

Newsletter of the Lake Oswego United Methodist Church

LOUMC: A Place to Connect—to God, to each other, and to the World November/December 2025

Worship with Us

November 2, 9, 16, 23:

9:00am Fellowship Hall & Online 10:30am Sanctuary

November 30:

10:00am Combined Worship Sanctuary & Online

December 7, 14, 21:

9:00am Fellowship Hall *10:30am* Sanctuary & Online

December 24:

5:00pm Sanctuary 7:00pm Sanctuary & Online 9:00pm Sanctuary

December 28:

10:00am Combined Worship

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On Thanksgiving, we give thanks for all of our blessings; our families and friends, food on our tables, our homes, the beauty around us. During this season, and the Christmas season, as we gather with those who are close to us, we also remember those who are not as fortunate.

Pastor Clay reminded us recently that this is a good time (it's always a good time) to make our table bigger and invite the stranger, the immigrant, the traveller. We can do this by giving of ourselves; inviting new people, people living alone, shut-ins or those who are far away from home to join us for Thanksgiving, or another meal! We can also do this through giving of what we have.

There are so many ways to welcome the stranger through giving at LOUMC! Outreach is having an Emergency Food Drive this week for Family Promise because of the delayed SNAP benefits for those who cannot afford to put food on the table. bring items to the church on November 16! You can donate toys for the Black Santa program that helps children of color see a Santa who looks like them! LO Lions club is collecting warm coats in the Breezeway. You can give through the Gifts of Hope program, honoring a loved one by giving to one of the many nonprofits that are particiapating in the program! There are opportunities to give to the Food banks at our concerts. And, of course, the proceeds of your purchases at our bazaar will be going to LOTSM, and other organizations that serve women and children! In sharing from our hearts, we are given so much more.

May you have a happy Thanksgiving and Advent season.

A Word from the Pastor Keeping the Feast

The first question a human being asks in the Bible is "Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain asks this of God, after God inquires about Abel's whereabouts. We know, of course, that Cain has murdered his brother, and so we hear his question for its defensiveness. But it's a question we all ask from time to time: Am I responsible for another's well-being? Perhaps we ask it in a slightly different way: How far do I have to go to care for someone else?

The obvious answer to Cain's question, and ours, is "Yes, you are responsible for your siblings' well-being." And as to the limitations of our care – we are probably called to go much further in caring for one another than we would like to think.

As we head into the holiday season, you might wonder how it is we can celebrate while siblings are suffering. Should we cancel our festivities? I don't think we should. I DO think we should probably look for ways to faithfully honor our call to keep the feast – to honor holidays (holy days!) as a part of our faith practice. But this year might be a great opportunity for a reset on how exactly we keep the feast.

What if we tracked the money we spend on our Thanksgiving meal and donated an equal amount (or more!) to a hunger relief organization? What if we curtailed our gift purchasing a bit and made donations to children in need?

What if our keeping of the feast included inviting neighbors to join us at the table for Thanksgiving? Or – imagine this! – what if we invited neighbors to join us for Christmas? It is occurring to me how many of our holidays (holy days!) are centered on our family and not the wider community. But the stories we see in the Gospels usually point us toward expanding our hospitality to those outside of our normal circles.

I hope you'll prayerfully consider ways to keep the feast faithfully in this season. And if the Spirit strikes you with an especially interesting idea, tell me about it!

My belief is that as we connect our celebrations more deeply to our faith, we'll find that our joy increases, and the Spirit will stir up remarkable things in our midst. Can we trust that if we ask God to show us new ways to keep the feast that we'll discover a richer and more meaningful holiday (holy day!) season than ever before?

I am grateful to serve as your pastor. And I am looking forward to keeping the feasts with you in this beautiful season.

Peace,

Clay



O, Lord Hear Our Prayers

We have been keeping the following people in our prayers:

Cheryl Connall was hospitalized in late August and again in late October. Please continue your healing prayers. **Becky Tripp's** memorial service was held at the church on September 6. Continue to pray for Dave and family in this difficult time.

