

THE CHIMES

bend  church 
UNITED METHODIST



Choose Love

Bend United Methodist Church

REV. JEN STUART



LENTEN WORSHIP



COUNCIL COMPASS



DISCERNMENT
TEAM TALK



CHURCH ACTIVITIES



FEBRUARY CALENDAR



MUSIC MINISTRIES



FINANCIAL CORNER

Word from Rev. Jen Stuart

Why do we start each service saying, “We believe Christian Nationalism is incompatible with Christian teaching”?

I've gotten this question a few times lately and I want to be clear why it is so very important to state what we believe so explicitly. I've never been one who wants to address what we do not believe, but in these fraught times it is important to be transparent. As United Methodists we do not swim in these waters, but we are living in a time where White Christian Nationalists have taken over the public sphere, and we can no longer ignore this heresy.

White Christian nationalism is an ideology and social movement in the United States that believes America was founded as a Christian nation, and that its laws, culture, and national identity should remain rooted in conservative Protestantism. It merges Christian identity with national identity, often equating being "American" with being both white and Christian. Researchers, such as those at PRRI and Yale University note that it is not simply about personal faith, but about using political power to shape the nation according to a specific, exclusionary vision of white men in leadership.

In 2024 our Bishops in a letter to the church wrote, “Christian nationalism demands laws, culture, and public policies be based on a distorted interpretation of the Gospel that elevates power and control over love. These ideologies are in direct contradiction to our Christian faith because our “love of God is always linked with love of neighbor, a passion for justice and the renewal of life in the world.” (“Our Doctrinal Heritage” BOD p 53).

None of us in leadership at Bend First United Methodist Church have asked for the chaos and evil that has been unleashed on our country, but now that we are in it, we will speak boldly and without fear. We will not allow the powers and principalities to numb our sense of call. We do not accept White Christian Nationalism as normative and we pray that all those caught in its grip will repent and see the error of their ways.

<https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/newsdetail/umcbishops-denounce-political-violence-18654125>

<https://www.umcjustice.org/latest/christian-nationalism-in-the-u-s-1933>



Lenten Worship

Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. Sanctified Art created this Lenten devotional studying what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—all of which are meant to be very good news for us all.

Jesus' ministry can be described as “radical” which comes from the Latin word “radicalis,” meaning “root” or “ground.” Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be. Can we be “good news” people in a world too often burdened by bad news?

This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is good news. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

We invite you to journey through this devotional at your own pace, as each week offers art, reflections, poetry, and hymns to ground you in the good news. This Lent, let the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. May the good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good!

This Lent we invite you to participate in a 6 week small group study as a way to get to know one another, and find community amidst these chaotic days. We ask that you covenant to be at every meeting unless you are sick or out of town.

In person sign-ups will be available after worship on Sundays or email layleader@bendumc.org to sign up and get more information on where you will meet.

Starting February 22nd Please note which class you wish to attend:

SUNDAYS:

- Guy Talk (conference room 103)
- Mixed new group in the Youth Room

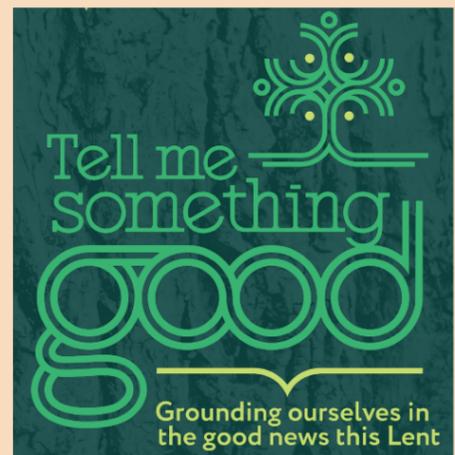
TUESDAYS: 6:30PM - 8:00PM - IN-PERSON

WEDNESDAYS:

- 4:00PM - 5:30PM ONLINE
- 6:30PM - 8:00PM IN-PERSON

THURSDAYS:

- 7:00PM - 8:30PM ONLINE
- 7:00PM - 8:30PM IN-PERSON (focus on Bonhoeffer's “After 10 Years”)



Council Compass

Throughout history, Methodists have believed that following the Gospel sometimes requires resisting laws, policies, and systems that harm human dignity. Our tradition teaches that when government actions conflict with Christ's call to justice, mercy, and love, faithful witness can be costly.

