

Spotlight



Newsletter of the Lake Oswego United Methodist Church

LOUMC: A Place to Connect—to God, to each other, and to the World

February/March 2026

Worship with Us

February 1:

10:00am - Dancing Our Prayers
Combined Worship
Sanctuary & Online

February 8, 15 & 22

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

Feb 18: Ash Wednesday

7pm Sanctuary

March 1, 8, 15 & 22

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

March 29: Palm Sunday

10:00am
Combined Worship
Fellowship Hall & Online

In This Issue

Pastor's Note, Prayers	2
LOUMC Calendar	3
Around the Church	4
Lenten Activities	5
Small Groups & Classes	6
Dancing Our Prayers	7
Connecting Thru Art/Church Board	8
Children and Youth Ministries	9
Holy Week Preview	10

WELCOME TO REALM!

It's Coming!

***An Exciting New Way to Communicate
at LOUMC!***

Have You Heard?!!

LOUMC is moving to a new kind of record keeping solution called *Realm*. The staff have been working with Realm since the beginning of the year and are excited to roll it out to you, our church family, in the weeks ahead!

"Why Realm?" you might ask!
Realm is helping us:

- 1....update the administrative tools our staff uses to run the daily operations.
- 2....add more ways to communicate, while leaving most current methods in place.
- 3.*You* determine how much you want to make this part of your experience with our church, **but we encourage you to participate!**

How to Participate

When We Roll Out, **Get the Mobile App and Connect!**

Stay connected to our church wherever you go by downloading the free Realm Connect app for iPhone and Android devices. Use it to communicate with your groups and teams at the church, RSVP to events, manage your giving, update profile information, and more. It makes it easier for us to connect throughout the week and know what's happening.

- **News** – Keeps everyone up-to-date with the latest posts, photos, and events for your groups and teams
- **Posts** – Post messages to your group and comment on posts by others in your group or team
- **Photos** – Capture your moments together and share them with your group or team
- **Events** – See event details, submit your RSVP, and sign up to bring something
- **Files** – Access your group or team's shared files
- **Chat** – Send your entire group, team, or select individuals, a chat

Continued p.4

A Word from Pastor Clay

Beloved People of LOUMC,

The Spirit is moving and the light of resurrection is shining. Great things are happening here at LOUMC and I'm grateful to be part of it all. "What great things are happening?" I'm so glad you asked!

Moving, meaningful worship is happening. We're entering into Lent and then, of course, into Holy Week and Easter. This season is often the most powerful time in the life of our church as we spend time reflecting on the struggles and frailties we experience in our lives, only to meet the Resurrected Christ in the dawning light of Easter.

Fellowship is happening. During Lent we'll gather on Tuesday evenings for a soup supper and then we'll learn from one another about the heroes of the faith with this year's twist on My Best Thought: "My Best Saint." (And those saints could be famous official saints like St. Francis or St. Clare, or they could be unofficial but highly influential saints like your grandmother or a teacher you met along life's journey.)

Service with our neighbors is happening. Our partnership with The Father's Heart is continuing to grow. We'll be hearing from our TFH partners in worship and we'll be finding more opportunities to share in their vital work of caring for unhoused and hungry neighbors.

Ministry with youth and young people is happening. Thanks to a generous anonymous donation and support from our bequest funds, we've been able to expand our Youth Ministries Leader position from 10 to 20 hours per week. We have a new young adult group that meets twice monthly, and our youth ministries continues to offer fellowship and discipleship to our youth.

A new way of organizing the life of our congregation is happening! As we introduce our new congregational connection hub (Realm!), we'll find ways to make use of this powerful tool to connect people and ministries, to reach out to visitors, and to build on the strengths that make LOUMC a great faith family.

AND THERE'S SO MUCH MORE! New people in worship, new ministries and opportunities, growing connections to our community and with other churches, and so much more... It's a great time to be the pastor here. And I hope you're finding it to be a good and inspiring time to be a part of LOUMC.

It's easy to feel disheartened by the state of our world. And while we are called to name the truth of the brokenness and sin we see, we are also called to be part of God's healing work. Being part of a thriving faith community is a large part of how we hear God's call to labor for justice, and support one another in the journey of faith.

Thanks be to God for the ways that LOUMC is living out its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Peace,

Clay

O, Lord Hear Our Prayers

We have been keeping the following people in our prayers:

Marge Wallick moved into a new home in an assisted living community following some medical issues and is doing well.

