November Chimes 2025 THE CHIMES Volume 2025 - Issue 198

Dear Bend Church,

This month, as we approach All Saints Sunday, we enter a sacred space of reflection. We not only remember those we've loved and lost, but we consider what kind of legacy we are building with our own lives.

The Bible is full of stories—bold, broken, beautiful—stories of real people trying their best to follow God. Saints, as the New Testament calls them, were not perfect. They were people like you and me: tired parents, reluctant prophets, bold risk-takers, doubters and dreamers alike. They were people who, even in their flaws, made space for God's grace to work in and through them.

This month, we ask:

* What stories were you told growing up?
* What story is your life telling now?
* What story is this church telling in Bend?

In *Revelation*, we're given a vision of saints from every nation and background—a multicolored, multilingual crowd, joyfully singing God's praise. Author Madeleine L'Engle adds another twist: she imagines heaven as eerily empty—until we learn the saints are "all down in hell, ministering to the damned." Sainthood isn't about escaping suffering—it's about showing up with love and courage in places of pain.

Being a saint isn't about being perfect. It's about living faithfully and leaving a trail of grace behind you.

Here at Bend Church, the saints you sit beside each Sunday are offering their own legacies: of welcome, generosity, justice, and service. Some of them raised this church with their hands. Others shaped it with their prayers. Now, it's our turn to ask what we want to leave behind.

So let us tell good stories.
Let us live like saints—messy, faithful, justice-seeking saints.
Let us remember those who have gone before, and let our lives burn with the same hopeful yearning that stirred them to action.

With gratitude and hope,
Rev. Jen Stuart

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What: **Gratitude Harvest Fest**

When: **After church service on Sunday, Nov. 9th, 2025**

Where: **Fellowship Hall**

Join us as we celebrate the season of thankfulness at our Gratitude Harvest Fest! This special event features a variety of activities for all ages with fall-themed crafts designed to help us reflect on the many blessings God has given us.

Take time to give thanks to the goodness of God, enjoy fellowship with others, and experience the joy of a grateful heart. Bring your family and friends for a meaningful time of faith, fun, and fall festivities!

Painted Scripture Rocks
Choose a rock, pick a meaningful scripture, and paint it in your favorite colors. You can take your rock home or let us share it as a gift with one of our church family members who isn't able to attend in person.

Painted Handprint Tree
Celebrate God's beautiful creation by adding your painted handprint to our fall tree!
Using red, orange, and yellow paints, we'll create a colorful reminder that together, we are one.

Thankful Tree
Pick a leaf to decorate and write down something you're thankful for. Add it to the tree and watch how it grows in beauty throughout the month as our gratitude blossoms.

Gratitude Bingo
Take home a Bingo card filled with acts of thankfulness: donating food to Open Door Ministries, inviting someone for Thanksgiving, or writing a letter of appreciation. Complete as many as you can during November!

Thank You Notes
Write a thank-you note to anyone in the church. You can sign your name or keep it anonymous, either way it's a simple way to share love and appreciation.

Gratitude Collage
Use magazines and pictures to create a collage of the things you're grateful for. Any collages not taken home will be gathered into a *Book of Gratefulness* for the month of November.

Fundraiser:
Individually wrapped snacks and drinks will be available for purchase to support the *Family & Children's Ministry*.

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 September 2025)

Income: $484,444
(includes $50,000 transfer in from Endowment)
Budget: $434,775
Expenses: $397,053

A Message from Music Ministries

Greetings from Music Ministries!

Some of you have noticed that the choir numbers have been low several Sundays since we came back in September and have also mentioned how incredible the choir sounds even with fewer singers on those Sundays. We gratefully accept that compliment! This has been a time of travel and family visits, a surgery, etc. for our dedicated choir members. Not to worry, we are standing strong and will be in fuller force soon. Now is also an excellent time to join us!

We began rehearsals for our Christmas Cantata on October 15, and there is still plenty of time to join us on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. in the Wesley Room. Cantata rehearsals are 7-7:30, and we continue with regular choir rehearsal afterward. All singers are welcome. I can send a recording of the music to anyone interested. Contact me or simply show up Wednesday night. You will be warmly welcomed. We will present the Cantata during worship on Sunday, December 21. Join us!

Blended services are still going well. There is a natural adjustment for all. Some are quite familiar with the contemporary praise songs but may not know all of the traditional hymns and vice versa. We are all on this road together, and learning and growing.

In grace,
Karen Sipes,
Director of Music and Arts

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

Need a ride?
You might be eligible for FREE LYFT RIDES
A new program sponsored by United Way provides free Lyft rides to those with limited transportation options.

If you are over 18, have a smartphone, and live in an area where Lyft is available, you can get free or discounted roundtrip rides for medical appointments, job-related needs, or accessing food, education support, legal services, secure housing, and/or financial stability aid. Although attending church worship services is unfortunately NOT included as an eligible activity, other church-related activities might fall under the categories of education support or accessing food (as in our monthly potlucks?).

