

Psalm 100

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with celebration!

### **One Church. One Body. One Joyful Service.**

Friends,

It has been a joy-filled, Spirit-led summer at Bend Church—and one of the greatest blessings has been our move to one service on Sunday mornings. What a difference it has made! To be honest, we weren't sure how this would go. Many of us have strong feelings about our worship music—some love the great hymns of our tradition; others are inspired by the energy of the praise band. I wondered whether bringing those together in one service might create division and a return to the “worship wars” of the past. But here's what we've learned: when our hearts are gathered in love, joy bridges the divide. From week to week, we've sung and prayed and celebrated with a spirit of unity. And the feedback has been entirely positive. Not just tolerant—joyful. There's a growing sense that we're more connected, more grounded, and more energized as one worshiping community.

### **Continuing Through the Year**

Because this has been such a meaningful experience, the Church Council and your Worship Team have voted to continue with one worship service through the rest of 2025. This decision strengthens our ability to: deepen relationships, coordinate volunteer and hospitality efforts, and pour our collective energy into the ministries that matter most. We will continue listening carefully to the needs of the congregation, and we remain committed to making any future decisions with transparency and shared discernment. We are still exploring a number of options of how best to care for our building. When we have more information we will share that with you.

As we enter the fall, I invite you to keep showing up with your open hearts and your praise-filled voices. We're discovering something powerful together—a deeper joy, a broader welcome, and a more sustainable rhythm for our shared life.

### **Building Update: Listening, Learning, and Looking Forward**

As we continue exploring the future of Bend United Methodist Church, I want to share where we are in this journey—and cast a vision for what's next. Earlier this year, we dreamed boldly: Could our downtown property serve both as a vibrant worshiping community and as a home for deeply needed affordable housing? Due to funding cycles, we applied for pre-development grants from both the city and state to begin answering that question. This would not have forced us to turn our building into affordable housing, but would have given us funds to explore our choices. While we did not receive that funding, we must still answer the question of how best to sustain our downtown property. This fall will be a season of intentional discernment. We will gather the information we need, listen deeply to one another and the Spirit, and prayerfully consider how God is calling us to use our building and our resources in the years ahead. To support this process, we commissioned a formal building inspection and have received the report. Church member and builder Tom Malace is now working with tradespeople to get detailed repair estimates. These numbers will help us understand what it will take to sustain our current facility—and what opportunities we might have to dream differently. The

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inspection report showed us problems we already knew about and others that were a surprise. When those numbers come to us we will share the full report with the entire church body.

In the meantime, your Council is pursuing a conversation with Holy Communion Independent Catholic Church about sharing our building. They share many of our values and are looking for a more permanent location. We are not sure where the Spirit is leading us yet, but here is what you can count on:

- **Transparency.** No decisions will be made in secret. Every major step will involve congregational input and, ultimately, congregational votes—as required by the United Methodist Book of Discipline.
- **Mission focus.** Whatever direction we choose, it will be grounded in our calling to love God and neighbor, serve our city, and embody grace and justice in Central Oregon.
- **Hopeful imagination. This is not just about buildings**—it's about shaping a future where our ministries thrive and our property becomes a blessing for generations to come.

Please keep this discernment process in your prayers. Show up for conversations. Dream with us. The Spirit is still moving—and our best chapters are yet to be written.

With gratitude and hope,  
Rev. Jen Stuart



Pastor Jen Stuart

### Greetings from your Church Council leader!

The end of summer is upon us, and we are planning for the next 12 months. We need committed people to serve on our Church Council. Serving on the Church Council is a meaningful way to share your gifts and help shape the future of our congregation. There are three key committees with openings: Staff Parish Relations (SPRC), Finance, and Trustees.

The SPRC supports our pastor and staff, handles communication, evaluations, and personnel matters; to foster healthy communication and support for those who lead our ministries.

The Finance Committee manages our budget, giving, and expenses, makes sure every dollar is used wisely for ministry and ensures that we are faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to us.

The Trustees oversee the care and maintenance of our buildings and property, and make sure our facilities are safe, welcoming, and ready to support our mission.