Judy Orem had a few hospital visits in August & September as her doctors worked to balance her blood pressure.

Howard Kusler passed away on August 12. Lucy and family appreciate your comforting prayers.

Cheryl Bell lost her close friend and companion, **Bill Anti.** Continue to pray for Cheryl and all of Bill's family as they mourn his loss.

Larry Eischen had surgery in September. Your continued prayers are welcome.

Clay Andrew's uncle passed away on September 9. Jen Andrew's mother, LaNell Anderson, passed away on September 22. Continue to wrap them in your comforting prayers.

Steph and Dave Pump moved to South Dakota to be closer to family. Marge Wallick experienced a TIA on September 28, then a fall on October 9. She is in a rehab facility recuperating and appreciates your prayers. Cordelia Hall had surgery on her second foot. Prayers for a speedy recovery are appreciate!

Celebrations this fall included:

the Orem's 60th anniversary and Frank's birthday; the Jurney's 25th anniversary and Peter's 85th birthday; the Mattern's 50th anniversary; Marge Wallick's 99th birthday; Richard McClintock's 85th birthday; the Cushings' 60th anniversary; and the Fontenot's 38th anniversary!

Best wishes to all!

LOUMC Calendar November December All Saints Sunday

- **Daylight Savings Time Ends**
- Red Cross Blood Drive 12:00-5:00pm
- 11 Father's Heart Sandwich Making 9:30am - Fellowship Hall
- 14 Wayne's World Coffee House 7:00-9:00pm - Fellowship Hall
- 16 Youth to Ronald McDonald House 14 LOUMC Christmas Concert 10:30am - meet at the church
- 17 Lunch Bunch 12:00pm - Fellowship Hall
- 22 Outdoor Work Party 8:00an - 12:30pm
- 21- Next Steps Youth Retreat
- 23 Details to follow
- 23 Hanging of the Greens After Each Service
- 30 First Sunday of Advent Combined Worship Service 10:00am - Sanctuary Advent Gathering & Potluck 11:00 - Fellowship Hall

- **Church Board Meeting** 6:30pm - Conference Room
- Home for the Holidays Bazaar 9:00am until 2:00pm
- Father's Heart Sandwich Making 9:30am - Fellowship Hall
- 13 Mancakes White Elephant 8:00am - Fellowship Hall
 - 4:00pm Sanctuary
- 15 Lunch Bunch 12:00pm - Fellowship Hall
- 21 Sally Harmon Concert 2:00pm - Sanctuary
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship with Children's Pageant 5:00pm - Sanctuary Traditional Candlelight Service 7:00 & 9:00pm - Sanctuary
- 25 Christmas Day
- 28 Combined Worship Service 10:00am - Sanctuary
- 31 New Year's Eve

Ongoing Meetings

Mondays		Wednesdays	
Spiritual Practices	5:30pm	Play Park	8:30am
Vesper Bell Rehearsal	6:45pm	Praise Band Rehearsal	6:00pm
Pickleball	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
Tuesdays		Thursdays	
Men's Group	8:30am	Open Hearts	10:00am
Craft Group (1st& 3rd)	9:30am	Pickleball	7:00pm
Quilt Group (2nd & 4th	n)10:00am	Sundays	
Knitting Group	2:00pm	Probers	9:00am
(2nd & 4th)			

Thinking About Joining LOUMC as a Member?

If you'd like to know more about membership at LOUMC, Pastor Clay will be hosting two "Methodism 101" classes (you only need to attend 1!)

Sunday, Nov. 16th at 11:45am (following worship)

Wednesday, Nov. 19th at 7:00 pm

Both conversations will last about an hour and will meet in the Conference Room. You won't learn EVERYthing about being a Methodist but you'll learn about our membership vows, a little bit about being a Methodist, and how you can deepen your faith as part of LOUMC.

If you're interested in joining, but can't make either of those dates, please contact Pastor Clay to arrange another time.



