

# Spotlight



Newsletter of the Lake Oswego United Methodist Church  
April/May 2026

## *Worship with Us*

**April 2**

**Holy Thursday**

*7:00pm*

**April 3**

**Good Friday**

*12:00 & 7:00pm*

**April 5**

**Easter**

*6:30am at Foothills Park*  
*9:00am Sanctuary & Online*  
*11:00am Sanctuary*

**April 12, 19 & 26**

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

**May 3, 10 & 17**

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

**Begin Summer Schedule**

**May 24 & 31**

*10:00am Combined Worship*  
*Fellowship Hall & Online*

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*Connecting to God, to each other  
and to the world!*



# A Word from Pastor Clay

Beloved Saints of God,

Is the Christianity dying? Is the United Methodist Church dying? Is LOUMC?

As I write this we're just about to begin Holy Week. We'll journey together through the the drama and tension of the Holy Week story, but we'll do so with an anticipation of the resurrected life that we celebrate on Easter. We enter into the Holy Week narrative, but we already know the joyful end that waits. We aren't surprised by Easter. It's been on our calendar.

But we often ARE surprised by the Good News of resurrection and new life. It shows up in surprising ways and in unexpected places.

Last week I had lunch with a few ecumenical colleagues from churches in the Lake Oswego and West Linn area. And we were surprised to discover that in all of our congregations we've been seeing growth – new people participating regularly in worship and ministry, new members, and visitors showing up.

This is not the story we've been told. We've been told that the old 'mainline Protestant' churches are dying. We've been told that congregations embracing progressive faith are dying. But, at least for the four of us, that's simply not true. We're seeing growth.

I knew LOUMC had seen an increase in attendance and lots of new faces. But what a joy to know that the Spirit is moving in several places!

Numerical growth for the sake of numerical growth is not important. But when we see people participating in the life of the faith community, looking for meaning and understanding, and participating in the Way of Jesus, that's worth celebrating.

If you've been a long-time part of LOUMC, thank you for the ways that you've welcomed new folks into our community. And if you're one of the folks who has joined in with LOUMC in the last few years, I am so grateful for you – not because you're a number, but because your story and your gifts are part of the way that God is at work at LOUMC.

It's a blessing to be your pastor and to work alongside you in this season. I'm looking forward to celebrating the Easter season with you and seeing where else God is stirring up new life!



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

**We have been keeping the following people in our prayers:**

**Mary Closson's mom, Ann**, was hospitalized with sepsis. She has recovered and is doing well.

**Cheryl Connall** was in our prayers. Your prayers for **Susan Siegal** had emergency gallbladder surgery in early February.

We continue to keep **Molly Gearn** in our prayers as she has been in Hospice care.

**Jeff Moxie** had surgery in February.

**Vicki Hook** took a fall and had a short hospitalization for other issues, but is back and doing great.

**Deb Gice** and her family have been in our prayers, as they deal with the death of her father, her brother David's cancer and Deb's vertigo. Your prayers have been appreciated.

**Wayne Richards' son, Sam**, passed away in mid February.

**Fran Smith** had knee replacement surgery on February 23 and is recuperating.

**Pat Wagner** had RSV, was quarantined for a time, but she is feeling much better now.

**Ann Murchison** had a short hospital stay, but is doing much better now.

**Wende Milner's brother, David**, passed away in early March.

**Dale Cook** has been suffering from a C-spine injury and will likely be having surgery. Prayers for comfort and healing are appreciated.

Longtime LOUMC member and friend, **Eric Carlson**, passed away on March 16. A memorial service will be held at the church on May 23 at 11:00am. Please keep Dianne and their family in your prayers.

Please keep **Debbie Craig** and her family in your prayers.

Her sister, **Nikki Freepons**, passed away on March 21st.

## Congratulations & Best Wishes!

Best Wishes and prayers for **Hayley Vause** and Andrew Taylor who are engaged to be married!  
Prayers of thanksgiving for **Danna Drum** and her partner, Paul Medica who have a new granddaughter, Lily Denise Trantel!

