 for Adult CPR and $90 for Adult and Pediatric combined. We will begin sign-ups between services on Sunday, May 4th. The instructor will email you a link to pay on line. This will save time on the day of the class.

This opportunity is brought to you by the Health Ministries.
If there is a class, you would like to see offered, please let the team know.

Sandy Clausen
The Health Ministries Team

Health & Wellness Ministry

We're excited to introduce a new way to support Bend Church—through vehicle donations!
We've partnered with Cars for Charity, an organization that handles everything: vehicle pick-up, towing, auction, fund distribution to our church, and tax documentation for donors.

Here's why this is a great opportunity:

- Costs our church nothing
- Church receives 70%-90% of the auction price
- You receive tax donation credit documentation
- Easy process - Cars for Charity takes care of all arrangements

If you have an unused or unwanted vehicle, please consider donating it to benefit our church!
Learn more: **https://www.carsforcharity.net**
Start a donation today: **https://carshelpingcharities.org/cobrand/bend-united-methodist-church/**

Thank you for your generosity and support!
Blessings,
Kristin González
Church Council Leader

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith wishes to thank the congregation for their support in recent endeavors.

- $912 was donated for the Feminine Hygiene Project for UMCOR. This purchased products to complete 50 kits. The kits will be assembled by the women in our unit.
- The Bake/Craft sale brought in $1,300. All the proceeds go to the Reconciling Ministries of the United Methodist Church.
- UWF was asked to find people to reorganize our kitchen so it could possibly be rented out. This committee of people spent hours in the kitchen on the Work Saturday. Many thanks to Thom and Cindy Larson, Beth Young, Dale and Bill Flexner, Emily Baker, Jane McEldowney, Karen Sykes, and Kristin and Mark Gonzalez.

UWF always welcomes new members. Our Vision is:
Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

We have three circles and a crafters group.

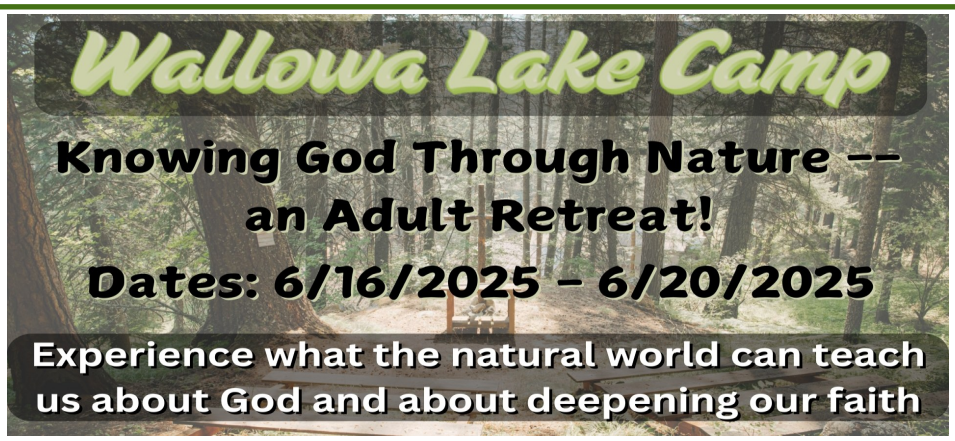
- Circle of Friends meets the 3rd Thursday at 10AM
- Ruth Circle meets 2nd Tuesday at 10AM
- Shalom Circle meets 2nd Wednesday at 10AM
- Crafters meets on Mondays at 10AM to prepare for our Holiday Bazaar. (May 5, May 12, Jun 2, Jun 16 - Summer break until September).

Feel free to visit any or all Circles and find a lovely group of friends who will truly welcome you. Call Melanie Cottam 214-885-1012 for details.

Open Door Ministries

The needs of the Open Door Ministries is ongoing, even as we move into the summer months. Thank you to all of you who have donated and continue to reach out to our fellow community members.