We Are Thankful! **Generous Donation Helps LOUMC Expand Ministry**

The Spirit is moving! We recently received a very gracious special donation that will help us expand our ministries and more generously serve our neighbors. This gift will be used to:

- Support the Greater Northwest Circle of Indigenous Ministries (https://greaternw.org/circle/)
- Support Black Santa PDX
- Seed a fund for a Youth Pilgrimage Trip in 2027
- **Expand our Community** Compassion Fund
- Expand our Youth Ministries Staff
- Help Upgrade the Sound and Music in the Fellowship Hall
- Provide Emergency Support for Partner Organizations like food banks

We'll share more specifics soon, including a way that you can help to multiply the impact of this gift. But for now we say "Thanks be to God!" for growing generosity and for the fruitful ministry it enables!

Please Remember to Turn in Your Commitment Cards

Because of you, LOUMC was able to add 17 new members (5 youth and 12 adults) to our church family in September, making new disciples and joining with established ones! Because of you, 23+ food baskets were donated to local food banks, on top of our regular giving and other food drives so far this year! Because of you, LOUMC can reach people who are unable to make it to church, or are exploring their faith or looking for a new church family by

These are just a few examples of what your giving can make possible! Thank you for making so many things happen at LOUMC! In the past, in the present and in the future!

watching online.

Build Connections: Small Groups & Classes



Monday, November 17 12:00pm

November and December are on the 3rd Monday instead of 4th

Be sure to contact Nan Olson
or call the Front Office
to make your reservations!

\$6 per person All are welcome!

Crafts & Quilters

The Craft Group continues to meet on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays through the winter. They are working hard to create handcrafted gifts for the Annual Home for the Holidays Bazaar! Please contact Carol Richard with questions or if you plan to attend. (cjr12091946@gmail.com)

The Quilters are taking a break to help with the crafting! Look for them again in January!

Pickleball Come and Play!

Meets Mondays and Thursdays from 7-8:30pm in the Fellowship Hall! Contact Bob Pearson for more info! marybob.pearson@gmail.com

Open Hearts

Open Hearts women's study and fellowship group meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00. Join them in the Conference Room. They are always happy to welcome new women to the group! *All are welcome!!*

Circle of Purls Knitting Group

The ladies who knit continue their knitting on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 2:00–4:00pm in the Conference Room!

Bring your personal projects and/or work on items for the bazaar, prayer shawls, hats for preemies or any other items you wish!

Contact Marty Stiven with questions. (mstiven@stivenplanning.com)



Men's Group

Men's Group has regular meetings on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 in the Conference Room.

They continue to read and discuss *God is Not One* (a book covering the most significant religions in the world today and how they differ). They have finished the first religion (Islam) and are now studying Christianity. Contact John Milner with questions! (johnwilliammilner@gmail.com)

Friday Bible Study

Friday Bible Study meets Fridays from 10am-12pm at the Huntting home. They have just begun a study of *The Names of God*! Please contact Becky for more information! 503-636-6339

Mancakes Breakfast and a Speaker

Join the LOUMC gentlemen for Breakfast and a Speaker each month! November 22 is a two for one special! Mike Pearson will share orthapedic hardware (want to see what that hip looks like?) then stay on for the work party if you can!

December 13 will be the fun annual Mancakes gift swap!

RSVP to Jon so he can plan food quantities. jon_gice@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday Soul Food Returns in January!

Join Them for Study of *Let Peace Reign* by Drew Jackson Beginning January 11 at 10:15 in the Conference Room

Dive into God's story of peace and discover how the teachings of Jesus can transform your life, relationships, and community. With practical lessons and deep biblical foundations, this study is designed to inspire hope and equip you to bring meaningful justice and peacemaking into every area of your life. *The study will meet On January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, and 15.*Books are available from Amazon for \$19.98 or Cokesbury for \$15.99 + shipping If you have any questions contact Deb Gice at debra_gice@sbcglobal.net

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

for more information about the book, download info here

Probers Class Sundays Online!

The Probers class meets on Zoom at 8:30am each Sunday!
On November 16 they will begin discussing *Separation of Church and Hate* by John Fugelsang. Later this winter they will read *The Lost Mary* by James D Tabor. All are welcome to join the discussion! Contact Susan Ford, tsuzef@msn.com for the Zoom link.