## Interested in Membership?

Pastor Clay will be offering two New Member Exploration classes for those who are interested in joining or just curious to learn what the Methodist Church and/or Lake Oswego UMC are all about!  
Classes are being offered on Monday, April 13 at 7:00pm and on Sunday, April 19 at 12:00pm. Each class is about an hour, and you only need to attend one.  
Contact Pastor Clay if you would like to attend one of the sessions or have any questions.  
(clay@lakeoswegoumc.org)

## John Nilsen Giving Concert to Benefit Camp Magruder

Save the Date! John Nilsen will be holding a Benefit Concert for Camp Magruder on May 30 at 2:00pm at LOUMC. Camp Magruder is celebrating 80 years this year. Watch the QuickNews for more information!

## Spring Concert to be May 31

Be sure to add the Spring Concert to your calendar!! On May 31 at 4:00pm you will have a chance to see and hear a different side of our talented LOUMC musicians!  
You won't want to miss it!

# LOUMC Calendar

### April

- 2 Holy 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  
Stay for special Easter treats after!
- 6 **Easter Monday**  
Church Office Closed
- 27 Lunch Bunch  
12:00pm - Fellowship Hall

### May

- 1-2 Youth Collective Prayer-a-thon  
7:00pm Friday -
- 9 Mancakes  
8:00am - Fellowship Hall
- 18 Lunch Bunch  
12:00pm - Fellowship Hall
- 23 Eric Carlson Memorial  
11:00am - Sanctuary

### 24 Pentecost

5th Sunday Combined Service  
10:00am - Fellowship Hall

### 25 Memorial Day

Office Closed

### 30 John Nilsen Benefit Concert

3:00pm - Sanctuary

### Begin Summer Worship Schedule

Combined Worship  
10:00am - Fellowship Hall  
Spring Music Ministries Concert  
4:00pm - Sanctuary

### June

- 7 LO Pride Festival Booth  
Millenium Park Plaza
- 22- Vacation Bible School  
25 9:00am-12:00pm
- 28- Summer SLAM/Mission Trip  
July 3

### 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 2:00pm  
(2nd & 4th)

#### 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



*Remember to bring flowers with long stems for the flower cross on Easter morning!!*

# Around the Church

## Our Building is Hopping!

In any given week, anywhere from 120 to 150+ community members who are not LOUMC members enjoy using our building. They come regularly to AA, Playpark, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Unite for Democracy and more!

On top of that, we have 2 preschools downstairs with about 50 littles who attend each day.

In addition, about 108+ folks from our congregation attending small groups on weekdays every week, such as Pickleball, Crafts, Knitting, Choir, Open Hearts, Praise band, Men's Group and Handbells! Top that off with our groups who meet monthly, like Lunch Bunch (50+), Mancakes (15-25), Lunch Makers for the Father's Heart (15+) and we've got a full house!

### **But wait!**

We have building rentals; some return every year, and some every few months! This spring we will host 100 for the Moo Duk Kwan martial arts competition, the Lake Grove Garden Club Plant Sale, music recitals, Blood Drives, a District Youth Pray-a-thon and more!

We *celebrate* that our building can be a blessing to so many in our community! Our building is bustling!!

We *celebrate* Stacey Bernal, who is the wizard who coordinates all of the rooms and people!

And we appreciate YOU for making sure to reserve the spaces that you need with Stacey, so that we can avoid double booking and coordinate cleaning and setup for all of our fun activities!

## Thanks for Reserving Your Spaces!



## Strong Work On Realm

LOUMC has made great progress with Realm and its partner app, Connect! **144+ LOUMC members have joined so far!**

**Thinking you're too old to use Realm?** Our oldest member on Realm right now is 95 years old!!

**Thinking you're too cool to use Realm?** Our youngest registered member is 20!

Several of our small groups and volunteer teams are using it in earnest. The **Worship Team** schedule is up and running, and their meeting minutes are available to group members in the online resources! **Tech team** has a schedule and has begun uploading some of their instructions! **Mancakes** and **Open Hearts** have started sending their information out through Realm as well!

Remember, you do NOT have to download the app onto your phone

to take advantage of Realm's benefits! You can access it from your computer at home, as well.

**When you register, you have access to and are a part of our LOUMC online directory!** And **YOU have total control** over the information that you share. You can make changes to your profile as needed, change emails, birth dates, address or phone numbers!

Communicating with members in your groups is easy through Realm and helps your leaders keep all of their information in one place. You can also see other groups that you might like to join!

