

# NEWSLETTER



August 24, 2023

**Join Us In-Person or  
Livestream**

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

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

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**Rev. Tom Orquiza-Renardo**

Pastor

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**Christa Palmer**

Secretary

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**Rick Wilson**

Music Director



To the family and friends of Oregon City UMC,

It seems like so long ago I put the challenge out there for you all to challenge me with your questions through the summer. And challenge me, you did. This summer we have explored your questions on faith and scripture together, and I have been thoroughly enjoying this summer series.

While we still have some time left in the summer, our “Challenge the Preacher” sermon series is coming to its end. After this Sunday there will be five sermons left in the series ranging in topic from *our responsibility to the environment* to *what do we know about the afterlife*. I look forward to responding to these questions.



There's more to share though. October 1<sup>st</sup> will not be the last day for answering questions and exploring the meaning of faith and how we understand it. There will always be questions and we as God's people will always be searching for answers to the mysteries. God created us with a spirit of curiosity about the world and our realities. Don't push that curiosity away. Don't take things on blind faith, but seek to build an informed faith. Follow the example of Solomon in all his wisdom like we talked about this last Sunday. Ask you questions. Be in conversation with each other around your uncertainties. Drop a note in my box about an article you read or share a story with me that might raise questions for you. I love being in conversation around all of this and I love bringing in fresh, new, and maybe even challenging perspectives to stoke the fires of contemplation. You all do the same for me with your questions.

We can get together and have coffee, or even an after-church brunch, from time to time around a question or two that someone brings up. It can be a continuation of “Fellowship Conversations” like the conversation around being Reconciling.

However we continue the conversation, keep those questions coming. Keep learning. If you're comfortable with the term, keep deconstructing. Keep seeking Spirit Truth as you walk in faith.

In faithful service,

*Pastor Tom*

# What's Happening This Week

## Friday, August 25

6:00pm – Last Friday Suppers

## Saturday, August 26

## Sunday, August 27

8:30am – Searches Class  
10:00am – Worship Service

## Monday, August 28

## Tuesday, August 29

## Wednesday, August 30

1:00pm – HOPE Food Pantry  
5:00pm – Worship Design Team  
6:30pm – Choir Practice

## Thursday, August 31

10:00am – Women's Study Group

## Friday, September 1



# Upcoming EVENTS

## Last Friday Suppers / Dinner & Movie

Friday, August 25 @ 6:00pm

Chicken Enchilada Casserole, Salad, and Dessert is on the Menu!  
Dinner will be followed by a showing of the faith-based movie "Facing the Giants".



## Choir Practice

Wednesday, August 30 @ 6:30pm

Join us in making a joyful noise to God above!

## Labor Day

In observance of Labor Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, September 4. We will resume normal office hours on Tuesday, September 5.

## Rally Day!

Sunday, September 10

Join us for a celebration of our church's life and ministries!

- 8:30am - Searchers Class
- 10:00am - Worship Service, Choir, Backpack Blessings
- 10:15am - FunZone Celebration for the kids
- 11:00am - Ministry Fair / Brunch Goodies!



## Men's Night Out

Men's night out will be taking Monday off this month. We will be returning to our regular scheduled night out on September 18th. A reminder will be sent out before then as to where we will be meeting. Hope to see you then.

## Coming in September

Pastor Tom is inviting you to join him in reading

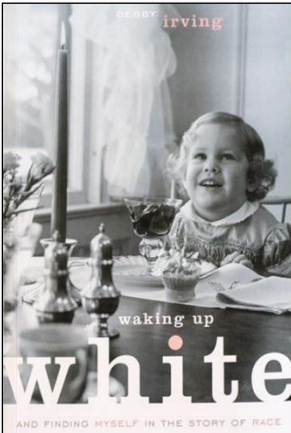
### Waking Up White

and Finding Myself in the Story of Race



Racial Justice Educator and author, Debby Irving

*This is an opportunity for informed casual conversation around Racial Justice.*



## Starting September 13

We will begin reading the book **I'm Black. I'm Christian.**

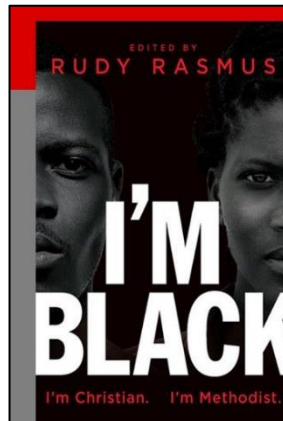
### **I'm Methodist.**

a collection of stories offering perspectives and experiences beyond our own.

