



Faithful. Sustainable. Together.

“Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with celebration! Come before him with shouts of joy! ... Because the Lord is good, his loyal love lasts forever; his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.”

— Psalm 100:1–2, 5

Dear friends,

Each fall, we renew our commitment to being faithful stewards of the gifts God has given us. We give thanks for the ministries we share, and we recommit ourselves to the sacred task of sustaining them—not just for today, but for the future we are building together.

This year’s stewardship theme—Faithful. Sustainable. Together.—captures the spirit of who we are becoming.

- ◆ We are a church that shows up.
- ◆ We are a church that remembers who we are—even when the world forgets.
- ◆ We are a church that is faithful not only to God, but to our neighbors—especially those bearing the weight of unjust systems and harmful national policies.

Our calling is not just to sustain a building or a budget. It is to sustain hope, community, and courage. In a time when so many are living in fear, when housing is out of reach, when neighbors are targeted because of their race, status, gender identity, or immigration story—our faith calls us to act.

That’s why your pledge matters.

Your generosity helps sustain meals for the hungry, safe spaces for youth, and ministries of care and connection. It strengthens our commitment to social justice and spiritual growth. It makes space for sacred conversations, courageous worship, and prophetic public witness. And it ensures that Bend Church can continue to be a well of living water—faithful, sustainable, and together—for the people of Central Oregon and beyond.

You’ll be receiving a pledge card and more information soon. For now, I invite you to begin your own prayerful reflection:

- ◆ What does sustainability look like in my own faith journey
- ◆ How is God calling me to invest in hope this year?
- ◆ What kind of community are we building—and for whom?

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Let us walk boldly into the future God is calling us to.

With love and gratitude,

Rev. Jen Stuart



| | |
|--|-------------|
| Fall Stewardship Campaign at a Glance & Finance Corner | Page 2 |
| Greetings from Your Church Council Chairperson & Music Ministry | Page 3 |
| Bend Youth Collective and Together Lab | Pages 4 & 5 |
| United Women in Faith & Dates to Remember for the Holiday Bazaar | Page 6 |
| Calendar | Page 7 |



Fall Stewardship Campaign at a Glance



Theme: Faithful. Sustainable. Together.

Goal: To sustain and grow the ministries of Bend UMC for 2026 and beyond



Key Dates:

Sunday, October 5 – Kickoff Sunday!



World Communion Sunday: A global celebration of Christian unity



Blessing of the Animals: Bring your beloved pets to receive a blessing!

October 5–26

- Four-week worship series based on lectionary texts and stewardship theme

Sunday, November 2

- Pledge & All Saints Sunday
- Bring your completed pledge card or make your pledge online



How to Participate:

- Pick up a pledge card at worship or request one by mail
- Mail or drop off your card to the church office
- Pledge online at <https://bendchurch.breezechms.com/form/b38950273356>



Why Pledge?

Your financial commitment helps:

- Support our growing youth ministry
- Sustains Open Door Ministries, justice work, and pastoral care
- Ensure our church can meet today's needs while preparing for tomorrow's opportunities

Let's commit—faithfully, sustainably, and together.



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 August 2025)

Income: \$454,432

(includes \$50,000 transfer in from Endowment)

Budget: \$386,467

Expenses: \$355,723



Greetings from your Church Council Chairperson!

Fall has arrived, and the council is reviewing our serious financial situation. As many of you know, we face a substantial annual deficit. We have cut every expense that we can, including paying only a percentage of our annual apportionment to the conference and UMC. Apportionments are how local churches support the wider mission of our entire denomination. Not paying our full apportionment can have serious consequences for us as a local UMC church.

Thank you to all who increased pledges and giving this year—it has made a big difference!

Last winter, council members and others held a retreat using the book *Funding Forward* as a guide. We explored many bold ideas, including converting our property into affordable housing. Committees formed to study the possible directions. The housing idea quickly required outside expertise. To proceed, we needed a professional team to investigate feasibility. We applied for state and city grants to cover this cost, but no funding was awarded. For now, the affordable housing project is on hold. But we still must decide how best to repair and maintain our building and other assets, as well as continue our ministry to our community.

We are not discouraged, but we are regrouping to continue discernment with new energy. A Discernment and Discovery Team will meet weekly for three months. Their task is to listen deeply for what God is calling us to do next. This work requires significant time and commitment. Whatever emerges will align with our mission and values. Thank you for your prayers and support as we walk this important path together.

Peace,
Kristin González

A Message from Music Ministries

A new season of music has begun! Waving a fond farewell to summer, we welcome in this new season, bringing the return of our Chancel Choir, and a new arrangement of our sanctuary. To accommodate the continued blended services, staff and music ministry participants have rearranged the sanctuary, allowing for dedicated space for all of our excellent musical teams, The Chancel Choir, Praise Team and Bell Choir.