For further information or to get your free or discounted Lyft rides, call 541-389-6507. RIDE UNITED, a new program offered by United Way.

UNITED WAY
Central Oregon

Many thanks for your continuing support of OPEN DOOR MINISTRIES

Those of us in Open Door Ministries truly appreciate everyone's help with our mailroom, clothing closet, and compassionate care programs. It warms our hearts to have so many dedicated volunteers and such a generous congregation!

Here are just a few ways you can continue to help supporting us:

- Our canned food drive in September filled our shelves with soup, chili, and other canned food, which has been flying out the door! There are so many hungry people these days, and we can always use more canned food, as well as snack bars, cookies, and similar items. Pull-top cans are preferred.
- Warm winter clothing—jackets, thermal underwear, socks, hats, gloves, and blankets are needed for the cold winter months ahead. You can find many of these items at local thrift shops. Hand warmers are helpful too.
- Bring us your returnable plastic bottles and aluminum cans—it's amazing how much we collect by recycling bottles and cans! Coded blue plastic bags are available in the narthex and mailroom.

Volunteers are always needed—we can use more subs, which is a great way to get involved without making a major time commitment. Please contact Leslie Hopper or Pat Luce if you're interested.

OPEN DOOR MINISTRIES—serving those in need

BUY WREATHS from Farmworker Women!!!

Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas

Women Fighting for Progress

$45

YOUR PURCHASE OF A HOLIDAY WREATH SUPPORTS FARMWORKER WOMEN AS THEY WORK TOWARDS ***LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Since the Wreath Project began in 1992, it has made a big difference in the lives of farmworker women and their families. It has been able to provide part-time employment during the three-month holiday season to over 185 women. This is the time of the year with the least amount of farm work available, when parents struggle most to provide for their families. The money women earn through the wreath project goes toward their family household expenses: rent, utilities, holiday expenses, warm clothing, and food. MLP makes and distributes 1400+ wreaths a year, generating approximately 50% in profit and creating more than ten jobs each holiday season. We will keep addressing the needs of farm worker women and foster economic and leadership development. We will continue to strive for power and lift one another through tough times. This is our mission.

PLACE ORDERS:

1. Contact John Pitney
   pitneycompost@gmail.com
   541-337-8459
2. @ Bend Church Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30
3. Checks: $45 ea. to John Pitney
4. Order by Sunday, Nov. 30.

PICK UP WREATHS AT BEND CHURCH:

SUN DEC. 7 (9AM-NOON)

OR

EMAIL John Pitney TO ARRANGE PICK UP

MLP Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas
300 Young Street, Woodburn OR 97071
LOOK FOR US ON: (mujeresluchadoras.wordpress.com)

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

We are trying to find someone to serve as Treasurer of UWF as Carol Rhodes, who has served faithfully, is stepping down. Please contact me if you are interested. We would be very happy if one of you has a spouse who would like to serve as our Treasurer, or for that matter any church member who could do this for us. The majority of the transactions happen during the intake of money from the Bazaar and distribution to the local non profits. It is basic bookkeeping. If your skills and talent are in this area you will find this a rewarding place to serve.

The United Women in Faith always welcome new members. Our circles are small groups where you get to really know one another.

Enjoy Beautiful Bend in Autumn!

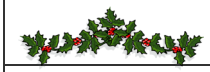
Blessings,
Melanie Cottam
UWF President

United Women in Faith

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

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

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)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9:00am - Jazzercise 9:00am Cleaning sanctuary supply closet
2 All Saints Day 10am Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk 11:30 Book Study in Gym Daylight Savings End 	**3** 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	**4** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 6:30PM ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE ELECTION DAY	**5** 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	**6** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	**7** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**8** 9:00am - Jazzercise
9 10am Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk 11:30 Book Study in Gym 	**10** 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	**11** 9:00am - Jazzercise 11am - Worship Team 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 	**12** 10am Shalom Circle 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	**13** 9:00am - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom Holiday Bazaar Set-Up	**14** 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**15** 9am to 2pm
16 10am Worship Service 11:30 - Guy Talk 11:30 Book Study in FH 9am to 1pm 	**17** 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	**18** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	**19** 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	**20** 9:00am - Jazzercise 10 - Circle of Friends 10am: Bring down decorations 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible	**21** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**22** 9:00am - Jazzercise
23 10am Worship Service *Just Because Potluck in FH* *Hanging of the Green* 	**24** 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00 Council Meeting 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30pm - Jazzercise 4:30am - Bells of Praise	**25** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	**26** 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	**27** *(Outside Event 10am to 5pm)* 	**28** 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	**29** 9:00am - Jazzercise
30 10am Worship Service 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk 11:30 Book Study in Gym First day of Advent						

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

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