Methodist activism has never been about party loyalty, but about Gospel integrity.

The Methodist Church formally opposed segregation and racial discrimination when doing so was politically unpopular. This stance angered lawmakers, donors, and even congregants, yet it was rooted in a clear conviction: the Gospel does not bend to convenience or public opinion.

John Wesley insisted that faith must be lived out in the public world, not confined to private belief. That conviction shaped generations of Methodists who challenged injustice, even when it disrupted social order or unsettled political leaders. In the 19th century, Sojourner Truth, a Methodist preacher, spoke boldly against slavery and for women's rights, unsettling both church and state. Frederick Douglass, deeply shaped by Methodist preaching, condemned slavery as incompatible with Christianity. Methodist women such as Frances Willard led reform movements addressing labor abuse, poverty, and public health, often confronting powerful economic interests and government inaction.

During the Civil Rights Movement, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist deeply influenced by Methodism, worked closely with Methodist leaders and institutions. Many Methodist pastors and laypeople marched, preached, and organized for desegregation, frequently facing arrest and backlash. Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam became a national advocate for refugees and immigrants, publicly opposing restrictive U.S. immigration policies as contrary to Christian faith.

In later decades, Methodists have continued to advocate for immigrant dignity, poverty relief, LGBTQ inclusion, women's leadership, and care for creation—often challenging policies across the political spectrum. Denominations differ, but the shared Wesleyan DNA appears throughout American public life, shaping figures such as Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver, and U.S. presidents Rutherford B. Hayes, William McKinley, and George W. Bush.

Again and again, Methodists have resisted aligning faith with partisan agendas, insisting instead that the Gospel stands above political convenience. This legacy reminds us that discipleship may disrupt comfort and consensus.

Methodism's story is one of courageous love, faithful resistance, and hope rooted in Christ.

Kristin Gonzalez - Council Chair



Kristin González
Chairperson

● Council Compass - *Continued* ●

Patching and Painting in the Sanctuary – an update from the trustees

As members of Bend Church well know, the sanctuary experienced water damage related to a leaky roof. A new roof, installed in 2023 and 2024, stopped the leaks. However, budget limitations during the COVID years limited our financial resources and repair of that water damage in the sanctuary has lingered for years.

Thanks to the generous giving of members, Bend Church finished 2025 in the black for the first time in several years. In addition, the Church's endowment had a profitable year and the endowment board approved funds for repair of the sanctuary. Recently, the trustees contracted local drywallers and painters to repair the water-damaged parts of the sanctuary. We hope members find the repaired walls and ceiling and fresh coat of paint on the north side of the sanctuary pleasing to behold. We are planning to undertake several other deferred maintenance projects this year if finances permit.

Mark Gonzalez - Trustees Chair



United Women in Faith

UWF Executive Board will resumed meeting in January. We made plans and set dates for this coming year. It was also the meeting where we decided on the disbursement of our Holiday Bazaar funds.

The UWF welcomes anyone who would like to join our work that supports women, children, and youth at home and around the world. We currently have three circles and a crafter's group. We are open to starting a new circle that would accommodate working women or those with other special time needs. We are eager to reach out to all women in our church and are certainly willing to listen to new ideas that will guide us ahead. I also must add that besides our purpose to serve others, we are there for one another in times of joy, concern, or sorrow. These circles are loving sisters in Christ who sincerely care about one another.

Hope in the Future,
Melanie Cottam

● Discernment Team Talk ●

Hello Everyone,

Thank you to everyone who participated in the discernment conversations at our potluck on January 18. With 81 people in attendance, the level of engagement was amazing, and the spirit was both thoughtful and deeply caring.