Leslie Hopper and Pat Luce - Co-coordinators of Open Door Ministries



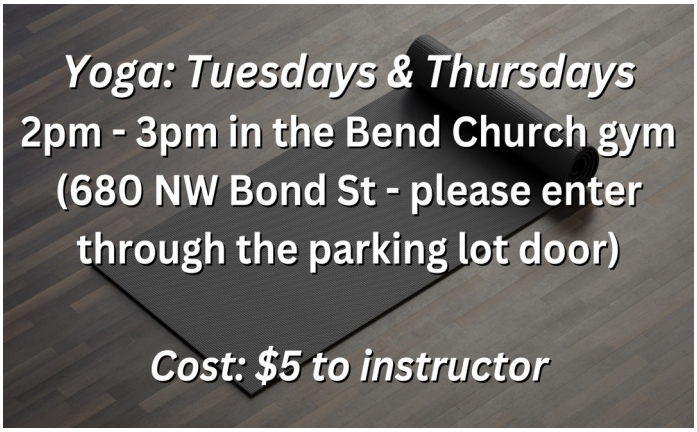
Register at www.gocamping.org before June 1st

Happening in our Church Community

Help support our church ministries by purchasing a "Choose Love" T-shirt or sweatshirt!

Scan this QR code for the website

Starting May 18th



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00am - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise **7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom**	**2** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**3** 9:00am - Jazzercise **Outside event** **10:30am - 1:30pm**
4 **9am Worship Service** **10am Coffee Hour** **10am Guy Talk** **11am Worship Service** **4 - 6:30pm BYC**	**5** 9:00 - Jazzercise 10:00 - Crafters 12:00 - Jazzercise 12:00 Lectionary Class 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30 Bells of Praise	**6** 9:00am - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 2:00pm - Yoga 4:30pm - Jazzercise 6pm - Praise Band	**7** 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care **4pm Zoom Bible Study** 6:30pm - Choir rehearsal	**8** 9:00am - Jazzercise **11-3 Office Open** 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 2pm - Yoga 4:30pm - Jazzercise **7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom**	**9** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**10** 9:00am - Jazzercise
11 **9am Worship Service** **10am Coffee Hour** **10am Guy Talk** **11am Worship Service** **4 - 6:30pm BYC** 	**12** 9:00 - Jazzercise 10:00 - Crafters 12:00 Lectionary Class 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30 Bells of Praise	**13** 9:00am - Jazzercise 9:30am All Staff Mtg 10am Ruth Circle 11am Worship Team 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 2:00pm - Yoga 4:30pm - Jazzercise 6pm - Praise Band	**14** 10am - Shalom 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care **4pm Zoom Bible Study** 6:30pm - Choir rehearsal	**15** 9:00am - Jazzercise 10am Circle of Friends 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 2pm - Yoga 4:30pm - Jazzercise **7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom**	**16** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**17** 9:00am - Jazzercise **Being Black In Bend** **5pm**
18 **9am Worship Service** **10am Coffee Hour** **10am Guy Talk** **11am Worship Service** **12:30pm** **Just Because Potluck** **4 - 6:30pm BYC**	**19** 9:00 - Jazzercise 12:00 Lectionary Class 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30 Bells of Praise	**20** 9:00am - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 2:00pm - Yoga 4:30pm - Jazzercise 6pm - Praise Band	**21** 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care **4pm Zoom Bible Study** 6:30pm - Choir rehearsal	**22** 9:00am - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 2pm - Yoga 4:30pm - Jazzercise **7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom**	**23** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**24** 8:30am - Jazzercise 9:15am - HIIT
25 **9am Worship Service** **10am Coffee Hour** **10am Guy Talk** **11am Worship Service** **4 - 6:30pm BYC**	**26** ***OFFICE CLOSED*** 9:00 - Jazzercise 12:00 Lectionary Class **1:00 Council Meeting** 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30 Bells of Praise 	**27** 9:00am - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 2:00pm - Yoga 4:30pm - Jazzercise 6pm - Praise Band	**28** 10am UWF Board 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care **4pm Zoom Bible Study** 6:30pm - Choir rehearsal	**29** 9:00am - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 2pm - Yoga 4:30pm - Jazzercise **7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom**	**30** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**31** 9:00am - Jazzercise **CPR Class in Sanctuary 10am - 1pm**

Please note: Calendar items are church related. There are many more events occurring in the building that are not on this calendar. We are blessed to be a busy building seven days a week! **If you are not scheduled to meet at the church** we ask that you respect those using our building by checking in at the office first as you enter the church. Thank you!

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The Chimes

680 NW Bond Street
Bend, Oregon 97703
www.bendumc.org

The Chimes is a monthly newsletter published for the members and friends of Bend Church.
Send correspondence and address changes to 680 NW Bond St., Bend, Oregon 97703; or email: communications@bendumc.org

CHURCH STAFF

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Bookkeeper: Tyler Macdonald
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Bells of Praise Director: Shelley Giaier

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