Larry Eischen has stayed in our prayers since having surgery in 2025.

Ann Murchison was diagnosed with cancer and began treatment in December.

Loren Olson has recuperated from a partial knee replacement in early December.

Tomoko Clyde and daughters Krystal Sutton and Sachiko Clyde were in our prayers in the loss of husband and father, **Jim Clyde** on November 30.

Chris Rust lost a young nephew in early December.

Mac Butler's sister, Mary, passed away in early December.

Mary Closson's mother, Ann, was hospitalized with sepsis in early January, and is doing better now.

Cheryl Connall has been in our prayers.

Molly Gearn appreciates your prayers as she has entered hospice care. Your cards are also welcome, but please no phone calls or visits.



A Note from Loren Olson

A big thank you LOUMC for the care and support I have received these past months as I had my heart procedures leading up to the knee replacement surgery. Your cards, emails, prayers and love are much appreciated.

-Loren Olson

Finance Matters

End of year giving statements should have arrived in your mailbox!

If you have any questions about your statement, please contact Kelly at kelly@lakeoswegoumc.org.

From the United Women in Faith

Thanks to the continued support of our church family and community, our 2025 Home for the Holidays Bazaar was a great success!

As was advertised, LOTSM (Lake Oswego Transitional Shelter Ministries) will be the recipient of the majority of our bazaar proceeds from 2025. We are pleased to share that we are donating \$4000. to this local non-profit, which provides safe shelter for families in transition from homelessness.

Additionally, Bloomin' Boutique will be receiving \$300. from the proceeds of our re-sale clothing shop "We Love Pre-loved" and Joy Rx will be given \$200. from our raffle ticket sales.

A Note From Chris Rust

My heart is full as I say goodbye to everyone. Thank you for all your support over the years. I am especially grateful for the warm and positive welcome you gave to my students and their families last Sunday. Thank you for making LOUMC such a special and wonderful place. Wishing you all the best! --Chris

LOUMC Calendar

February

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Dancing Our Prayers
10:00am - One Service: Sanctuary | 14 | Mancakes & ReStore Truck
8:00am - FH |
| 8 | Bake Sale Supporting Craft Group
After Each Service - FH | 17 | Soup Supper & My Best Thought
6:00pm - FH (supper) |
| 14 | Mancakes
8:00am -
Restore Truck from Habitat
8:00am - In front of the church | 24 | Soup Supper & My Best Thought
6:00pm - FH (supper) |
| 17 | Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Supper
6:00pm - FH | 27 | Red Cross Blood Drive
12:00-5:00pm - FH |
| 18 | Ash Wednesday
Ash Wednesday Worship Service
7:00pm - Sanctuary | 28 | All-Church Deep Clean
9:00-11:00am - Sanctuary & FH |
| 23 | Lunch Bunch
12:00pm - FH | 29 | Palm Sunday - ONE Service
10:00am - FH |
| 24 | Soup Supper & My Best Thought
6:00pm - FH (supper)
7:00pm - (My Best Saint) | | All Church Potluck
11:00am - FH |

March

- | | |
|----|---|
| 3 | Soup Supper & My Best Thought
6:00pm - FH (supper)
7:00pm - (My Best Saint) |
| 7 | Long Term Leadership Planning |
| 10 | Soup Supper & My Best Thought
6:00pm - FH (supper)
7:00pm - (My Best Saint) |

April

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | Maundy Thursday Worship Svc
7:00pm - Sanctuary |
| 3 | Good Friday Worship Services
12:00pm - Sanctuary
7:00pm - Sanctuary |
| 5 | Easter Sunday
Sunrise (6:30am), 9:00 & 11:00am |

Ongoing Meetings

Mondays

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Spiritual Practices | 5:30pm |
| Vesper Bell Rehearsal | 6:45pm |
| Pickleball | 7:00pm |

Tuesdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Men's Group | 8:30am |
| Craft Group (1st & 3rd) | 9:30am |
| Quilt Group (2nd & 4th) | 10:00am |
| Knitting Group (2nd & 4th) | 2:00pm |

Wednesdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Play Park | 8:30am |
| Praise Band Rehearsal | 6:00pm |
| Choir Rehearsal | 7:00pm |

Thursdays

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| Open Hearts | 10:00am |
| Pickleball | 7:00pm |

Sundays

- | | |
|------------------|--------|
| Probers | 9:00am |
| Sunday Soul Food | 10:15 |

Lent



Around the Church

Realm

(Continued from p.1)

- that starts a conversation
- **Inbox** – Group or team leaders can send an email message to the entire group, team, or select individuals
- **Participants** – See names and basic profile details for the people in your group or team, based on their privacy preferences
- **Notification Settings** – Manage your preferences for group and team notifications and emails.