The discussions reflected heartfelt concern for the future of our church, honest grief over the loss of familiar ways of worship, and a shared recognition that change is necessary if we are to remain faithful to our mission. Again and again, people expressed a desire for Bend Church to continue serving our community and to live out Christ's love in meaningful, visible ways.

Every comment shared at the potluck was carefully recorded and compiled into a master document. At our January 21 meeting, the Discernment Team reviewed the major themes that emerged. We now have a strong understanding of the priorities, hopes, and concerns voiced by those who participated, and this work will guide the next phase of our discernment process.

Our next potluck is scheduled for February 15, when we will share another update on our progress. Thank you for showing up, speaking honestly, and listening generously. Every perspective matters, and we are grateful for each one.

Peace,
Kristin

Peace and Love,
Kristin González





Music Ministries



Welcome to cold and flu season! Your friendly neighborhood Master Vocal Instructor here with some reminders and tips for vocal health. Our voices are more important than ever right now, with all that is happening in our country. Let's keep them healthy!

- Water is the best thing to keep vocal cords hydrated. Nothing else works better.
- Coughing, whispering, too much throat clearing cause trauma and inflammation to the vocal cords due to repeated forceful closing of the vocal folds. Try to soothe coughs, only use a gentle tone to speak rather than whisper, and hydrate to avoid excessive throat clearing.
- Rest...both adequate sleep and vocal rest are imperative to maintaining vocal health, especially when ill.
- Avoid caffeine, excessive dairy, and excessive spice, which cause irritation, especially when sick.
- If heartburn or acid reflux is a problem, an antacid at night helps prevent acid from flowing into the throat while lying down, and creates hoarseness.

I have more, but that's a good start.

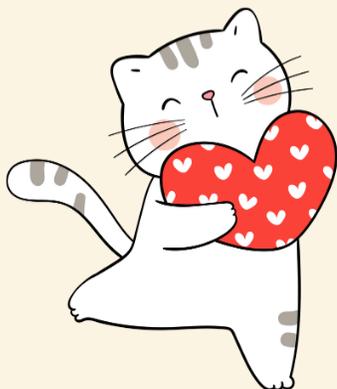
Many people have approached me over the years with concerns about their vocal quality and ability to sing waning with age. Shameless plug, obviously, but singing in a healthy way in a good choir is the best way to strengthen and revive the voice. I happen to know one that meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. No audition required, and you will be warmly welcomed.

As always, our Praise Team and Chancel Choir are hard at work, making joyful noise and giving of their best. We manage to have a great of fun in the process!

Blessings,
Karen Sipes,
Director of Music and Arts



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour ☺ 11:30 - Guy Talk 12:00 - The Chosen 4:00 - 6:30 BYC	2 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30 - Jazzercise 4:30pm - Bells	3 9:00am - Jazzercise 11:30 All Staff Mtg 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	4 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir	5 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	6 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	7 9:00am - Jazzercise
8 10am Worship Card Making!  11:30 Coffee Hour ☺ 11:30 - Guy Talk 12:00 - The Chosen 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 11:30am Worship Team 12:00pm - Yoga 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 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir	12 9:00am - Jazzercise 9 - Education Team 12:00pm - Yoga 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 
15 10am Worship  11:30 - Potluck 11:30 - Guy Talk 12:00 - The Chosen 4:00 - 6:30 BYC	16 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30 - Jazzercise 4:30pm - Bells 	17 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise  5:30 Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper	18 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir ASH WEDNESDAY Noon - Episcopal Church 7pm - Bend FUMC	19 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	20 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	21 9:00am - Jazzercise
22 10am Worship ☺ 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 - Guy Talk 12:00 - The Chosen 4:00 - 6:30 BYC	23 9:00 - Jazzercise 10am - Crafters 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30 - Jazzercise 4:30pm - Bells	24 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	25 10am UWF Board 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir	26 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	27 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	28 9:00am - Jazzercise



February

2026

