

# Weekly Newsletter

Oregon City United Methodist Church

August 7, 2025

**Join Us In-Person or  
Livestream**

**OCUM Church starting at  
10:00 a.m.**

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A place where we *"Love Others and Value Everyone!"*

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Greeting to you, my friends at OCUMC!

As we come close to the end of this first full week of August, I am becoming more excited (and a little anxious) to share this “Healing Injustice” sermon series with you. It’s a series that’ll take a look at Jesus’ healings primarily in Luke and ask the question, ‘What injustice might this address?’

Now the series is a departure from my standard practice of following the Revised Common Lectionary, which made me wonder, ‘What is the lectionary reading for this Sunday?’ It’s Luke 12:32-40. Jesus starts the teaching in the passage by telling us it is God’s good pleasure to give us the kingdom. He also teaches us to store up our treasures in heaven, to make purses for ourselves that do not wear out, where no thief can steal and no moth destroys. For where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. Jesus then tells us to be watchful servants for the Master will come unexpectedly. He implores us to stay alert, awake, and on guard.



We’ve likely heard the passage before, probably many times over whether from the pulpit, the Sunday school teacher, or in Bible study. We may have even heard it from a friend or neighbor after helping them out or doing something kind and heartfelt where they say, “Your reward is in heaven,” or “There you go storing up treasures in heaven.” I wonder though, how do we take this passage?

One way is to say we adopt the ways of Christ and live a life in the good will of God the Creator. Having Christ in our hearts is the treasure we store up. Yet, in this passage Jesus doesn’t say, ‘take me as your treasure and store me in heaven.’ Jesus specifically says ‘make for *yourself*,’ and ‘where *your* treasure is.’ So I ask you, what treasure are you putting in the purse that never wears out?

While you’re thinking about that, I have another question for you. Is it really practical to stay ever awake and vigilant, as Jesus teaches in the last verses of this passage? I mean, we’re only human. We need rest and sleep. We need sabbath as God took sabbath and as Jesus exemplified in those moments where he went into those places away from the crowds to find solitude.

What if Jesus in this passage is telling us to awaken our minds to what our true treasure is? I mean if God’s pleasure is to give us the kingdom of heaven, wouldn’t that point to our hearts and especially our minds needing to be open to understand what the kingdom of heaven truly is? Then wouldn’t this point to a need to change our perspectives, to repent, which is to shift or realign our thinking? If Jesus is continually saying the kingdom is at hand or near to us, then wouldn’t storing our treasure in heaven not be to put it in a place that is not yet, but rather in a place that is emerging now? And if this is indeed the case, what is your treasure? Your real treasure. Not your car or your money or the heirlooms from your family’s past. What treasure do you hold dear to you that fuels your desire and your strength to stand against evil, in all the forms it presents itself, and build the kingdom of heaven here on earth?

For me, it’s my family stability and the hope of a future in which my children will thrive in a gentler, more compassionate society. It is the hope for a future where they and others are accepted for who they are, not whom society deems they should be. I hope for a future where people don’t serve power, instead power serves the people, as it should be. This is my treasure wrapped in the purse of my hope in God’s love and mercy, strongly woven with the teachings of Christ, and reinforced by the guidance of Spirit on my faith journey.

So one more time, to have the question in the front of your mind, I ask... What is your treasure in heaven?

In faithful service,

*Pastor Tom*



WHITEHEAD, VINCENT	08/02
MARGESON, SANDEE	08/10
PALMER, CHRISTA	08/10
STERLE, DENISE	08/10
JOHNSON, SHARI	08/11
FERGUSON, DICK	08/13
SPAINHOWER, KATHY	08/16
WARD, GAIL	08/18
BENSON, DAN	08/27
ENGEL, DAWN	08/31

## HOPE Food Pantry



### Distribution Update

This week, HOPE Food Pantry provided assistance to 61 families, serving a total of 206 individuals.



Wednesday, August 20  
6:30pm

Join us in making a joyful noise to God above!

## Save the date

### Finance Team Meeting

Monday, August 11 @ 10:00am

### Care Team Meeting

Tuesday, August 12 @ 2:00pm

### Celebration of Life

A service honoring the life of Jim Pense will take place on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Oregon City United Methodist Church.

### Men's Night Out

Monday, August 18 @ 6:00pm  
Beavercreek Saloon & Kissin' Kate's  
21950 S Beavercreek Rd, Oregon City.  
Come join us for food and fellowship!

### Brunch Fellowship

Sunday, August 24 @ 11:00am  
We invite you to partake in a selection of brunch items and participate in meaningful fellowship following the service.

## Our Weekly Giving Moment

"Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith. By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible." Hebrews 11:1-3, CEB

Faith is believing in things we can't always see—trusting that God is at work in ways beyond our sight. Hebrews 11 reminds us that this kind of faith has always shaped God's people. It's also the faith we live out together through connectional giving in The United Methodist Church.

One way we express this shared faith is through the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund. This apportionment supports our global Christian witness by helping United Methodists be present in ecumenical and interfaith conversations around the world. It's how we stand together—across traditions, languages, and denominations—to act in faith and make a global difference.

We may not see the full impact of this ministry, but we trust that God works through our connection to build bridges, seek peace, and witness to Christ's love.

Join us in worship this Sunday as we celebrate our shared faith and explore how we give beyond what we see.