**Coming soon!! Access your giving through Realm!** Check your pledge, make a donation, register and pay for VBS or a class!

If you're ready, contact Kelly, Stacey or Pam in the office for a new invitation and/or help getting connected!

## A Classic Theater Comedy: "You Can't Take It With You!"

This May, how would you like a good laugh at the theater? The classic comedy, "You Can't Take It With You", by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, will be presented by the Mask and Mirror Theater Company of Tigard. This play, written in the 1930s and set in New York City, tells the story of a culture clash between the free-spirited Sycamore family and the straight laced Kirbys. The Sycamores have decided to live life in pursuit of their various oddball hobbies, with at best indifferent success, and have attracted a nutty cast of characters to their home to join in the fun. One of them, Boris Kolenkhov, is ballet instructor in exile from the Russian Revolution. He is played by our own Peter Brown (hence



the new beard, if you've noticed!)! The show runs for 3 weekends, starting May 1. Peter will put up a notice on the bulletin board when it gets closer to the opening. The performances are held in the Rise Church (formerly Calvin Presbyterian) in Tigard. Come enjoy a good laugh that brings us back to the screwball comedy era!

# Lenten Activities

## The 2026 Lenten Soup Suppers & My Best Saint Were a Hit!

The Lenten Soup Suppers have always been popular at LOUMC, and this year was no exception! The first week we had to add 2 extra tables to hold everyone! And we consistently served between 50 and 70 each Tuesday!

So many thanks are due to John & Wende Milner, Allyson Milner and Richard for sharing their mad soup cooking skills with us each year (this is year 25+ for John and Wende!) They were assisted by *a host* of volunteers who helped with setup and cleanup each night (familiar faces volunteering every week include Stacey Bernal, Steve and Julie Blake at setup and Richard Waggoner, Jon Gice and LaRayne Kisky at cleanup!)

Many thanks to Liz Whitson who set up activity stations for the kids and posted table discussion ideas at each table! These ideas helped to center us.

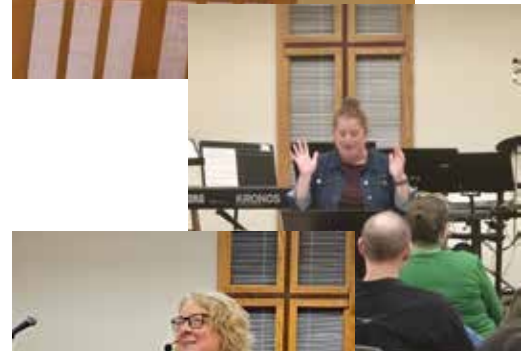
Aligning well with Pastor Clay's Lenten sermon theme, Strange Saints and Holy Heroes, the "My Best Saint" talks were *very* well received. Kerri Brown started us off with her talk about all of the "Church ladies" in her life and how they inspired her to be involved. She was followed by Mary Peaslee, who spoke about Father Greg Boyle, who came alongside of the "at risk" youth population in LA and started Homeboy Industries, a beacon of hope, training and support in a community of folks who needed to feel "seen" and "heard".

On March 10, we heard from Julie Garvin, whose saint, Joan Collison, was part of her parents' small group at church. Joan made a huge impression on Julie during her youth, with her passion for and action toward diversity, and equality for all races. Theirs became a lifelong friendship.

Angela Petrijanos followed, on March 17 with her talk about Dorothy Day, her "social work" saint, who she was introduced to in her Intro to Social Work class in college. Dorothy helped to inspire Angela to follow her own path into social work. And our last, but not least, speaker was Danna Drum, whose best saint was her dad. His gift of "time" for others was probably why Danna's own "love language" is time. And he taught her about our responsibility to vote and work hard, and he did it all by "doing" not by "talking".

Intrigued?

If you missed any of the Best Saint talks, you should definitely watch them! Contact Pam Pearson for a link to the videos. ([pam@lakeoswegoumc.org](mailto:pam@lakeoswegoumc.org)).



