



# Oregon City United Methodist Church Newsletter

February 18, 2022



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Music Director

**Worship Opportunities**  
Live Stream  
**Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

## Friday greetings to you Faithful of OCUMC,

I have good news for you today! The COVID numbers have fallen to a level, where we can start thinking about coming back to in-person worship again. Today's numbers for our county are at 33.9 new daily cases for a population of 100,000 people. If these numbers continue to stay this low, and hopefully lower, we will see you in worship starting with an Ash Wednesday Prayer Service!

Which reminds me...

We have a few Ash Wednesday opportunities to share with you. On Ash Wednesday, March 2, there will be several opportunities to receive the imposition of ashes throughout the day. We are offering "Drive-Thru Imposition of Ashes" on the church portico from 6:30-8:00am and again from 3:30-6:30pm. You can just drive-up to the curb and receive ashes and a blessing, or you can park for a few moments and also take advantage of the two prayer stations we'll have available.

The Ash Wednesday Prayer Service will begin at 6:30pm and will be a hybrid service. You can choose to be in-person with us, or you can join us from home and worship with us virtually. Whichever your choice, we invite you to begin this journey of Lent with us in prayer, reflection, meditation, and song.

With Ash Wednesday, we officially begin the season of Lent. Lent is a season of penitence and reflection on our mortality. While Advent is a season of the light of Christ coming into the world, Lent is a season of journeying toward the cross. In a way, Lent is the opposite of Advent where, as we grow closer to the cross and the crucifixion, the light of Christ dims, and on Good Friday, is extinguished for a brief time. This concept of the light dimming will be reflected in our Lenten worship.



During Lent, I also invite you to join me in a book study. We will be reading Witness at the Cross by Amy-Jill Levine. This is a book looking at the distinct roles every character at the cross played on that day. Each role has its own distinct perception of the death of Jesus. This six week study is being offered at two times on Wednesday's during Lent beginning on the March 9. If you are one that likes to be in-person and talk about faith and holy revelation face-to-face, you can join us at 10:00am or 6:30pm on Wednesdays in the Heritage Room at the church. If you are more comfortable with joining us online via Zoom, the 6:30pm meeting is a hybrid meeting, and a link will be provided for you so you can log into the conversation with us.

However, you choose to join us during Lent, I look forward to being on this journey with you.

God bless, and I'll see you soon,

*Pastor Tom*

Pastor Tom

### COVID Update

All numbers updated via "COVID Act Now" as of February 18

Looking at the reported information below, the trend for new cases is still going down overall for the state of Oregon and the state risk level has been lowered from "extremely high" to "very high". Numbers in Clackamas County also continue to go down, though we are still in the "very high" risk level. *If Clackamas County numbers continue to remain below 50 new cases per 100,000 population, we will resume in-person worship in March with an Ash Wednesday service.*

**Note:** Last week's numbers were reversed in the newsletter. The Clackamas County numbers were listed under Oregon State and vice versa. This error has been corrected this week and all numbers are listed correctly per "COVID Act Now" information.

Clackamas County (population 420,000)	Last Week	Sunday	Today
Daily new cases per population of 100K:	58.8	48.0	33.9
Infection Rate:	~0.65	~0.64	0.65
Positive Test Rate:	12.1%	10.9%	10.5%

Oregon State (population 4,200,000)	Last Week	Sunday	Today
Daily new cases per population of 100K:	61.1	76.3	42.3
Infection Rate:	~0.64	~0.63	0.64
Positive Test Rate:	12.9%	11.5%	11.1%



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS	
NELSON, JAN	02/01
MYERS, QUINCY	02/06
PALMER, SIDNEY	02/11
RENARDO, GIANA	02/12
BENTLEY, JACK	02/17
OLIVAS, NATE	02/18
MAGEE, MIKE	02/21
SCHLOSSER, RON	02/21
CRIKSHANK, BENJAMIN	02/23
ORQUIZA-RENARDO, ROM	02/28



Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

## Pastor Tom's Schedule for Feb 20-25

Afternoons will be in and out  
Appointments are always welcome to be scheduled.

**Sun:** Virtual Worship at 10am

**Mon:** Day off, no office hours.

**Tue:** 10am-2pm

**Wed:** 1pm-6:30pm

Worship Design at 5pm

**Thu:** 10am-2pm

**Fri:** 10am-2pm, Sermon planning



We are deeply saddened to share with you that Margaret Golden passed away Monday, February 14th.

During this time, our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

## Church Council Meeting Dates

Board meetings are scheduled every other month on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. beginning in April.

- April 12
- June 14
- August 9
- October 11
- December 13



## Join Today!

OCUMC Bell choir, is a joyful group whose name reflects the light-hearted "Rejoice!" of our spirit. The beauty of the bronze bells and the ethereal tone of chimes remind us that the beauty of God is very much with us in this world, and we offer our music as our prayer and as an effort to lift the hearts of our fellow worshippers.

We meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:15 p.m.

If interested, please email or call Rick Wilson  
[thetumbleweedtenor@reagan.com](mailto:thetumbleweedtenor@reagan.com)  
971-673-2764



## Our Weekly Giving

Through the Children's Fund for Christian Mission, children learn about ministries for and with young people around the world, are nurtured in stewardship and mission giving, and raise financial support for various projects.

Children of all ages can raise money for the Children's Fund for Christian Mission. Here are a few ideas:

- Have a "noisy offering." Invite children to take a special offering of pocket change. For the collection, give them specially decorated metal containers such as recycled soft drink cans. Encourage them to shake the cans as money accumulates and make plenty of noise.
- Make greeting cards to sell. Gather blank cards and envelopes and lots of art supplies. Let the young artists unleash their creativity.
- Sell gently used toys and children's books. This gives budding entrepreneurs a chance to share much-loved books and toys as the treasures find new homes.

Showcase talents. Children love to perform and selling tickets for others to see and hear their gifts is a great fundraiser.  
Have fun!



# Lay Leadership Training

Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
**zoom**

Laity serving on local church committees, especially those who chair administrative committees, are encouraged to save the date for a Greater Northwest Area-wide training on Saturday, February 26, 2022.

**The two-hour training will be offered online starting at 9 a.m. AKT (10 a.m. PT, 11 a.m. MT) by district superintendents and staff of the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences.**

Those new to their roles or to leadership of committees are strongly encouraged to attend. Translation will be offered in Spanish and Korean.

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)