These roles are essential to keeping our church strong and able to serve the community. If you join, you'll help make decisions that directly affect our worship, outreach, and daily operations. We meet monthly, the time commitment is reasonable, and the work is deeply rewarding. This is an opportunity to work alongside dedicated members who share your love for the church and its future. Please prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to serve in this way—your presence could make a lasting difference in the life of our church.

Peace,  
Kristin González



Kristin González  
Chairperson

### **FINANCE CORNER**

Thanks to our Finance Committee, we will be providing ongoing financial information as we are able. You will find it in this corner in every Chimes.

Year to Date (through July 2025)

Income: \$425,664 (includes \$50,000 transfer in from Endowment)

Budget: \$338,158

Expenses: \$315,703



## ***A Message from Music Ministries***

As summer ends, a new season of music begins. Our Chancel Choir returns on Wednesday, September 3, with a 6:30 p.m. choir rehearsal in the Wesley Room. All are welcome! Please see me for more information. Busy schedules, travel plans, limited availability all can be accommodated. I am grateful for the appreciation expressed this summer for the music selection for our blended services. I select music for each service based on a long list of criteria, and sing-ability is high on that list. "Thank you" to the members of our music ministry for stepping up to lead music while I was on vacation. I know they did beautifully. I also greatly appreciate all of the support I received for the loss of our precious dog, Lobo. We had him for nearly 16 years. It is heartbreaking to lose a beloved family member, and I was blessed by those who reached out to offer condolences and support. I look forward to a new season of music and worship!

Blessings,  
Karen Sipes,  
Director of Music and Arts



Karen Sipes

## **Many Hands Make Light Work**

It's time for thoughts to turn to school, homework, sports schedules, and other mundane activities of life as summer slowly turns the corner into fall. For many churches, this signals a time for stewardship and pledge drives, perhaps even open houses and membership drives.

Here at Bend United Methodist, we'll get to that, but it is also a time to remember that stewardship means more than just money or fundraising. Stewardship is, at its core, the care and feeding of our church. All of our church. Building, grounds, and infrastructure. All of the things.

As you're Lay Leader, I can see how this church works, up close and personal. And so I am using this space to ask for help. Your church runs on the efforts of a very few, and most of them are volunteers. I'm not talking about our ministries. I'm talking about the mundane everyday tasks that keep this church working. And we could use help. Gardening, cleaning, setting up rooms and worship space. Answering phones, responding to emails, ushering on Sundays. And yes, my favorite, running sound and slides for Sunday service.

The mundane can be ritual, and ritual can be holy. You've heard me say "many hands make light work" in the past and that still holds true. So, if you have an hour or two each week, and want to help keep this church humming, let us know. There are tasks for everybody and every skill. Just send an email to Erin or me.

Peace and Blessings!  
Lay Leader Larry  
[layleader@bendumc.org](mailto:layleader@bendumc.org)



Larry Herrmann  
Lay Leader



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

I hope everyone has had a pleasant summer and been able to enjoy family, friends, and vacations. UWF Executive Board will meet August 27th to start the upcoming Autumn activities.

Crafters will be meeting in Fellowship Hall every Monday in preparation for the Bazaar, November 15th and 16th. Anyone who enjoys crafting is welcome to join in and enjoy the fun as we work together. Some people may have knitting, sewing, painting, or wood working items they would like to do at home and contribute. This Bazaar is well over 80 years old and is looked forward to by many Bend citizens each year. Proceeds are given to Non Profits in our Bend community.

Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday September 9th at Ann Overman's home at 10 AM. Shalom Circle will meet at Melanie Cottam's at 10 AM on Wednesday September 10th. Circle of Friends will meet in the Wesley Room at church September 23rd at 10 AM. Circle of Friends also meets at Starbucks (near Fred Meyers on 3rd Street) for coffee on the first Friday morning of September.

Dates to remember:

- ◆ 9/5 - 9/7 UWF Conference Soul Care Retreat at Suttle Lake
- ◆ 10/25 - 26 Bend UMC Women's Retreat at Suttle Lake (all our church women are invited)
- ◆ 10/25 Grandma's Attic delivery to church between 12 and 2 PM
- ◆ Holiday Bazaar 11/15 - 11/16

UWF is open to starting a new circle to fit the needs of working women and stay at home mothers. If you and your friends are interested please call me at 214 885 1012.