Wednesdays @ 10:00am

Thursdays @ 7:00pm

Hybrid option available



You can order these books through Amazon.com or your local bookstore. If you are unable to purchase a book, please let Pastor Tom know and we can make some copies available.



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
ENGEL, DAWN	08/31

### Bottle Drop Fundraiser

You can support OCUMC with your empty bottles and cans! Our Fundraising Team will provide the bags to members and anyone else who wants one. The bags are blue and have an OCUMC sticker on them. You simply collect your bottles and cans in the blue bags, then drop the full bags at the local Bottle Drop location or at OCUMC. It's that easy!

**All proceeds from the Bottle Drop Fundraiser will go towards the repair of the Church Roof and the HVAC Unit.**

For more information contact the church office @ 503-656-3433.

## Challenge the Preacher Sermon Series

Pastor Tom asked you to submit your hard questions about Scripture and faith. You all did not disappoint! Pastor Tom will be preaching on your questions through the Summer. Here is the line-up of sermons to come through the next five weeks. If you submitted a sermon suggestion, you can check here, or on our website (click or hover over *Worship*, then go to *This Week & Beyond*) to see when Pastor Tom will preach on your question.

Some submissions have been combined due to similarity of topic.

### Sunday, August 27

*Created in the Image*  
Genesis 1:26-28a, 2:7-8, 15-20a

**Original question:** "How do we understand the image of God? How are we created in the image of God?"

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### Sunday, September 3

*What Did God Say?*  
2 Peter 1:12-21

**Original question:** "What is the best version of the Bible? How accurate is the translation?"

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### Sunday, September 10

*What Did God Say?*  
2 Peter 1:12-21

**Original question:** "What is the best version of the Bible? How accurate is the translation?"

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### Sunday, September 17

*Conversations on the Afterlife*  
Revelation 20:11-15

**Original question:** "What happens when we die? Can you speak on the "glimpses" Scripture has given?"

"Compare the Biblical references to an afterlife to the current attitudes of everyone will go to heaven."

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### Sunday, September 24

*God-Fearing vs. Being Fearful*  
Hebrews 10:19-39

**Original question:** "[Can you expound upon] Hebrews 10:31 – "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God?""

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Coming Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm...

# Trunk or Treat

This Halloween we want to offer a fun and safe trick or treating experience for kids and their families in our community. And we'd love your help! "Trunk or Treat" is a day-time event where kids (and adults) can dress up and collect Halloween goodies in a safe and supervised environment.



So, what's needed to make it happen?

We're looking for volunteers, from our church and the community, who will:

- decorate their car trunks (hatchbacks, truck beds) and pass out candy.
- be part of a decoration crew
- donate candy... lots of candy!
- direct traffic
- supervise games
- pass out donuts and apple cider
- be a Safe Sanctuaries floater

If you'd like to volunteer, there will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby in September. You can also let Pastor Tom or Christa Palmer know how you'd like to help.

# Rally Sunday!

September 10<sup>th</sup>



Join us for a celebration of our church's life and ministries!

Worship Service

Choir is Back



Backpack Blessing

FunZone - Ice Cream party for the kids!

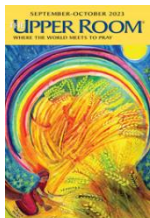
Brunch Goodies

Ministry Fair



Oregon City United  
Methodist Church  
18955 S South End Road  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
Ph: 503.656.3433

## Upper Room



September/October issue of the Upper Room Devotional is now available. If you are not able to pick up a copy at the church, you may request to have a copy mailed to you.

## Our Weekly Giving Moment

### Youth Service Fund



What is the [Youth Service Fund](#)? It is a means of stewardship education and mission support of youth within The United Methodist Church. Much more than a simple drive for funds, the YSF is one way United Methodist youth respond to God's command to be good caretakers of all that God has given. It's also a way to engage in the mission of the church as young people strive to live as disciples of Jesus Christ and work to transform the world around them.

Youth can contribute individually or through their church or district. Some youth groups tithe 10 percent to the Youth Service Fund when they raise money for other causes such as mission trips or conference-wide events.

The *Book of Discipline* (2016) (Par. 1208.1) explains, "As a part of the Fund's cultivation, youth shall be challenged to assume their financial responsibilities in connection with the total program and budget of the church of which they are members." Thank you for your support!

—Adapted from Dakotas and Tennessee annual conferences and Tree of Life Ministry websites