Pull-Out Advent Calendar



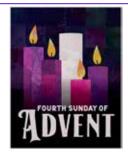
HELP DECORATE!

12/13 Saturday 8:00am



12/21 Sunday

9:00 & 10:30 Worship



2:00pm



Sally Harmon Benefit Christmas Concert

for Local Food **Pantries**

Christmas

11/30 Sunday

Combined Worship 10:00am



Advent Gathering & Potluck!

11:00am (following worship)



12/14

Sunday

9:00 & 10:30 **Worship**

4:00pm



Reception to Follow!

12/24

5:00pm

Wednesday

Eve

Family Worship with Unrehearsed



Shepherds' Run After 5 & 7pm Services

7:00pm & 9:00pm

Traditional Candlelight **Worship Services**



12/6

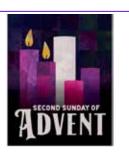
Home for the Saturday Holidays Bazaar

9am thru 2pm



12/7 Sunday

9:00 & 10:30 Worship



Watch for a mailing in November! **Toy Drive for Black Santa Throughout November**

Ongoing Gifts of Hope

12/15 Monday



12:00pm **Lunch Bunch Christmas Buffet**

12/18 Thursday 6:00pm

Blue Christmas in the Chapel with Refreshments to follow



12/25 **Christmas Day!**



Advent Events and Activities

Advent Festival and Potluck

NOVEMBER 30 ~ 11AM UNTIL 1PM

Join us for:

*Fun crafts
*Krumkake *Prayer Stations
*Yule log & advent wreath making

COME GET INTO THE JPIRIT OF THE JEAJON!

Please bring a dish to share and your "potluck kit"
Volunteers needed for setup, cleanup and a craft or
two! Contact Liz Whitson!



Holiday Bazaar **Saturday, December 6 · 9am - 2pm**

Handmade Gifts * Decorations * Candy Shoppe
Vintage Shoppe * Bakery * Children's Store
PLUS LOCAL VENDORS, KNIFE SHARPENING & A LUNCH CAFE

Proceeds will benefit LOTSM and other nonprofits serving women and children!

The Gifts of Hope 2025 catalog

will be arriving in your mailbox by Thanksgiving

"...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)



Gifts of Hope

Recognize the true meaning of the season! Give to those in need in honor of those you love!

This LOUMC Alternative Giving Tradition has raised over \$150,000 for local philanthropies over the last 17 years

The Blue Christmas Service is a quiet, reflective service for those who could use some comfort and healing during this busy time of year. This service accepts us as we are, even if that is not cheery and bright, and brings hope, comfort and healing for those who seek it.

Join us in the Chapel on December 19 at 7:00pm

Blue Christmas Service





Come and Enjoy the

Gift of Christmas Music

Including a variety of music from our Choir, Handbells, Praise Band, Small Groups & Soloists

Sunday, December 14 at 4:00pm Followed by a lovely reception a gift to you from our musicians!

Deliver a plate of cookies and a warm Christmas smile to those who have to work on Christmas Eve!



How to Help:

Bake cookies & deliver to church on December 22 or 23 Help plate and wrap cookies on December 23 at 1:00pm Deliver a plate or two of cookies on Christmas Eve! Contact Iluska Ikeda or the church office with questions!

Join the Fun of The Shepherds' Run!

Christmas Eve after the 5:00 & 7:00 services

A Season of Outreach in Our Communities

There are many ways that you can give and help others!

In the past few months, the outreach team has been busy with many projects. We are blessed that our church has the resources to allow us to support so many of these causes. We also have a dedicated and talented team on the committee that strives to meet our mission of spreading God's word to the community and beyond. Below are some of the highlights:

• Our major mission partner, The Father's Heart, located in Oregon City, provides day services to unsheltered people including three meals, showers, medical, and dental, along with housing assistance and counseling services. On average, they serve about 150 people. We had hoped to have a signed memorandum of understanding with them by this time however due to schedule priorities at The Fathers Heart (they are breaking ground on a new building to be completed late 2026), they only recently supplied us with their final draft. This is in review at the Church, and we hope to have it finalized within the next month. In the meantime, we continue to provide them with monthly lunch supplies including PB&I sandwiches, oatmeal, and other items. We have a great team of people who meet every second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 to do this. Contact Linda Noel if you would like to help.