Additionally, thanks to the donation of a piano from Sandy Clausen, we will have a piano for the praise team on that side of the sanctuary, allowing for the appropriate proximity of the piano to the rest of the music team, which is optimal. Thank you also to Julie Geveshausen, who arranged transport of the piano with the help of Michael Gesme, and Randi Potter, who will tune it prior to use in service.

Blended services have been going splendidly, and I am grateful to the efforts of all involved in our music ministries to make the transitions seamless. All have worked hard to create a new blend of music, and I am amazed at how well received the blended services have been. I am grateful to all who have expressed support and appreciation for the music during this transitional time. I remain dedicated to implementing musical choices that highlight the talents of our musicians as well as enhancing the worship of the congregation.

Many blessings to all,
Karen Sipes - Director of Music and Arts

Bend Youth Collective

Coming Together to Cultivate Belonging for Youth

Why this, Why now?

We all yearn for our young people to experience belonging. Our young people yearn to be taken seriously and feel like they matter, in spaces where they can be themselves and know they are not alone.

The pressures of an increasingly isolated society threaten this sense of belonging - a growing youth mental health crisis, systems that pit people of different backgrounds against one another rather than toward one another, less in-person gathering spaces and more screen time. The

need for an inclusive space where all young people can experience belonging - LGBTQ youth, immigrants, Black and brown youth, neurodivergent youth - and connect with something greater than themselves is more urgent than ever.



How we meet this moment through the Bend Youth Collective

Six congregations have come together to revitalize and expand Bend Youth Collective (BYC), in a unique collaboration with our ecumenical innovation ministry partner Together Lab. The Bend Youth Collective brings together: Bend Church United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church in Bend, Nativity Lutheran Church, Storydwelling, Trinity Episcopal Church in Bend, and Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon. Together as a collective of local communities of faith and fierce love, we seek to create sacred space for all students to be seen, known and loved, just as they are; learn more deeply about themselves and the world; and cultivate a commitment to love of self, neighbor, and that which surpasses all understanding.

What is possible through coming together

Through this partnership, Together Lab is hiring a full-time staff organizer for BYC. This brings the capacity and intentionality toward BYC and belonging for youth that we have needed. The organizer will lead in sustaining and growing the gatherings of Bend Youth Collective. They will also have the capacity to activate a wider circle of adult leaders, ensuring that the work is shared, sustainable, and rooted in relationship. We see opportunity in moving away from a siloed youth program contained in a siloed congregation dependent on one youth pastor, and in addition research also shows that the most influential space for faith formation is in the home. This collaborative approach speaks to activating a wider web of support and accompaniment for teens.

Our goal is a Bend Youth Collective of play and purpose for teens, where young people can be noticed, named, known, and needed in community. The Organizer will be able to create space for youth-centered design of gatherings based on on-the-ground listening from youth and families. Through BYC, we can also invite youth into care for neighbors, community outreach, and leadership, inviting young people to see what faith looks like in action.

Together Lab also connects BYC to the wider Youth Solidarity Movement across Oregon, which includes retreats - including one this coming November! - training for volunteers, and being part of a larger movement of youth and leaders and other Youth Collectives rooted in belonging.

Who is the new staff Organizer?



Please welcome **Stef Jenkinson**, who starts September 15! Stef brings a rich blend of ministry experience, community engagement, and pastoral presence. With UUFCO, Stef guided large stewardship campaigns, cultivated LGBTQ+ support circles, and co-led environmental justice initiatives as well as children and youth ministries on Sundays. With a background in program coordination and management at multiple nature and wildlife centers, as well as founding a nonprofit for educating youth on conservation, Stef excels in educational programming, leadership training, community partnerships, and translating complex ideas into accessible, engaging teaching. She approaches her work with creativity and radical welcome.

What will their first 90 days look like?

- 1) **Maintain and Strengthen the BYC Regular Gatherings** - Stef will be able to jump right in, coordinating the Sunday night gatherings, lead the team of volunteers, and co-design and co-facilitate meaningful and fun experiences for youth, and build relationships with youth and families.
- 2) **A Listening Campaign to deepen the web of BYC** - Stef will do many relational meetings with leaders in congregations and in the community, potential new volunteers, youth and families. Widening the web means a wider circle of leaders (less volunteer burnout!) and deepen BYC's reach of youth, families and in the community.

We all want to set up Stef for success. It is easy to have many expectations, especially for someone who is bringing a lot of talent and excitement. We ask that we collectively try not to overwhelm her, but give her support and encouragement in these initial goals, especially in connecting her with people for the listening campaign and deepening the BYC network.

How does BYC accompany and strengthen our individual congregations and communities, as well as parents and any adults who want to support young people?