Blessings,  
Melanie Cottam



United  
Women  
in Faith

## SAVE THE DATES - HOLIDAY BAZAAR

**October 25: 11am to 1pm**

Drop off donated items for Gramma's Attic rummage sale at the gym door

**By October 31:**

Please drop off any craft items you made at home, in the church office.

**November 13 and 14 - Starting at 10:00am:** Volunteer to help set up Holiday Bazaar

**November 15 - 9am to 2pm:** Holiday Bazaar (Day One)

**November 16 - 9am to 1pm:** Holiday Bazaar (Day Two)

**Notes:**

- ◆ If you have small vintage or antique items to donate, we can take them now.  
Contact Jill at 541-280-0503  
or [mmegentry@gmail.com](mailto:mmegentry@gmail.com)
- ◆ If you have jewelry to donate, please drop items off in the church office.

Thank You,  
Jill Gentry



## **50/50 Zoom Bible Study**

The 50-50 study group took a summer pause. We will resume Thursday, September 4. We generally meet Thursday evenings 7-8 PM on Zoom. We pick books related to Bible teaching to read, and we lean toward the side of more progressive Christian teaching. Our goal is 50% reading for content and 50% life application of what we read.

Our current book is *The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic* by John Shelby Spong. We have been discussing for a few weeks and are up to Chapter 14. If anyone wants to join in when we resume in September, contact one of the following with questions or access to the Zoom link:

Karen Wykes: [kjawykes@gmail.com](mailto:kjawykes@gmail.com)

Ann White: [maxbeardie@aol.com](mailto:maxbeardie@aol.com)

Suzanne Painter: [painterbusiness@icloud.com](mailto:painterbusiness@icloud.com)

## **Open Door Ministries - Report to City of Bend on 2024 Block Grant** *Given by Pat Luce*

First, we would like to thank the City of Bend for providing the opportunity for Bend First United Methodist Church to apply for HUD grant money and to ultimately receive \$5,000 to help those who are experiencing houselessness in our community. We would further like to thank Mellissa Kamanya for her generous and knowledgeable help in negotiating the application and record-keeping process.

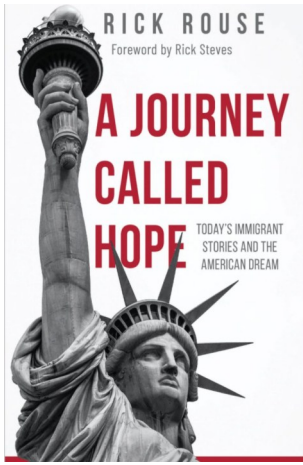
As part of our outreach focus, Bend Church provides mail service for people who do not have a physical address. We also offer snacks, water, and clothing. All these are available free of charge Monday through Friday from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. All services are staffed by volunteers. Financial aid for gas and living expenses such as utilities, and propane is offered each Wednesday, from 1:00 pm until funds are exhausted.

Because it became apparent that record keeping for dispensing these types of aid would be prohibitive, Bend Church chose to use the grant funds awarded to provide those most vulnerable with a means to survive the often harsh winter conditions we experience here in Central Oregon. With the grant funds we were able to purchase and distribute 48 sleeping bags (temperature rated to zero degrees) and 25 tents.

As I enjoy a warm home and comfortable bed, I often think about those who are trying hard to subsist in our cold, windy, wet and icy environment with little more than what they are wearing. This is an unimaginable situation to me....yet it could be me. Although sleeping bags and tents seem meager in the realm of protection from the elements, we get many thanks for the help these items provide.

So many folks are only a paycheck or two from being homeless, and once in that position, it is so very difficult to reintegrate into a "normal" life situation. Almost all of the recipients of the tents and sleeping bags were without shelter, and most have a story to tell that is heart breaking...some that are the results of poor decisions and some that are the result of circumstances beyond their control.

The world has always had, and will always have, the poor and left-out within it. The receipt of the HUD grant monies through the City of Bend is one way we, the people of Bend Church, have been able to help relieve suffering and, frankly, help keep people alive. Since the main mission of Bend Church is to help those in need, we are so very grateful to have received funds that helped us help those very friends. Thank you.