Outreach team members Linda Noel, Kay Lutze, Kerri Brown volunteer at the facility every week to serve breakfast and have recently been joined by Joy Behar. Additional volunteers are always welcome. We will continue to keep you informed as we move forward with this amazing project.

- Michelle Kitto is our point person to coordinate food shopping for Family Promise in Tigard. Members of the church can volunteer to shop for specific food items once every quarter, including snacks, breakfast items and diapers. Michelle also coordinates the Red Cross Blood Drives and Gifts of Hope campaign.
- Speaking of blood drives, we just hosted a Red Cross blood drive on November 7. Blood donations usually fall off during the holiday season, so every donation is critical. Consider giving blood. You can sign up on the Red Cross website.
- Jon Gice continues to spearhead our efforts with Habitat for Humanity. Several people have recently been volunteering at the Lake Grove build project, on Boones Ferry Road in Lake Oswego, where they are building 22 new townhomes for families who qualify for them. If you are interested in swinging a hammer or helping in other ways, ask Jon, Connelly Woody, or Scott Way how you can participate.

Find more information about the West Lake Grove community here.

- Thanks to your generous giving, we continue to support 11 other organizations in the local and regional communities such as Hunger Fighters, the Tualatin food bank, and the West Linn food pantry. Each year it seems the need is greater.
- This Holiday Season we are gearing up for several events! Watch for a mailing on Gifts of Hope by Thanksgiving (Michelle Kitto will tell more about it during worship on November 16); Toy collection bins for the Black Santa toy drive will be available in the Narthex and outside of the Fellowship Hall in November; and come enjoy Sally Harmon in Concert on December 21 at 2:00pm. A free will offering will be taken during the concert with proceeds to support Hunger Fighters, the Tualatin Food Pantry and the West Linn Food Bank!

Again, thank you for your support to make LOUMC a beacon of hope in our community and the region. We are always open to any ideas that you have, and you are always welcome to attend one of our meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00pm.

LO Lions Club Warm Coats Drive

LO Lions will have a collection box in the Breezeway for warm outerwear November 9 through December 15. The coats that are collected will be taken to the Bethlehem House of Bread (located on the grounds of the Metzger United Methodist Church) for distribution.

Diane Mead, our church member representative of the LO Lions, says that a full carload of donations brought one afternoon last year, had all been distributed by that evening! And the need is expected to be even larger this year! Please consider donating new or gently used coats to those in need! Questions? Contact Diane Mead (503-701-0317 call or text).



Learn More About Family Promise During 5th Sunday Combined Service

As part of our 5th Sunday Mission Moment on November 20, Elise Laubach, the executive director of Family Promise, will speak. Please, also remember our **ONE** WEEK FOOD DRIVE this week in response to the emergency request from Family Promise! Please bring to church on Sunday, November 16!

Around the Church

Outdoor Work Party November 22

Let's Get Rid of Those Weeds and Leaves!

Join Dave Walters and his cleanup crew to clean up those slippery wet leaves and get rid of those sneaky weeds at the church! Bring the whole family! And bring some work gloves, blowers and rakes! Many hands make this giant size job

Join Dave Saturday, November 22 from 8:30-12:30! The more the merrier!

more manageable!



Celebrating New Members of the LOUMC Church Family

We are excited to welcome seventeen new members who joined the LOUMC church family on September 7! Five of our youth became full members, with two of them being baptized, after going through the confirmation process, and twelve adults joined by transferring memberships or profession of faith! Please help us welcome Maddie Petrjanos, Penny Martin, Arden Sabo, Vivienne Martindale, Lucy Hall, Liz Whitson, Heidi Chang, Bill and Sue Speer, Andy and Bev Cramer, Alycia Stuart, Jay Stuart and Nancy Wong, Jen Andrew, Kathy Turner, and Merle Featherstone



Church Board News

Welcome New Church Board Members!

