

Easter

Easter encompasses a 50-day period between Easter and Pentecost, which is significant as a season of spiritual reflection and renewal. The term "Easter" potentially finds its roots in words like Norse eostur, eastur, or ostara, denoting "the season of the growing sun" or "the season of new birth." For Christians, Easter symbolizes the triumph of God over death, emphasizing that even death cannot overcome our life in Christ.

In the narrative of Christ's death and resurrection, we are reminded that, in a spiritual sense, we, too, have died with Christ and risen to a new life in Christ. This transformation signifies shedding our old selves to become a new creation in God. Consequently, the celebration of Easter extends beyond mere observance to incorporate meaningful acts such as baptism or embracing new membership within the congregation. These rituals are intricately woven into our commitment to living a renewed life as followers of Christ.

This new life, new birth, and new creation are profoundly significant for us who have faith in Easter. Yet, sometimes, this essence of "new life" can be obscured by the term "resurrection," which often evokes ideas of revival, restoration, revitalization, and so on. We anticipate that resurrection will entail a return to our previous activities and

routines. Thus, we often speak of revival, longing to see children back in our classrooms as they were before, yearning to rekindle all the positive aspects of our past experiences.



I want to emphasize the significance of new life, new birth, and new creation. I firmly believe that the essence of Easter is not about returning to our past or reverting to our former selves. We have undergone a profound transformation; we are no longer the same individuals we once were. Easter calls us to embrace new experiences and challenges we may not have envisioned. Our identity, values, and life's purpose have evolved, leading us to live in ways we never imagined. We are renewed individuals, living a distinctly different life.

This call extends beyond the church to encompass all of Christianity. In the current era, the essence of Easter's new life is more imperative than ever. Our communities, the upcoming generations, and the world at large beckon us to become a new creation. We are called to advocate for housing issues, racial justice, human sexuality, equity, and myriad other causes in which we may not have previously engaged.

The Easter message of new life, new birth, and new creation emboldens us to transcend our previous limitations and step into roles we never envisioned.

We are constantly being renewed, born anew each day, and finding new life in our connection with God. It is incumbent upon all of us who live in this intersectional generation to heed the call to bring transformation and God's renewing grace to all, extending beyond our church and actively engaging with the broader community.

So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! 2 Corinthians 5.17

-Pastor Dylan Hyun

Trustee Updates



*The Board of Trustees met with CERT Community director, Greg Wenneson to discuss potential partnering with OGUMC in order to plan and organize in case of a future

emergency. CERT trains volunteers, organizes neighborhoods and communities in order to coordinate local resources.

*All new LED lighting has been installed in the Fellowship Hall, the stage, and the office area.

*New maintenance goals are being considered for 2024. If members have a suggestion, please feel free to discuss it with a Trustee.

*A new Solar program being offered to faith communities will be reviewed.

-your Trustees

Holy Rollers Bunco Group



Join Us for fun & friendship!

The word is out! ... there is a lot of fun and fellowship going on in our church newly formed "Holy Rollers" Bunco group.

Do like fun?

Do you like to be with church friends in an informal way?

Can you roll dice? (only skill needed)

Do you enjoy at-home hospitality?

Bunco is an easy game we use as an excuse to see our friends. We meet on the first Wednesday night from 6:30pm to 9:00pm each month at members' homes.

Right now, the group is all women, but Co-ed is possibility in future.

Question? Contact Cynthia Mittelsteadt at cmittel@comcast.net

Or Donna Metcalf at donnametcalf@cmcast.net



Our History:

How did camping ministry start in Oregon-Idaho?

Last month I introduced this series about our history by looking at the four movements that influenced camp and retreat ministry throughout the denomination (and beyond). Today it's time to look more specifically at the history of our own area.

When talking about the history of camp and retreat ministry in Oregon and Idaho, we generally pinpoint 1922 as the year it all began. We do know, though, that some events were happening prior to this. Some camping-related gatherings took place on a particular site where we continue to offer ministry today, and some were held at other locations.

For the first 20 years or so, we functioned loosely, without much sense of organization as a whole body. But on January 28, 1942 (82 years ago!) the Oregon Conference Board of Education of The Methodist Church was incorporated with the State of Oregon. This was a significant step toward a sense of cohesion for an actual camping program. At the same time, the Idaho Conference was operating camps at Wallowa Lake and in 1948, Sawtooth was added.

