December Chimes 2025 THE CHIMES Volume 2025 - Issue 199

What do you fear? Insisting On Hope This Advent

This advent we will look closely at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and ask ourselves what fears we are holding onto today. Fear can paralyze and divide us, and even be used as a tool of oppression. What if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge it without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? This series will gently invite us to identify where fear is present in the advent story, and in our lives, while finding our way toward hope, with the angels' voices in our ears!

Nov. 30th **In The Time of Herod, We Long For God to Break In**
Luke 1:5-13 & Lamentations 3:55-57

Dec. 7th **When We're Running Out of Hope, God is at Work**
Matthew 11:1-11 & Isaiah 43:19-21

Dec. 14th **Even In Our Fear, We Are Called Forward**
Luke 1:26-39 & Jeremiah 1:4-10

Dec. 21st **Christmas Cantata & Bells of Praise - Crazy Christmas Sweater Sunday**
Matthew 1:18-25 & Isaiah 41:5-10

Dec. 21st **Longest Night Service - Drake Park - 5:00pm**

Dec. 24th **Good News is Louder Than Fear** - Luke 2:1-20

Dec. 24th **Christmas Eve Services 12:00pm, 6:00pm, and 8:00pm**

Dec. 25th **Christmas Potluck at 2pm** RSVP by Dec. 20th to leadpastor@bendumc.org

Dec. 28th **Let Fear Fuel a Fire For Justice - Breakfast Church - 10:00am**
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Jan. 4th **Fear Doesn't Stop Us – Epiphany**
Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

With gratitude and hope,
Rev. Jen Stuart

Comments from the Council & Finance Corner . . . . . Page 2
Music Ministry & Building Usage . . . . . Page 3
Children & Family Ministries: Progressive Youth Ministry and Holiday Potluck Celebration . . Page 4
BYC Fundraising Concert, Holiday Chocolates, and Boys & Girls Club Gift Giving . . . . . Page 5
Happening in our Church Community . . . . . Page 6
Calendar . . . . . Page 7

Comments from the Council

I want to let you know that a Discernment Team of twelve members has agreed to devote the next twelve weeks to identifying a sustainable path forward for our congregation. We held our first meeting this week and began by naming the key challenges we believe the church must address. From this discussion, the team will develop a clear problem statement. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to refine and reshape that statement as our understanding deepens. The group will then explore creative options for the future of Bend Church. Later in the process, I will form a ten-person Advisory Board to review the ideas and recommendations generated by the Discernment Team. The purpose of this second group is to give feedback and help assess what is most realistic and faithful to our mission. We are committed to keeping the congregation informed as the work progresses. Updates will appear in future newsletters and during Sunday announcements. If you have questions or thoughts, please reach out to me directly.

Blessings,
Kristin Gonzalez
Council 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 October 2025)

Income: $570,841
(includes $50,000 transfer in from Endowment)
Budget: $483,083
Expenses: $440,547

A Message from Music Ministries

Advent is upon us and it is my favorite season. The hope and spirit of the season is like a balm for me, a much needed light in the darkness. I am someone who gets excited about Christmas music playing in the stores and on the radio, never tiring of it. I love singing along and harmonizing to the old classics, carols, larger works like The Messiah, Britten's Ceremony of Carols, you name it. I even look forward to Mariah Carey and "All I Want for Christmas is You." I will bop along to "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" any time, and "pa rum pa pum pum" along to "Little Drummer Boy."

Imagine my joy at the opportunity to direct a Christmas Cantata. There is still time to join us! Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in The Wesley Room. This year our choir, along with some community members and guest singers from our praise team and congregation, will present the beautiful cantata, "Love Came Down at Christmas" by Joel Raney, Sunday, December 21, at our 10 a.m. service. Our extraordinary musicians, Julie Geveshausen and Jo Booser will accompany.

Our Chancel Choir will be joining the choir at Nativity Lutheran as well as other musicians in the community in presenting a Christmas Concert, on December 21 at 2:30 p.m. at Nativity Lutheran. Clyde Thompson will be directing. Clyde was a music professor of mine at Alderson-Broaddus College in West Virginia, and since the wonderful coincidence of his moving to Bend after I did, I've enjoyed working with him all these years.

I hope that many of you will be able to attend and enjoy both the cantata and the concert that day.

Blessings of the season,
Karen Sipes
Director of Music and Arts

Karen Sipes

Building Usage NEWS!!

We have a new renter! The kitchen is now being scheduled for commercial kitchen use. When these individuals are at work, the kitchen will be closed. If you have a need to use the kitchen, please make sure to check **IN ADVANCE** with Erin (Director of Operations) as to availability and scheduling. We are excited for this partnership and are asking everyone to honor the schedule set.

For any questions regarding scheduling usage contact
Erin: communications@bendumc.org
Questions about the updated kitchen rental program may be directed to Wes Wilson

Progressive Youth Ministry 2025

This month, I had the privilege of attending the Progressive Youth Ministry Conference in Austin, Texas This was a gathering that brought together Children and Youth Ministry Leaders committed to reimagining what faithful, holistic youth ministry can look like in the church today. The conference offered not only rich information and practical guidance but also moments of deep personal reflection—which has been a profound experience for me as I grow with the ministry, our rapidly changing world, and the spiritual walk that we have with God.

