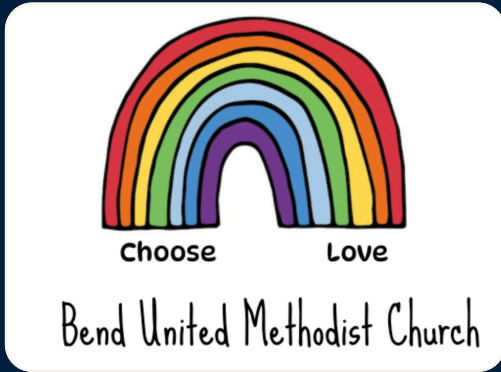


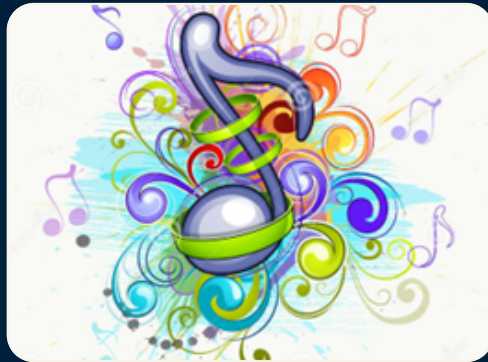
THE CHIMES



REV. JEN STUART



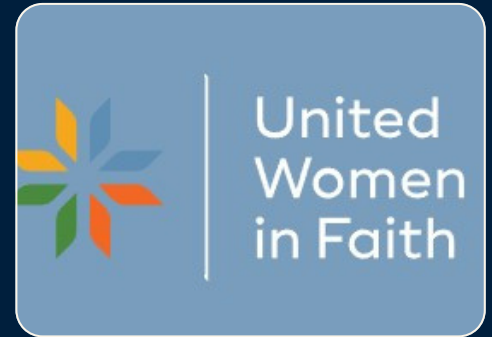
COUNCIL COMPASS



MUSIC MINISTRIES



FINANCIAL CORNER



UWF



INTERFAITH EARTH SUMMIT



MAY CALENDAR

Word from Rev. Jen Stuart

On Palm Sunday, after 78 hours of labor, my daughter gave birth to a 7lb 3oz miracle named Maisie Ames Stuart Nebeker. I spent April with the new family as they navigated recovery, nursing, and life with a newborn. I tried to stay away from the news.

I saw it on a handmade cardboard sign a few days after Maisie was born: “Make Space For Your Grief” It stopped me in my tracks. I thought of how joyous I was to be with my family welcoming this amazing new life, while grandmothers in Iran were dodging bombs and mourning the deaths of all those girls at the school we destroyed.

A few weeks later I was walking to the grocery store; new felt hat on my head to keep out the rain. I saw him sitting in the rain at the bus stop. Hands filled with flowers. Crushed flowers littered the bench and wet ground. His face was downcast and his whole body vibrated grief.

I passed him by as I went into the store, but my heart twinged. Should I reach out to this person in obvious pain? There are so many people in the world right now experiencing trauma and I cannot help all of them.

I came out with a bagful of groceries. The rain was coming down harder. I couldn't keep walking. God would not let me pass by without asking, Are you alright? He said no. I said, Do you need to talk? He said it was the anniversary of his brother's death and he was getting up the courage to put flowers on his brother's grave. I said, Oh man anniversaries, especially the first ones are really hard. I asked if he needed a hug. He said yes. I sat my bag down and we hugged while he sobbed. I told him I was a pastor and if he wanted to talk I could listen. A pastor? Huh, he said, I really miss my brother. I told him that the my dad died during COVID and that anniversary was coming up and every year the anniversary wrings out my heart, but I've lost many beloveds in my life and I know the pain is a reminder of love.

Deep love. Fierce love.

We sat there for some time speaking of holy things, and hard things, and things that give us hope. In the rain. On that bench I had one of the most honest and heart wrenching conversations of my life with someone I will probably never see again.