Watch Your Email!

Your *QuickNews and Spotlight* will be coming from a new server, Constant Contact! If you don't receive your regular QuickNews on Thursday afternoon and Sunday morning, be sure to check your "junk," "Spam," "Promotions," or "Bulk Mail" folders.

*****An invitation to join Realm will come to your email on Thursday, February 19.***

*****Instructions to join*** will be included with your invitation.

*****Stacey and Pam*** will be available after church with a small crew to help folks who need assistance on Sunday, February 22. Please bring the device that you will use to access the program. (Phone, tablet, computer...)



Learn About Habitat for Humanity at Mancakes!

The next Mancakes meeting is Saturday, February 14 at 8:00am! Join Jon Gice and the guys for breakfast and a speaker! This month, a representative from Habitat for Humanity will be there to tell about their program and local projects!

Be sure to let Jon know if you are able to attend, so he can plan to cook plenty of pancakes! (jon_gice@sbcglobal.net) And bring your gently used or new items that are taking up space in your garage to donate to the ReStore! (more info)



Got Stuff?! Habitat "ReStore" Truck Coming to LOUMC February 14!

Donating your new or gently used "stuff" to the ReStore is an easy way to support Habitat for Humanity! Portland Region ReStores are home improvement stores *and* donation centers - open to the public - that sell ***new and gently used furniture, home decor, appliances, building materials*** and more at discounted prices. Proceeds from the ReStores support local Habitat for Humanity homebuilding and home repair programs.

A ReStore truck will be at LOUMC on February 14 from 8am until ____ (while a Habitat rep speaks to the Mancakes! group) Bring your great stuff to donate! **(Please do NOT bring items early and/or and leave them at the church! Give directly to ReStore personnel!)**

All Church Deep Cleaning! March 28

Let's Get Spruced Up for Easter Visitors!

Help the Worship Team get our worship spaces looking their best before Palm Sunday and Easter services bring us extra visitors! Bring any hand vacuums/sweepers and supplies you think might help with the cleaning! The more the merrier! Thanks in advance for helping out!



Camden Cook: Keeping Up With Our LOUMC Young Adults!

Camden Cook, one of our LOUMC college kids, has a new website available to any who would like to keep up with his music!

Cam grew up at LOUMC, singing in the Angel choir, attending Sunday School, VBS, youth group and mission trips, playing violin for many worship services and other gatherings at the church through the years. He is now a senior music major at St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

Check out his website!

<https://pages.stolaf.edu/camden-cook/>



Lenten Events and Activities

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**Tuesday, February 17
at 6:00pm**

Skip the cooking and gather with your church family for this traditional "feast" before the start of the Lenten fasting. Also known as Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday and Pancake Day.



Helpers Needed!

Please contact Cathy Vause if you can help with setup, cooking, serving or cleanup!



Come prepare yourself for the season of Lent.

The ashes from the palms of last year's Palm Sunday celebration are used as a symbol to help us remember our humanity as we confess our sins before God and begin a season of reflection, moderation, and spiritual discipline

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

**Wednesday, February 18
at 7:00pm
in the Sanctuary**

Lenten Soup Suppers

**Tuesday Nights During Lent
February 24, March 3, 10, 17 & 24
at 6:00pm**

in the Fellowship Hall

*Enjoy a simple supper of
soup, bread and fruit, then join us for
"My Best Saint" at 7!*



**My Best Thought this year will be
"My Best Saint"**

**Tuesday Nights During Lent
February 24, March 3, 10.17 & 24
at 7:00pm**

**Join us and hear how members of our
church family have been influenced by
the saints in their lives!**

Build Connections: Small Groups & Classes

LUNCH BUNCH

**Monday, February 23
12:00pm**

Will be the next Lunch!

Be sure to contact Nan Olson
or call the Front Office
to make your reservations!
\$6 per person All are welcome!

Crafters' Valentine Bake Sale

The Craft Group meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays They create handcrafted gifts for the Home for the Holidays Bazaar as well as Rag Dolls 4 Luv and Cardiac Hearts!