Having our congregations involved with a vibrant youth collective brings hope, energy and spirit to all of us, knowing we are impacting future generations. In addition, TL and the BYC organizer are committed to working on congregation-specific initiatives and strategies supporting youth to be noticed, named and known in your community, including Belonging Workshops in each congregation. When grandparents, coaches, aunts and uncles are equipped to build trusting relationships with young people in their lives, we start to awaken whole communities to their calling to be a village surrounding young people and sharing and embodying God's expansive love in word and deed. We are also going to help create community and support for parents and caregivers parallel to the youth collective, as well as host parent-specific workshops that speak to the challenges of raising teens in faith today.

How do Stef's gifts & experience help build bridges and support our young people's journey in faith?

This is a unique space where United Methodists, Presbyterians, Unitarian Universalists, Episcopalians, and Lutherans have committed to walk with one another. Without watering down what makes each of these traditions unique, we lift up the shared deep commitment to Love, Justice, and Mercy that connects us all with God/Spirit/Divinity. Stef's background in ministry, education, and nonprofit leadership equips her to build bridges and bring out the uniqueness amid difference. Service, play, and leadership, in a space of belonging, makes room for deep conversation. Youth will have concrete tangible experiences to make meaning out of their individual faith journeys, while parents, caregivers, and local congregations are more equipped to accompany teens in faith formation.

Thank you!

We want to thank the hiring team - Rev. Jen Stuart, Stephanie Senner, and Amy Brock, alongside Rev. Chris Dela Cruz with Together Lab - as well as clergy - Rev. Chris Kramer, Rev. Dr. Steven Koski, Rev. Scott Rudolph, Rev. Erika Spaet, Rev. Stuart, and The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones. They have brought deep care, curiosity, and heart, tending to both present needs and future possibilities. What a gift!



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Save the Date: The Christmas Tea is December 6th at 2 PM Fellowship Hall.

Four UWF members attended the UWF Soul Care Retreat sponsored by the Conference. The theme was CREATION SINGS. The get acquainted games, music, activities, food and fellowship were all wonderful. A truly delightful, relaxing, peaceful experience. For one of the activities available, our own Dale Flexner and Susan Herrmann provided an amazing assortment of beads for bracelet making. There were photo walks with a leader who could develop your pictures right there. There were also nature walks around the lake, art tables, and reading opportunities. Jane McEldowney was the camp nurse.

I definitely hope everyone will consider attending next September.
It is truly care for one's soul.

Blessings,
Melanie Cottam
UWF President



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.
Clothing not accepted.

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
- ♦ If you have jewelry to donate, please drop items off in the church office.

Thank You,
Jill Gentry



October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
|  | | | 1 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction Services & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Praise Team 7:00pm - Choir | 2 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom | 3 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail | 4 9:00am - Jazzercise |
| 5 10am Worship Service  11am Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk 11:30 Book Study in Gym | 6 9:00 - Jazzercise 10am - Crafters 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise | 7 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise | 8 10am - Shalom 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction Services & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Praise Team 7:00pm - Choir | 9 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom | 10 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail | 11 9:00am - Jazzercise |
| 12 10am Worship Service  11am Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk 11:30 Book Study in Gym | 13 9:00 - Jazzercise 10am - Crafters 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise | 14 9:00am - Jazzercise 9:30am All Staff Mtg 11am - Worship Team 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 5:30pm - Foundation | 15 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction Services & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Praise Team 7:00pm - Choir | 16 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 | 17 9am Health Zoom Mtg 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail Outside Event 8am - 8pm Sanctuary/Narthex/Fellowship Hall | 18 9:00am - Jazzercise |
| 19 10am Worship Service 11:30 - Guy Talk 11:30 Book Study in FH 11:30am Just Because Potluck | 20 9:00 - Jazzercise 10am - Crafters 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise | 21 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise | 22 10am UWF Board Mtg 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction Services & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Praise Team 7:00pm - Choir | 23 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom | 24 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail Women's Retreat at Suttle Lake | 25 9:00am - Jazzercise 11pm - 1pm Gramma's Attic Drop-off |
| 26 10am Worship Service  11am Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk 11:30 Book Study in Gym Women's Retreat | 27 9:00 - Jazzercise 10am - Crafters 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00 Council Meeting 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise | 28 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise | 29 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction Services & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Praise Team 7:00pm - Choir | 30 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom | 31 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail  | |

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



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

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
Children & Family Ministries: Brent Tyler

Bishop of the Oregon-Idaho Conference:
Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth
Greater Northwest Area Website: greaternw.org

Cascadia District Superintendent:
Rev. Wendy Woodworth
Oregon-Idaho Conference Website: umoi.org

Bend Church - United Methodist
680 NW Bond Street, Bend OR 97703
office.bendchurch@gmail.com
www.bendumc.org
Phone: (541) 382-1672