Several workshops I attended focused on expanding the ways we think and create within youth spaces. One session explored strategies for learning to unlock the creative side of the mind to think more creatively - challenging us to break out of familiar patterns, experiment with new approaches, and embrace the kind of innovation that resonates with a generation formed by fluidity, technology, and constant change. As our children get older, they will become the leaders of tomorrow. It was a helpful reminder that creativity is not simply a talent but a discipline that can be nurtured in ourselves and in our ministries.

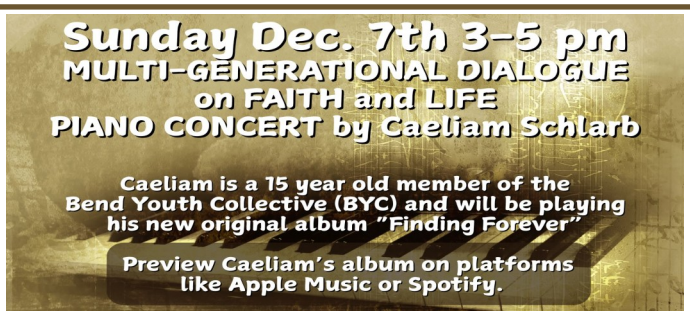
A particularly impactful session addressed practical approaches for supporting youth facing mental or emotional challenges. As someone who comes from an extremely unstable and dysfunctional childhood, this was where reflection helped re-affirm why I wanted to step into this role. The conversation moves beyond "theory" and equips leaders with the tools needed to support the youth and families within the church.

What tied all of these workshops together was a shared commitment among ministry leaders to show up with courage, empathy, and the willingness to affect change. The conference reminded me that effective youth ministry today requires both imagination and wisdom—holding space for creativity, challenge, and compassion all at once.

As this conference came to a close, I feel renewed in my position to lead with intention and openness. The Progressive Youth Ministry Conference reaffirmed that when we invest in our own growth, we become better equipped to nurture the growth of the young people entrusted to our care.

- Brent Tyler, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Join us on December 21st, right after service, for a festive holiday potluck in the gym! Enjoy Christmas movies, arts and crafts, warm hot chocolate, ornament making, coloring stations, and plenty of fun activities for all ages. And if you still have any last-minute Christmas shopping to finish, it's the perfect opportunity—your kids will be happily preoccupied for a couple of hours while you take care of it. We'd love to celebrate the season with you and your family!



Music, Conversation, and Community with BYC
Sunday, December 7th | 3–5pm | Bend Church

You're invited to a special afternoon of intergenerational connection and inspiring music! Join the **Bend Youth Collective (BYC)** for a **"Multi-Generational Dialogue on Faith and Life"** paired with a moving **piano concert by 15-year-old Caeliam Schlarb**.

Caeliam will perform his brand-new original album, *Finding Forever*, in a concert woven with opportunities for dialogue about music, Advent, and what gives us hope in challenging times. This event is a **fundraiser for BYC**, supporting programs that create sacred and inclusive spaces for youth across Bend.

Want a sneak preview? Caeliam's album is available now on **Apple Music and Spotify**.

Come support young artists, deepen community connections, and help build a stronger future for our youth. Don't miss it!

Holiday Chocolates

The last chance to buy Christmas holiday chocolates will be December 7 and 14 in the Narthex before and after church.

Happening in our Church Community

Central Oregon Holiday Toy Drive

Drop off new and unwrapped gifts in the container in the narthex.
Nov. 19 - Dec. 21

Kick off the season with United Women in Faith!
Join us for a festive

Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 6th

2-4 P.M.

In the Fellowship Hall

Have you RSVP'd?!

to Karen Wykes or Melanie Cottam

Christmas Caroling
Tuesday, Dec. 16th at 6:30pm

Meet at Bend Church for cookies and hot cocoa before you join together in song.

December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	**2** 9:00am - Jazzercise 11:30am All Staff Mtg 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 6:30pm - Praise Team	**3** 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction Services & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir	**4** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	**5** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**6** 9:00am - Jazzercise 2:00pm UWF Christmas Tea
7 10am Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk BYC Fundraising Concert featuring Caeliam Schlarb	**8** 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	**9** 9:00am - Jazzercise 11am - Worship Team 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	**10** 10am Shalom Circle 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction Services & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 4:30pm - Jazzercise 6:30pm - Choir	**11** 9:00am - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 12:00pm - Yoga 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	**12** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**13** 9:00am - Jazzercise
14 10am Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk	**15** 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	**16** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise Christmas Caroling 6:30pm	**17** 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction Services & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir	**18** 9:00am - Jazzercise 10 - Circle of Friends 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	**19** 9:00am - Jazzercise 9am Health Ministries 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**20** 9:00am - Jazzercise
21 10am Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk Holiday Potluck Celebration	**22** 9:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	**23** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	**24** 12pm - Jazzercise Christmas Eve Services 12:00pm Family Service 6:00pm Candlelight Service 8:00pm Candlelight Service	**25** *2:00 Christmas Potluck* *Must RSVP to Pastor Jen*	**26**	**27** 9:00am - Jazzercise
28 10am Brunch Church	**29** 9:00 - Jazzercise 1pm Council Mtg 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	**30** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	**31** 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction Services & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir			

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

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
Certified Lay Minister: 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