Here is what I know. There are things being done in the name of Christianity in our country that are causing real harm. It makes me so angry I want to cry with rage. I do what I can, but it never feels like enough. Maybe it shouldn't. Maybe now, in this time of cruelty, our eyes are being opened in ways we would rather they not be opened. And maybe we just have to feel those feelings and let them lead us into a better way of being.

Make space for your grief.

It may be the place where God meets you.

And hey, if you are carrying grief right now, you are not alone.

Come sit with us.

Rev. Jen Stuart



Discernment Updates: Thank You for Your Ideas

Thank you to everyone who showed up and shared ideas at our recent brainstorming session at our latest potluck. It was clear that people care deeply about Bend UMC and want to see it thrive—not just survive. The range of ideas was wide, thoughtful, and very practical.

One thing we heard again and again is the desire for **stronger relationships within our congregation**. Folks talked about more small groups, dinner groups, game nights, and simple things like sitting around a table together. There was real energy around sharing faith stories—how this church has helped people through hard seasons, or where they've found connection and purpose here.

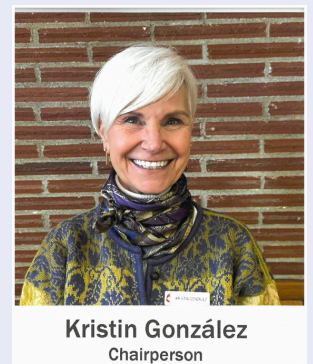
Many of you also said we need to be **more visible in the community**. That could look like showing up at Pride Fest, hosting a block party in the parking lot, putting on a BBQ or worship service in the park, or simply doing a better job telling people who we are and what we're about.

You also named real needs in Central Oregon—**childcare, housing, mental health, addiction support, and basic connection**—and expressed interest in partnering with groups already doing that work.

There were also plenty of practical ideas for **bringing in income**, from renting space and hosting concerts to grants, contracting with a coffee shop, bake sales, and community classes.

We heard you. We're paying attention. And we'll keep sharing what's next as we move forward together. If you are interested in seeing the individual and unfiltered answers, you can [click here](#).

Peace,
Kristin González





Music Ministries



Greetings!

I'd like to express my gratitude to our fabulous choir, praise team, of course Julie Geveshausen and Jo Booser, staff and congregation for a such a beautiful and meaningful season Lent and Easter. It is truly an honor and blessing to have been a part of such beauty and grace in worship.

Members of our Chancel Choir will once again join the Nativity Lutheran Choir for a concert, May 3, at 3:00 p.m. at Nativity Lutheran. It will be a lovely afternoon of beautiful sacred music.

Many of you expressed gratitude for the song we did, "Walk for Peace" about the walk of the Buddhist Monks. Dave Beckett arranged that for us, and it was meaningful for us as well. If you have more songs that hold special meaning to you like that one, please let me know.



Blessings to all,
Karen Sipes, Director of Music
music@bendumc.org

Financial Corner

Year to date - through March 2026

Actual Income	\$167,304
Budgeted Income	\$141,516
Total Operating Expenses	\$127,271
Total Other Income	\$13,521
Other Expenses	\$11,390
FYE Net Income	\$42,165





United Women in Faith



Spring Fling: Lovely flower center pieces designed and prepared by Beth Young, spring cloths on the serving tables and ribboned napkins and utensils presented a delightful, welcoming Spring Fling in Fellowship Hall. The delicious salad luncheon and variety of amazing cookies were most satisfying!!! Thom Larson and Chuck Hemingway gave informative presentations on Compassionate Care and Open Door Ministries. Valerie White, Charlotte Hartman and Cindy Pierce focused on the Clothing Closet Free Store and the Mail Room needs and activities. Other volunteers shared personal experiences and the rewards they receive from volunteering for these incredible ministries in our church. After such informative and touching presentations we were treated to the talented UKELADIES. They always fill our hearts with music and joy. Thank you to all who participated. A very special thank you to Karen Wykes who planned and carried through the entire event. A generous donation for the Open Door Ministries totaled \$678. Thank you to all who attended!