In Oregon, Suttle Lake marks its beginning in the pivotal year of 1922. In 1941, the property for Leewood camp was purchased; this is the site where the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center is now located. Over at the coast, the land for Camp Magruder was secured in 1945. For Camp Latgawa, we acquired the Forest Service lease, which we still maintain,

in 1953. Camp McCall in Idaho was added in 1958 (the property was sold in 2021) and Loon Lake was purchased in 1962 and sold in 2003.

In 1968, The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged to form The United Methodist Church. At almost the same time, the Oregon and Idaho conferences merged in 1969 to become the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. The new conference now had stewardship over eight sites: Magruder, Leewood, Suttle Lake, Loon Lake, Latgawa (though it was known by a different name then), Wallowa Lake, Sawtooth, and McCall.



PHOTO: The old bell at Suttle Lake Camp, some time in the 1950s. The bell is still used today.

Some historic milestones since then:

In the last part of the twentieth century, we had a partnership with the Presbyterian Church in this area to provide camp and retreat opportunities.

In October 1992, the Articles of Incorporation were changed to reflect a new name: The Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries of the Oregon-Idaho Conference of The United Methodist Church.

In 2010 we reached an agreement with the Episcopal Diocese of Western Oregon to work together to offer camp and retreat ministry opportunities for the diocese and its members. We have had many partners over the years with whom we have worked, assisting them in doing good in the world. They in turn have helped us fulfill our mission of creating sacred spaces of Christian hospitality and learning.

By 2022, our century mark, we found ourselves reeling from the impact of a global pandemic but we still managed to raise money to support our budget, even while re-inventing camp and retreat experiences that were safe, fun, and faith-filled. And here we are today, with six thriving sites and an excellent staff ready to meet the challenges of the future!

We look forward to the next 100 years and whatever exciting changes and opportunities lie ahead. No matter how the years unfold, we can continue to live out our faithful response to God's call on our lives through this ministry of hospitality, Christian community, and intentional faith formation.

On the road to wonder, love, and justice,

Rev. Todd Bartlett

Executive Director Oregon / Idaho UMC
Camp and Retreat Ministries



Sponsor a 2024 Yearbook For a New Urban High School Student!



That's right! We once again have an opportunity to show our support to the students of NUHS by sponsoring their annual yearbooks! The yearbook costs this year are \$35 per book, and the students are very excited about all that is going into their preparation. Do you remember picking up your yearbook at the end of the school year and delighting in seeing all that had happened throughout the year? Do you remember searching that same book years later and reflecting on all the friendships, memories, and goofy hairstyles? Let's help ensure the students of NUHS have a chance to enjoy all those memories from the 2023-24 school year by donating to the NUHS Yearbook fund! Simply give what you can toward the books – If you can sponsor a book for \$35 – that's great! But if not, whatever you give will help purchase a book for a student. Simply mark your offering "NUHS Yearbook" and put it in the offering box or send it to the church. And, let me say on behalf of the students, "Thanks for the Memories!"

-Deb Payne, Coordinator

What Does My Offering Do?

The following is an excerpt from the Call for Offering on Sunday, March 10th:

“As you already know, we believe that giving money is a spiritual practice. It’s another way of showing our love to one another. But how does it do that? How does my giving to the general fund do that?

Consider this: Your giving to the general fund, for example, pays the electric bill. I know you’re saying, ‘well yeah, but so what?’ Think of it this way – because our electric bill is paid each month – through our general giving, we have three AA groups that are able to meet in the Education Wing each week – and they are warm and comfortable. Or, hey, what about our water bill? Your giving helps to pay that bill, too – and because of that, everyone – everyone! - who uses the building can use the bathrooms, can make coffee, can wash our hands before making the lunches for CSC and Father’s Heart. And, how many of you know Jenny – our administrative assistant – who does so much for us including preparing the slides and all the needed

paperwork for our weekly services, preparing our newsletter, helping us reserve rooms when needed

and then ensuring that John knows about .

