

# Weekly Newsletter

Oregon City United Methodist Church

August 14, 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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Pastor

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Music Director



Greetings my friends at Oregon City UMC,

In our waking and sleeping, in our trials and pleasures, it is always good to turn to the Lord and hear God's holy Word. Whether it is to say, 'Thank you for your mercies,' 'Help us in our troubles,' or 'Guide us in your compassionate ways,' God's Word and teachings are a comfort for the soul. This doesn't mean that every time we read, our souls will be satisfied. It does mean that, in the Word, we can find something to relate to that may help us know God is with us in our experiences.



I share this with you today partly because of the sermon series I started this past Sunday, looking at Jesus' healing miracles as ways of addressing injustice. Also, partly because there seems to be a lot of interpretation of Scripture out in the world that says a lot of contradictory things. I've preached in the past on how this could be a difference in reading Scripture on a surface level vs. a deeper contextual level; 21<sup>st</sup> century eyes vs. the eyes and understanding of the original author and audience. There's also the question of whether we read Scripture with understanding in love or justification in hate. On a more academic level, different interpretations can also be explained by which hermeneutic; the ideological lens, we're utilizing when we read Scripture.

There's probably as many hermeneutics as there are social issues in the world. For example, there are literal, moral, allegorical, and prophetic hermeneutics. There are also hermeneutics of liberationist theology, Black theology, feminist theology, critical race theory informed theology, queer theology, sociological theology, Jewish interpretive readings, prosperity gospel readings, justice theology, and who knows how many more.

So what hermeneutic, or lens, am I using to preach through this series of "Healing Injustice"? I'm working through the lenses of liberation and justice theology. I will also, during this series work from feminist theology when I preach on Jesus healing women. The idea in liberation theology is the emphasis on Jesus' work in freeing and giving voice to the oppressed, the marginalized, the excluded, and the forgotten. We see this in passages such as Luke 4:18-19 where Jesus proclaims his mission is to bring good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. Also, Isaiah 58:6-7 where fasting is connected with breaking unjust yokes, or burdens, and sharing with the needy. There's Psalm 72, calling for justice for the poor and oppressed.

In terms of the preaching, I'll bring over the next several weeks, healing work is justice work. It is about giving people access, strength, voice, and presence to be able to stand firmly against their oppressors, both spiritually and tangibly. Healing work is gospel proclamation on multiple levels.

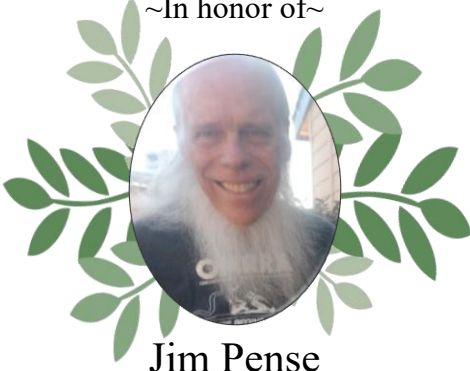
I look forward to sharing these insights with you between now and into September.

In faithful service,

*Pastor Tom*

Please join us for a  
**CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

~In honor of~



**Jim Pense**

Saturday, August 16, 2025  
2:00pm

Oregon City United Methodist Church



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



On August 13, 2025, we served  
52 families (187 people),  
compared to 40 families (129  
people) on August 14, 2024.

## Save the date

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, August 18 @ 10:00am

### 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!

### Choir Practice Begins

Wednesday, August 20 @ 6:30pm

Join us in making a joyful noise to God above!

### 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.

### Church Council Meeting

Sunday, August 31 @ 11:30am

### Labor Day

Monday, September 1

The Church office will be closed.

### Rally Day

Sunday, September 7

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

Worship Service @ 10:00am

Ministry Fair & Fellowship @ 11:00am

### Wednesday Night Dinner

Wednesday, September 3 @ 5:30pm

All are invited to attend a dinner  
sponsored by the Mission Possible  
Team. Additional details will be  
provided soon.

### In Loving Memory

We are saddened to announce the passing  
of Vern Buttolph. He was a valued member of our congregation,  
admired for his kindness and his unwavering willingness  
to help others. Vern's gentle spirit and generosity touched  
many lives, and he will be deeply missed. Our heartfelt  
condolences go out to his family.



### Our Weekly Giving Moment



"Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us..." – Hebrews 12:1

In Hebrews 12, we're reminded that the life of faith is like a race—and we're not  
running it alone. We are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses," past and  
present, who encourage us to keep going with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Through connectional giving, United Methodists run this race together. The  
General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) helps us support missionaries,  
respond to disasters, care for global health, and extend God's love to the ends of  
the earth. None of it happens without our shared commitment.

When we give through the World Service Fund, we help carry the baton of faith  
and service around the world.

Join us in worship as we celebrate the impact of our shared mission and commit  
to running this race—together.