Looking forward, we will **collecting donations on May 17th and 24th to support Kits for Kids** here in Bend. This is a joint effort with the Presbyterian Church. UMCOR has challenged our UWF to design a kit useful for children suddenly forced into shelters during disasters (fires, floods, hurricanes, etc.) Bobbie Bourne and her committee have studied the needs and costs. The sample they have planned will be presented at Annual Conference and if approved will be used by UMCOR across the board. This is a big honor for our unit.

UWF welcomes all women. Within our circles you will find caring, life long friends. We are mission centered and meet monthly. We are more than willing to start an evening or week end group to meet the needs of working ladies. We even have a large group that cannot meet, but want to be included and contribute where they can.

Melanie Cottam
President UWF

Crafters

The UWF Crafters group welcomes any homemade items you wish to donate for the Holiday Bazaar in November.

We've already started making things and we hope you will too!

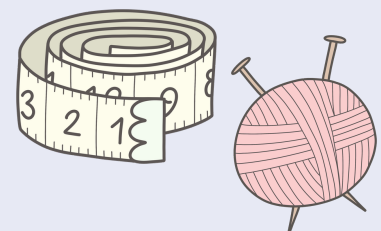
If you have items to donate contact Jill Gentry at mmegentry@gmail.com



Crafters meet in the Fellowship Hall:

May 4 from 10-12

May 11 from 10-12



You Are Invited !!!

Interfaith Earth Summit 2026



When: Sunday May 17, 2026, 12:30-3:30 pm

What: 1:00-2:00 Statewide Zoom (12:30 registration)
2:00-3:30 Local Action: StopNWGas, Energize Bend

Where: Brooks Hall @ Trinity Episcopal Church
469 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon

We will: Create a quilt to show across Oregon & PNW
Imagine Earth beyond fossil fuel
Join efforts to stop gas & create healthy spaces

REGISTER NOW: (emoregon.org/event/2026-earth-summit/#form)

PARKING: Bend United Methodist lot (680 NW Bond)

Sponsors:

Ecumenical Ministries of OR, Energize Bend, 350 Deschutes, StopNWGas, The Environmental Center, Interfaith EarthCare of Central Oregon

?Questions? (pitneycompost@gmail.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1 style="font-family: cursive;">May</h1> <h1 style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">2026</h1>					1	2
					9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	9:00am - Jazzercise
10am Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour ☕ 11:00 - Guy Talk 4:00 - 6:30 BYC	3 9:00 - Jazzercise 10:00 - Crafters 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30 - Jazzercise 4:30pm - Bells	4 9:00am - Jazzercise 11:30 - All Staff Mtg 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 	5 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction & Compassionate Care 6:30pm - Choir	6 9:00am - Jazzercise 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
10am Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour ☕ 11:00 - Guy Talk 4:00 - 6:30 BYC 	9 9:00 - Jazzercise 10am - Crafters 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30 - Jazzercise 4:30pm - Bells	10 9:00am - Jazzercise 11:30 Worship Team 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	11 10am Shalom Circle 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction & Compassionate Care 6:30pm - Choir	12 9:00am - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	13 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	14 9:00am - Jazzercise
10am Worship 11:00 - Guy Talk 11:30am Potluck  4:00 - 6:30 BYC	15 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30 - Jazzercise 4:30pm - Bells	16 9:00am - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	17 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction & Compassionate Care 6:30pm - Choir	18 9:00am - Jazzercise 10am Circle of Friends 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	19 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	20 9:00am - Jazzercise
10am Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour ☕ 11:00 - Guy Talk 4:00 - 6:30 BYC	21 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 1pm Council Meeting 	22 9:00am - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	23 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction & Compassionate Care 6:30pm - Choir	24 9:00am - Jazzercise 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
10am Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour ☕ 11:00 - Guy Talk 4:00 - 6:30 BYC						

Please note: Calendar items are church related. There are many more events occurring in the building that are not on this calendar. 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.