bend church
UNITED METHODIST
JulyChimes 2025 THE CHIMES Volume 2025 - Issue 195

**"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless.
I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping.
It doesn't change God. It changes me."
— C.S. Lewis**

In his book, *Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life*, Henri Nouwen writes, "Indeed, living a spiritual life requires a change of heart, a conversion. Such a conversion may be marked by a sudden inner change, or it can take place through a long, quiet process of transformation." As Pastor Dave reminded us in a recent sermon, prayer is powerful and it can change the course of history. Prayer can and does happen anywhere, but there is always something holy about praying together. Prayer may not change God but it always changes us.

When I find myself struggling with an outcome that I do not find acceptable, I go back to the prayer Jesus taught us, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We pray it so often that it can lose its meaning. But, at the core of The Lord's Prayer is putting our trust in God. This. Is. Hard. Because, if we are honest, in hard times I want the security that my will to be done. I want my prayers answered the way that I think they should be answered. I want healing. I want hope. I want salvation now… and yet, when I realign my prayer to God's will instead of my own, I find a different kind of peace arrives in my heart. I find myself more open to whatever life has in store.

In this season, I know we are all praying for God to move boldly in our world, our country, and our city. We pray unceasingly for peace, security, clarity, and love. For that reason we will be opening the sanctuary for a time of meditative prayer and quiet reflection on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12-1 during the months of July and August. We offer you a place to pray, light candles, and discern the Spirit's direction Join us as often as you are able.

With love,
Pastor Jen

Pastor Jen Stuart

Deferred Maintenance is Not The Cause of Our Financial Difficulties . . . . . Page 2
Music and Arts Ministry . . . . . Page 3
United Women in Faith & Women's Retreat . . . . . Page 4
Early Response Team Basic Training Register NOW. . . . . Page 5
Happening in Our Church Community . . . . . Page 6
Calendar . . . . . Page 7

Deferred Maintenance Is Not the Cause of Our Financial Difficulties

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the inquisitive and thoughtful conversations around the Funding Forward process over the past two weeks. Churches that have successfully transitioned from traditional models to more sustainable ones begin by asking their communities:

What services are truly needed?

On June 7th, we hired an ice cream truck to park in front of the church with the hope of inviting neighbors into conversations about the kinds of services they believe our community could benefit from. Thank you to the fifteen members of our congregation who came out—and to the six neighbors who joined us for conversation. Interestingly, many of those chats focused on the historic nature of our building and a shared concern about the possibility of demolition, not on services the community needs or the missions of Bend Church.

In the days that followed, we noticed a recurring misunderstanding. Some comments suggested that addressing all deferred maintenance issues would resolve our financial challenges. This is not the case. Deferred maintenance is not the cause of our financial difficulties—it is a **symptom** of ongoing income shortfalls.

Despite your continued generosity through pledges, gifts, and donations, we currently run a $4,000 monthly deficit—not including any maintenance or capital improvement costs. Even if an anonymous donor stepped in and covered every repair and update needed for our building, we would still not have the income necessary to support even our most basic budget.

Any future vision for our church must include a plan to generate sustainable income to cover our costs and, we hope, support an expanded mission.

Please know that **you will all be included** in this discernment process as we move forward together. Please include the Forward Funding Team in your prayers. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas, we invite you to keep the conversations going. Your voice matters—and we value your input.

Peace,

Kristin González

Kristin González
Chairperson

A Message from Music Ministries

School's out! School's out! Teacher let the kids out! We let the choir out too! They get the summer off but some of them will be working on and presenting music throughout the next two months in a variety of ensembles. You may still be recruited to the choir, however, if you show up at 9 a.m. during the summer! You just won't get put to work right away.

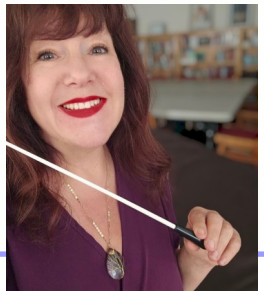
During July and August for our single service at 10:00am we will combine worship music styles to include contemporary and traditional. What a wonderful opportunity to experience both! Julie, our extraordinary organist/choir accompanist, will be playing for all of the July and August services. She is quite gifted at playing all genres of music and we are so grateful.

Our talented accompanist for 1st service, Ryder, has undergone surgery on his spleen and is home and recovering. Please keep him in your prayers. We expect to have him back with us in September.

There is a wonderful musical coming out at the end of July in which our gifted baritone, Don Delach, plays an extremely delightful character, singing and dancing, and generally stealing the show. I have a small role as well. The musical is called “Voiceless” and it runs the last weekend in July and 1st weekend in August. Please see one of us for more information.