## Fall Church-Wide Book Study

**A Journey Called Hope:**

**Today's Immigrant Stories and  
the American Dream**

**Kickoff: Sunday, Sept 7**

**Books: \$20 - 50 copies available**

**Pay via: Cash, Check, or  
text BOOK \$20 to (541) 940-8799**

This study launches our Fall Education Program  
and invites us into honest, faithful conversations  
about the moral and legal realities of  
immigration today.



## BLOOD DRIVE

**Tuesday, Sept 9, 2025 11:00 AM - 04:00 PM**



Register here!



# Arts as a Balm to Our Souls

## Women's Retreat Oct. 24 - 26, 2025

at Suttle Lake United Methodist Camp  
Registration forms are available now!!!  
Pick one up at the church or print one out from  
the link on our website ([www.bendumc.org](http://www.bendumc.org))  
Questions? Contact -  
Karen Wykes ([kjawykes@gmail.com](mailto:kjawykes@gmail.com))  
or Cindy Pierce ([cindy.pierce1915@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.pierce1915@gmail.com))

Please drop off your  
canned food donations  
in the Open Door  
basket in the narthex.  
Pop-top cans are greatly  
appreciated!

## September is Canned Food Month!



**Donate and help support  
Open Door Ministries**



# GUY TALK

Calling All Guys. We have created a safe place for  
you. Guy Talk resumes Sunday, September 7 after  
worship until noon. We will discuss the book on  
immigration stories which will be studied by the  
entire church. Pastors John Pitney and Dave  
Beckett are facilitators.  
(Meet in Conference Room 103)

# WE'RE Hiring

## Director of Family Ministries

Contact Susan Herrmann  
if you are interested!





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <b>Labor Day</b> <b>Office closed</b> 9:00 - Jazzercise	<b>2</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	<b>3</b> 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir	<b>4</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	<b>5</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	<b>6</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise
<b>7</b> <b>FALL BOOK STUDY!</b> 10am Worship Service  11am Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk 11:30 Book Study in FH	<b>8</b> 9:00 - Jazzercise 10am - Crafters 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	<b>9</b> <b>Blood Drive! 11-4</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 9:30am All Staff Mtg 11am - Worship Team 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	<b>10</b> 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6pm Community Resistance Gathering 6:30pm - Choir	<b>11</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	<b>12</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	<b>13</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise  <b>Outside Event</b> 10am - 1pm
<b>14</b> 10am Worship Service  11am Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk 11:30 Book Study in FH	<b>15</b> 9:00 - Jazzercise 10am - Crafters 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	<b>16</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	<b>17</b> 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir	<b>18</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 10am Circle of Friends 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	<b>19</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	<b>20</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise
<b>21</b> 10am Worship Service 11:30 - Guy Talk 11:30 Book Study in FH <b>11:30am</b> <b>Just Because</b> <b>Potluck</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 - Jazzercise 10am - Crafters 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	<b>23</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	<b>24</b> 10am UWF Board Mtg 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir	<b>25</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	<b>26</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	<b>27</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise
<b>28</b> 10am Worship Service  11am Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk 11:30 Book Study in FH	<b>29</b> 9:00 - Jazzercise 1:00 Council Meeting 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	<b>30</b> 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise				

*The Fall Book Study will be done online with the Wednesday group and in-person on Sundays with Guy Talk & in the Fellowship Hall.*

**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!



## The Chimes

680 NW Bond Street  
Bend, Oregon 97703  
[www.bendumc.org](http://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](mailto:communications@bendumc.org)



## CHURCH STAFF

**Lead Pastor:** Rev. Jen Stuart  
**Lay Leader:** Larry Herrmann

**Director of Operations:** Erin Buckley-Noonan  
**Bookkeeper:** Tyler Macdonald  
**Custodian:** Mari Vega

**Music Ministries:** Karen Sipes  
**Bells of Praise Director:** Shelley Giaier

**Bishop of the Oregon-Idaho Conference:**  
**Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth**  
Greater Northwest Area Website: [greaternw.org](http://greaternw.org)

**Cascadia District Superintendent:**  
**Rev. Wendy Woodworth**  
Oregon-Idaho Conference Website: [umoi.org](http://umoi.org)

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