The following is an excerpt from the Call for needed and then ensuring that John knows about it so things can be set up, bathrooms can be cleaned, floors can be mopped and vacuumed, and so much more. And all of those things I’ve just talked about, gives Imagine Theater who is a Christ-centered theater organization for youth – a safe, welcoming, comfortable place to call home as they prepare their theatrical shows twice a year. Yes, your general giving pays our staff’s salaries. I could go on and on, but you’ve guessed it by now...Your giving to the general fund, enables our ministries (and yes, that includes paying the electric and water bills, paying our staff, purchasing supplies such as paper, postage, coffee supplies, and so much more).

All this goes to say, paying to the general fund may not sound exciting, but doing so is what enables us to do the exciting stuff!”

Thank you to all who give to our general fund supporting our many ministries.

-Deb Payne, Finance Chair



2024 NUHS Prom

A Masquerade
Party!

April 12, 2024
at New Urban
High School - The Commons



Prom season is upon us and the Prom Planning Committee at NUHS is underway with their plans for a Masquerade Party. Oak Grove UMC is joining in by helping in a variety of ways, and you are invited to be a part of the efforts! I'll post a sign up on the NUHS bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or you can call and let me know in what way you would like to volunteer.

Volunteer options:

Decorate for the Prom the afternoon of April 12

Help to keep food and drink replenished at the Prom the evening of April 12

Provide cupcakes for the Prom (the details of this are being worked out, so stay tuned)

NOTE: Anyone helping out at the school will need to complete a volunteer form. If you plan to sign up (or even think you might), please complete this form as soon as possible: <https://www.nclack.k12.or.us/departments/student-family-support-services/volunteer>.

This event is always great fun, and it goes a long way in letting the students and faculty of NUHS know that we are a part of their community! Please sign up today and be a part of the fun!

Deb Payne 503.320.0692

Sack Lunch Preparations Continue!

The OGUMC program for preparing 150 healthy sack lunches twice a month for distribution by the Clackamas Service Center and Father's Heart continues as we strive to serve those who are dealing with food insecurities.



A giant THANK YOU to all of our faithful volunteers who jump in to support this program and the neighbors who benefit from it! It is because of you that this program continues year after year!

The sign-up sheets for March through June are posted on the CSC bulletin board and ready for you to sign-up (peek under March April for May and June). And, if you haven't done this before, don't hesitate to jump in and sign up. We think you will have a good time!

Of Note:

Cookies: If you can provide about three dozen cookies (home-baked or store bought), your donations would be greatly appreciated. Just sign-up for when you are able to do this and deliver them on or before that date.

Participating from Home: There are jobs for folks that can be done from home. If you'd like to help out in this way, just contact Norma Campbell, and she will get you started.

And again - to all:

THANK YOU!

March Birthdays

March 2 Laurie Yadon
March 6 Janet Beale
March 8 Bud Robinson
March 14 Stori Long
March 15 Barbara Brandt
March 19 Walt Garvin
March 22 Joan McNamara
March 28 Dale Naftzger
March 29 Steve Busch



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

April Birthdays

April 3 Adrian Blackman
April 4 Nicole Wilson
April 5 Norma Campbell
April 10 Joe Dryden
April 13 Donna Hall
April 14 Tami Busch
April 18 Vena Edwards
April 19 Deb Payne
April 21 Jeannie Lambert
April 21 Alyssa Bolger
April 21 Amy Persad
April 22 Jace Day
April 24 Patricia Doyle
April 24 Geri Nelson

Are we missing a birthday? Let us know! Contact
the office 503-654-3161 ogumc@comcast.net

Connect with us

Facebook:

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YouTube:

[Oak Grove United Methodist Church Oregon](https://www.youtube.com/OakGroveUnitedMethodistChurchOregon)

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Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

9am-12pm & 1pm-3pm

Weekly Events

- **Sundays at 10:30am**
Worship Service in-person and online
- **Tuesdays at 10:00am**
Men's Bible reading class
- **Wednesdays at 10:00 am** Quilters
- **Wednesdays at 11:00am** Pizza Delivery
- **Wednesdays at 12:00 pm**
AA Women's group
- **Wednesdays at 6:00 pm**
AA Women's group
- **Wednesdays at 7:30 pm** Al-Anon
- **Thursdays at 10:00am** Al-Anon

Our Mission:

***"Connecting people with
Jesus and each other to better
our world."***