The Quilters meet 2nd and 4th Tuesdays to make quilts for foster kids!

Bake sale on February 8 after each service!
Bakers and Buyers are needed!

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.
(martystiven503@gmail.com)



Men's Group

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

They are currently reading *Disappointment with God*, by Phillip Yancey.

Contact John Milner with questions!
(johnwilliammilner@gmail.com)

Friday Bible Study

Friday Bible Study meets Fridays from 10am-12pm at the Hunting home. 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! See information on this month's gathering on page 8!
RSVP to Jon so he can plan food quantities. jon_gice@sbcglobal.net.

Probers Class Sundays Online!

The Probers class meets on Zoom at 8:30am each Sunday!
They are reading *The Lost Mary* by James D Tabor. **All are welcome** to join the discussion! Contact Susan Ford, tsuzef@msn.com for the Zoom link.

Sunday Soul Food Is Back for Winter

**They are Discussing *Let Peace Reign* by Drew Jackson
at 10:15 on Sundays in the Conference Room**

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

Have an idea for a new group?

**Contact Pastor Clay
or A Staff Member
for Help Getting
Started!**

Connections in Our Community & World

Dancing Our Prayers: Mending Wings

We were honored to host a group of young people and their leaders from the Mending Wings program of the Yakama nation to experience "Dancing Our Prayers" on February 1st! The group ranged in age from 23 to 8 years old, male and female who shared their story, a drum circle, danced with us (and some potatoes...!), prayed with us and sang with us, making connections and sharing their faith. The service was "...truly a witness of healing and forgiveness for generations [of] sins and harm the Church has done to our brothers and sisters..." over the years, according to Children's ministries leader Liz Whitson. What a spirit filled gathering!

The group was hosted over the weekend by families from the congregation. Worship and story time were followed by questions and answers along with a good old fashioned Methodist potluck meal. We are so thankful to Dewey and the entire group for joining us, sharing their culture with us and leading us in worship. Our youth have been lucky to spend time with this group during summer SLAM (Students Learning About Missions) cross cultural collaborative service and learning trips. May we continue to build relationships, make connections and break down cultural walls that divide with them!



Connecting Through the Arts

Concert Mosaic A Confluence of Music and Art March 8th at 7:00pm

Linda Woody is a longtime member of LOUMC, parent of kids who went through the youth program, member of the Vesper Bell Choir and a cook and server at Lunch Bunch. But in her "other life" she is a musician, composer and concert producer! In 2008, after a career in writing and 18+ years raising 2 kids, she got a wild hair and enrolled in college at Marylhurst where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Music in Composition in 2013.

Check out her music bio here: <https://www.lindawoody.com/>.

A member of Cascadia Composers, a local affiliate of National Association of Composers USA., Linda has been involved in organizing many local concerts, several of them here, at the church. *Concert Mosaic*, her most

recent concert collaboration, is coming up in March at the Old Church in Portland on International Women's Day, March 8 at 7:00pm.

Celebrate the "... creative and collaborative spirit of women from Oregon and Washington in this unique evening of new music and visual art."

Each composer, inspired by works of visual art, also created by women, wrote piano, cello and violin pieces to be performed by women, surrounded by the art pieces! Linda's inspirations were photographs presented last Lent during "My Best Art," by our own Alaina Kuehn!

"Curated by Dianne Davies, Lisa Marsh, and Linda Woody, this concert celebrates International Women's Day



2026 by honoring the voices and visions of Northwest women through a vivid blend of sound and imagery."

Tickets are available at <https://app.arts-people.com/?show=295795> if you would like to go and support Linda, Alaina and the other artists involved!

More information about Cascadia Composers is available at <https://www.cascadiacomposers.org/>.

Church Board News

On the weekend of January 23 - 25, the LOUMC Leadership Board met offsite at the Collins Retreat Center near Sandy for some fellowship, planning, and strategizing about the new year. The purpose of the retreat was not to make final decisions about things, but more to set the stage for how the board is going to operate this year.

An important reality of the Single Board Governance model that the church adopted a few years ago is that the board is there to set overall goals and provide strategic direction for guiding the church in its mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for transformation of the world."