Summer is a good time to consider participating in choir starting in the fall. Participation can be on a limited basis or whatever your schedule allows. People often ask me if a singing voice can "come back" after being out of practice for a long time. The answer is yes! The phrase "use it or lose it" is generally accurate, as we do get rusty when we don't use our instrument for a long period of time. There is another saying about riding a bike, which I don't use much because I can't, in fact, ride a bike. That saying is accurate as well. The voice is still there but needs some fine tuning. Use it and restore it! I'd love to help you find your voice and sing your song again! The advice I give all of my voice students of all ages is to see about joining a choir. There really is nothing that gets a voice in shape, or back in shape, more effectively. Enough of the shameless plugs! I'd love to help anyone who would like to be more confident about their singing voice!
Choir will be back in session Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy these not so lazy, but sometimes hazy, crazy days of summer!
Blessings,
Karen Sipes,
Director of Music and Arts


Karen Sipes

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith wish to thank our congregation for the generous donations made the last two weeks to support Kits for Kids. $530 was given for this very important project. This is a team effort, the Presbyterians will shop and fill the kits. . Bend is blessed with such quality non-profit efforts to serve the needs in the community.

Everyone, enjoy your summer and I will keep you posted as we resume our fall schedules. Do remember we have retreats to look forward to and the big annual fall Holiday Bazaar. Jill Gentry would like to remind everyone that any sewing, knitting, etc. project you may do on your own will be welcomed in the craft sale part of the bazaar.

We invite you to keep up with National UWF activities online. There are Faith Talks and many other opportunities to participate from home. You may find the United Women in Faith website at www.uwfaith.org.

Blessings,
Melanie Cottam

The women's retreat will be happening Friday, October 24th (late afternoon) thru Sunday, October 26th (late morning) at Suttle Lake United Methodist Camp.

Registration forms coming in soon!!!

Contact Karen Wykes (kjawykes@gmail.com)
or Cindy Pierce (cindy.pierce1915@gmail.com) for more information.

Be ready when the next disaster strikes to help those most in need.

The Early Response Team Basic Training will prepare you on ways to clean out a flooded home, haul debris, sift through ashes and work alongside survivors while staying safe. The class is taught by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) certified trainers and includes examples of recent missions, hands-on activities and an opportunity to meet people with a passion to serve. Anyone 18 years or older is welcome to attend.

For previous ERT members with badge expiration dates before March 2025, this is your opportunity to take the course again and be ready to serve another three years.

The registration fee is $25 and includes all training materials, lunch and snacks.
Questions? Contact Louise Kienzle, OR-ID Conference Disaster Response Coordinator
umvim@umoi.org • 541-620-0989

EARLY RESPONSE TEAM
ERT
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OREGON-IDAHO CONFERENCE

Register now at: https://gnw-reg.brtapp.com/ERT_Training_July12

The fee is $25 and includes all training materials, lunch and snacks.

• **Deadline for registration is Thursday, July 3** •

Kansas St. & Staats St.
Closed to traffic and parking during construction.

"Choose Love"

QR code for Choose Love

Choose Love
and
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compassion.
humility.
respect.
love.

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JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 6pm - Praise Band	**2** 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study	**3** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	**4** *4th of July!* 	**5** 9:00am - Jazzercise
6 10am Worship Service 11am Coffee Hour	**7** 9:00 - Jazzercise 10:00 - Crafters 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise	**8** 9:00am - Jazzercise 9:30am All Staff Mtg 11am - Worship Team 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 6pm - Praise Band	**9** 10am - Shalom Circle 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study	**10** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	**11** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**12** 9:00am - Jazzercise 8:30am - 5pm Early Response Team (ERT) Basic Training (must register)
13 10am Worship Service 11am Coffee Hour	**14** 9:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise	**15** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 5:30pm - Foundation 6pm - Praise Band	**16** 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study	**17** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	**18** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**19** 9:00am - Jazzercise
20 10am Worship Service *11:30am Just Because Potluck*	**21** 9:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise	**22** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 6pm - Praise Band	**23** 10am UWF Board Mtg 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study	**24** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	**25** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**26** 9:00am - Jazzercise
27 10am Worship Service 11am Coffee Hour	**28** 9:00 - Jazzercise 1:00 Council Meeting 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise	**29** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 6pm - Praise Band	**30** 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study	**31** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom		

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!

bend church
UNITED METHODIST

The Chimes

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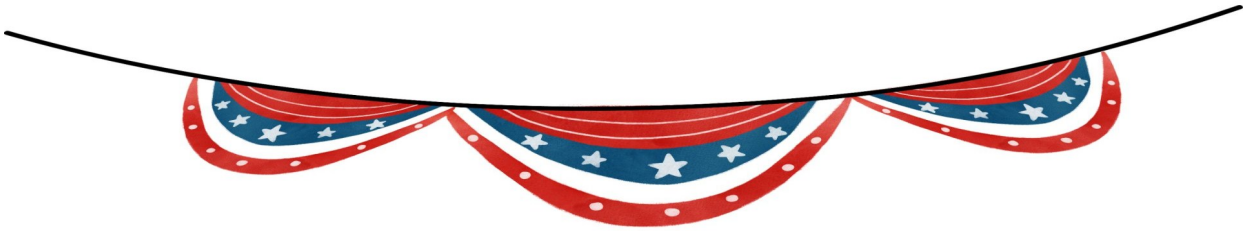

The Chimes is a monthly newsletter published for the members and friends of Bend Church.
Send correspondence and address changes to 680 NW Bond St., Bend, Oregon 97703; or email: communications@bendumc.org

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Custodian: **Mari Vega**

Director of Music & Arts Ministry: **Karen Sipes**
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