At the October 23 LOUMC Charge Conference Marty Stiven, Bev Cramer, Joan Sakaguchi, and Jake Petrjanos were elected to the Church Leadership Board by paper ballot and approval by the Board. Jake will serve a one-year term beginning October 23, while Marty, Bev, and Joan will begin three-year terms starting January 1, 2026. We are deeply thankful and truly blessed that each of them has answered the call to share their time, talents, and leadership in service to LOUMC.

Exiting the Board after serving their terms are Judy Cushing, Alaina Kuehn, Jeff Moxie and Chair Deb Gice. Peter Brown, a current Board member, will be assuming the role as Chair. We give heartfelt thanks to our retiring church board members for their faithful service and dedication.

Your leadership, prayers, and countless hours of work have strengthened our church's mission and touched many lives. With deep gratitude, we thank you for your service, your witness, and your love for the Church.

Other Church Leadership business included in the Charge Conference were approval of the pastor's compensation package, first year reading of inactive members, and Certified Lay Speaker Report and Approval for Emilie Kroen.

As I complete my term as Church Board Chair, I want to share my deep gratitude for the privilege of serving in this role. It has been a joy to work alongside such faithful and dedicated people — our pastor, staff, board members, and the entire LOUMC family.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and partnership in ministry. Together we have faced challenges, celebrated milestones, and witnessed God's faithfulness again and again.

As I step aside, I do so with a grateful heart and great hope for the future of our church. May God continue to guide and bless LOUMC in all the ways we seek to serve and share His love.

With heartfelt thanks,

Deb Gice

Children & Youth Ministries

Children Ages 0-5th Grade





Be sure to come to the

Advent Festival & Potluck!

Sunday, November 30 11am until 1pm

(following the combined worship service) Fun Activities, Advent wreaths, Yule Logs, Prayer stations and more!

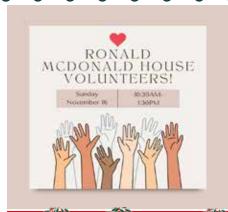
Messy Christmas

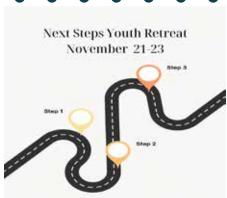
December 7

in the Sunday School Rooms

During the Late Worship Service! Fun Christmas Activities







THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY Come and Help with the Hanging of the Greens **November 23 at 11:30**

YOUTH CHRIJTMAJ **GATHERING**

White Elephant Gift Exchange DECEMBER 21 6:30PM





ADVENT GATHERING

and Potluck YOUTH WILL RUN THE KRUMKAKE TABLE

Sunday November 30 After Worship





The Spotlight is published monthly by the Lake Oswego United Methodist Church 1855 South Shore Blvd.

Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LOUMC Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Clay Andrew
Deacon: Rev. Danna Drum
Ministry and Building Coordinator &
Interim Bookkeeper: Stacey Bernal
Communications Director: Pam Pearson
Receptionist and Database Manager:
Kelly Bradley
Children's Ministry Leader: Liz Whitson
Youth Ministry Leader: Heidi Chang
Nursery Workers: Jasmine Stang and
Kennary Nhoung
Choir Director: Chris Rust
Contemporary Music Director:
Noelle Goodenberger
Bell Choir Director: Leanne Bilstrom

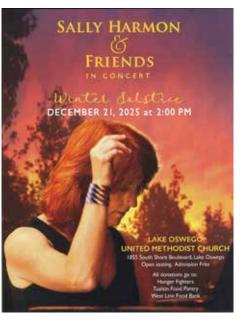
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UPCOMING MUSIC AT LAKE OSWEGO UMO!







Spotlight Deadlines: The next deadline is January 26 to be published on February 2.

Please email submissions for the Spotlight to pam@lakeoswegoumc.org by noon of the deadline date. Articles received after the deadline may not be printed. Articles may be edited for length.