

March 28, 2024

WORSHIP  
WITH US THIS  
*Easter*



Oregon City United Methodist Church

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Maundy Thursday blessings to my friends at Oregon City UMC!

We are deep into Holy Week. It is Maundy Thursday, the day of Jesus' last meal with his disciples. Today, Jesus' words from Luke echo in my head.

*"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."*

We put so much importance on the Last Supper, Communion, the Eucharist in our churches. We have taken a celebratory meal and transformed it into ritual. Catholic mass is centered around Christ's table. Many protestant celebrations of communion require a confessional preparation before we can come to the table. Some denominations require baptism into the faith or membership within a specific local congregation before we can come to the table.

Yet, when we go back to the beginning, when we go back to this table where Christ was host, there were no such restrictions. Friends gathered with friends to enjoy a celebration of God's action in delivering the people out of bondage in Egypt. They showed up for the Passover feast and likely joked and laughed and talked about life much like we do today at holiday dinners. They recited a liturgy of remembrance and probably sang some songs of Adonai (or YHWH, or Jehovah, or El Shaddai). And the drinking of wine was not limited to the four required cups of the Seder.

For Jesus, who seemed to know what was coming next, this particular Passover Seder was in some way a respite. It was a night to be with friends, to be with the people he loved, to simply be a Jewish man celebrating a Jewish holiday. "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you..." because you are my friends and my family. Being with you gives me strength for what comes next. Thank you for surrounding me with love and being with me in this calm before the storm.

When we come to the table tonight and on Easter morning, let's treat communion as more than a mere ritual or remembrance. In the meal, let us share comradery with Jesus, and with one another. Let us be invited into the greater community of faith, and likewise go out and invite others. Let us receive God's grace through Spirit's action in the meal, and likewise go out and show that same grace to others. Let us show gratitude for God's blessings in our life, and likewise go out and be a blessing to others. Let us look to, and work toward, a transformed future, and likewise go out and build with others a community united to build a compassion-filled future for all. Then let us return to the table in celebration with new friends and family.

In faithful service,

*Pastor Tom*



# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

## **Maundy Thursday Worship**

*A remembrance of the Last Supper*

Thursday, March 28 at 6:30pm

## **Good Friday Service Tenebrae Service**

*A somber service of Christ's light fading to darkness*

Friday, March 29 at 6:30pm

## **Easter Sunday**

*Celebrating the Resurrection with breakfast, praise, and worship!*

Sunday, March 31

- ❖ Continental Breakfast at 8:30am
- ❖ Worship Celebration at 10:00am
- ❖ FunZone Easter Party at 10:15am





# BINGO

and

# Potluck Night!

Friday, April 26

6:00 p.m.

*Entry Fee:*

Bring a new or gently used item  
for the BINGO Prize Table.

*Winners choose prizes from  
the BINGO prize table.*

We'll provide drinks, bring a  
potluck dish to share if you like!





SALTENBERGER, ANGELA	04/04
FOURIER, MARVIN	04/13
RICE, ZACH	04/19
PALMER, RILEY	04/20

## Upcoming EVENTS

### Ladies' Lunch Out!

Tuesday, April 2 @ 11:30am  
The Essence of China  
1727 Willamette Falls Dr, West Linn  
RSVP to: Marty at [fmsodie@yahoo.com](mailto:fmsodie@yahoo.com) or  
Susan at [jsronfeld@comcast.net](mailto:jsronfeld@comcast.net)

### Finance Team Meeting

Monday, April 8 @ 10:00am

### Care Team Meeting

Tuesday, April 9 @ 2:00pm

### Wednesday Night Dinner

Wednesday, April 10 @ 6:00pm

### Trustees Meeting

Friday, April 12 @ 1:00pm

### Brunch Goodies

Sunday, April 14 @ 11:00am

### Church Council Meeting

Sunday, April 14 @ 11:15am

### Willamette Falls Symphony Concert

Sunday, April 21 @ 3:00pm

### Potluck & Bingo Night!

Friday, April 26 @ 6:00pm

## Now Hiring

### Church Custodian

Oregon City United Methodist Church seeks custodian to perform routine janitorial services.

The successful candidates must be able to pass a background check, have a demonstrated ability to work on their own, complete tasks as assigned in a timely manner.

Contact Pastor Tom for more information and a job description.

[ocumcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:ocumcpastor@gmail.com)



## Our Weekly Giving Moment

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24, ESV*

Sherry Wack, a former cochairperson of the Eastern Pennsylvania Committee on Native American Ministries (CoNAM), helped the committee form relationships with St. John UMC in Bridgeton, New Jersey, in 2017. Home to many members of the Nanticoke LenniLenape Tribal Nation, St. John UMC is the fifth-oldest Native American Methodist church in the U.S.

There they met Cynthia Mosley, then-chairperson of the Greater New Jersey CoNAM. "That was the beginning of a symbiotic relationship between our two CoNAMs," said Wack. Since then, EPA has supported their GNJ siblings financially, especially when St. John was vandalized recently in a hate crime.

Your gifts on [Native American Ministries Sunday](#) help support the ministries of the Committee on Native American Ministries in their annual conferences. This offering serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society.