The challenge is turning that into concrete reality. In many ways, LOUMC is already very much involved in that mission: as a

corporate entity, through such things as our intentional relationship with The Father's Heart; and as individuals within the congregation, through countless outreach activities. The board, as one of the agreements coming out of the retreat, will be actively involved in finding additional ways to build on all these efforts in further pursuit of the overall mission. And suggestions from the congregation are most welcome!

Much of the retreat was dedicated to getting people settled into their roles. On our 9 person board, 4 people are new this year (marked with a * below), so there is a good deal of orientation we needed to go through so people are clear on what their responsibilities and opportunities are as board members.

Here is the membership of your board

for 2026:

Connelly Woody: Finance chair and investments manager

Joan Sakaguchi*: Finance operations and treasurer

Kay Lutze: Lay Leader, 10:30 service

Bev Cramer*: Lay Leader, 9:00 service.

Wende Milner: Staff/Parish Relations chair

Marty Stiven*: Staff/Parish relations

Ken Kramer: Trustees chair

Jake Petrjanos*: Trustees

Peter Brown: Board chair

We are all both excited and humbled by the faith and confidence you have displayed in us by entrusting us with leadership responsibility for LOUMC. Let us all work faithfully to further the mission of our church in 2026!

Peter Brown

Children & Youth Ministries

 *You're Invited*

**MESSY CHURCH:
LOVE GOD!**

Crafts
Games
Snacks



Sunday, Feb 8th
10:30 Service

Come share the love with us!
There will still be Sunday
School @ 9am.

SUNDAY MORNING CARTOONS



**Let's enjoy the
morning in our PJ's,
eating cereal, and
watching some classic
cartons.**

Sunday, March 8th
10:30 Service



Come share the love with us!
There will still be Sunday
School @ 9am

**Palm
Sunday
Potluck**

All are Invited!
March 29, 2026
Directly after service
Craft Stations
Prayer Devotional Stations

Food may be dropped off in the kitchen before service

Save the Date:
June 22nd - 25th



**Camp
Firelight**

A SUMMER CAMP Psalm 56:3
ADVENTURE WITH GOD

Registration Opens
February **4 years old through**
5th grade

Youth Fundraiser



Souper Bowl
FEB 8TH

Bring your change, checks and bills to
fill the soup pots for youth missions!!

...
Save the Date
**WINTER
RETREAT**
Feb. 14-16, 2026
...

...
SAVE THE DATE
**SLAM DATES
UPDATE**

JUNE 28 - JULY 3
...

Spotlight

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

Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Place
Stamp
Here

LOUMC Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Clay Andrew

Deacon: Rev. Danna Drum

Ministry and Building Coordinator &

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

Contemporary Music Director:

Noelle Goodenberger

Bell Choir Director: Leanne Bilstrom

Phone: 503-636-8423

Email: loumc@lakeoswegoumc.org

Website: www.lakeoswegoumc.org

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/LakeOswegoUMC/)
[LakeOswegoUMC/](https://www.facebook.com/LakeOswegoUMC/)

Holy Week and Easter Sunday Preview

Palm Sunday

March 29 ONE SERVICE at 10:00

As Jesus and the disciples enter Jerusalem, we'll join our voices with the crowd who shouts "Hosanna!" and remember what it means to follow the king who rides a donkey.

Holy Thursday

April 2 at 7:00pm

Jesus' Last Supper with the disciples gives us a model for what it means to follow him – we gather in community in diversity, and offer ourselves to Jesus' Way of Love. We'll meet some of the disciples who gathered with Jesus that night and find our own place at the table.

Good Friday

April 3 12:00pm, & 7:00pm

"Behold the man!" shouts Pilate, displaying a scourged Christ to the crowd, perhaps hoping that they would see his suffering and be satisfied. In word and song we, too, will look upon Jesus, hear of his suffering and let ourselves participate in the terrible events of that day. We will see the worst that humanity has to offer, only to find ourselves also meeting the full depth of divine love.



Easter Sunday

April 5 at 6:30, 9:00 & 11:00am

Sunrise Service, 6:30am at Foothills Park

Join us as we greet the rising sun (and the Risen Son) and celebrate the Good News that dawns upon the world, and that shines in our own lives.

Easter Celebration, 9:00 & 11:00 in the Sanctuary

We'll joyfully celebrate the Risen Christ, the triumph of love. Both services will be in the Sanctuary as we sing praise to the One who overcomes death that we might live in the full light of God's love.

Spotlight Deadlines: The next deadline is March 23 to be printed on March 30

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.