# Build Connections: Small Groups & Classes

## LUNCH BUNCH

**Monday, April 27  
@ 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!*  
*May Lunch will be*

## 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

## Have an idea for a new small group?

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

## Open Hearts

Open Hearts women's study and  
fellowship group meets on Thursday  
mornings at 10:00. Join them in  
the Conference Room. They have  
just started a new 5-week study on  
forgiveness and are always happy to  
welcome new women to the group! *All  
are welcome!!*

## Sunday Soul Food Is On a Break!

Watch the QuickNews for info about  
when they will begin a new study!

## Mancakes

### Breakfast and a Speaker

This great MANCAKES season will  
be wrapping up on May 9th with our  
very own Dr. Andy Cramer sharing  
about his surgical mission trips. No  
April meeting due to the busy Easter  
season!

We will get back to those pancakes  
on September 12th and begin the  
2026-2027 season with our usual kick  
off planning session.

The door is open to ALL for these  
breakfasts on second Saturdays starting  
at 8:00AM and wrapping up around  
9:00AM from September through  
May.

It has been recommended that we  
change the name to HUMANCAKES.

The polls are open...

RSVP to Jon so he can plan food  
quantities. jon\_gice@sbcglobal.net.



## 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

Watch for info on a new study  
beginning in a few weeks! Friday Bible  
Study meets Fridays from 10am-12pm  
at the Hunting home. Please  
contact Becky for more information!  
503-636-6339

## Craft Group

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! Contact Carol  
Richard with questions!

## Quilters

The Quilters meet 2nd and 4th  
Tuesdays. Since their beginnings in  
2020, they have given 190 quilts, 92  
receiving blankets, 8 fleece quilts and  
a few to Family Promise and Road  
to Hope. They are always happy to  
welcome newcomers. Contact Nan  
Olson with questions  
(nanandloren@centurylink.net)

## 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)



## Probers Class Sundays Online!

The Probers class meets on Zoom at  
8:30am each Sunday!

**All are welcome** to join the discussion!  
Contact Susan Ford, tsuzef@msn.com  
for the Zoom link.

# Connections in Our Community & World

## LO Indoor Play Park

On any given Wednesday morning, if you drive by the church you will notice that the parking lot is FULL! *What's going on?* It's Play Park day!

Originally started in 2017 as a low cost, clean, dry place for "littles" with their parents and/or caregivers to meet and play two days per week, the LO Indoor Play Park had its ups and downs! When it first opened, the \$3 per visit charge was enough to pay a play park attendant to set up, greet folks and serve coffee with a little left over for a few new toys.

In 2020, Covid changed our lives for a few years, closing the indoor play space! In 2023, after the church had reopened, Bev Cramer and friends saw that we had all the wonderful indoor equipment and they had a vision. Bev quickly pulled together a four person volunteer team to welcome parents, grandparents, nannies and their children to LOUMC on Wednesday mornings **for free!** LOUMC is now celebrating our 3rd year of post covid Lake Oswego Indoor Play Park! *It is a great service for the community!*

Pat Moffit, Beth Devogele, Beverly Cramer and Terry Santoro work together to keep LOIPP running during the school year when school playgrounds aren't available during the day, and it is generally wet and cold outside. Bev says, "It takes about 30 minutes to set up for fun and 30 minutes to cram all of it back into the closet in the Fellowship Hall. As volunteers we have loved the connections we've built with our families, some of whom have been with us for the last three years. Because LOUMC has been able to provide this community service at no charge to our participants, we welcome between 25-35 families a week with 30-55 children coming to play. We are on Facebook and Instagram to update our followers on our weekly schedule and to promote LOUMC family activities such as our Holiday Bazaar. If you're passing through the church on a Wednesday morning and the parking lot is full stick your head into the Fellowship Hall for a huge dose of joy! Thank you LOUMC for what you're providing for our city's children!"

## Father's Heart Lunch Making is Fun and Helpful!

On the second Tuesday of every month a group of volunteers gather in the church kitchen at 9:30am to make items for The Father's Heart. In an hour's time they make about 100 peanut butter and jam sandwiches, 60 or more individual salads, lots of oatmeal packets, bag rolls of plastic bags, and other things as needed.

Happy to help out The Father's Heart, they enjoy visiting with each other as well! It is a great time to make connections with each other and get to know each other better! .

Many thanks to all who have come out to help. We would be very happy to have you come and join us!



*Early in the day at the Play Park!*



*The great puzzle that is the Play Park storage and electrical closet in the Fellowship Hall!*

# Palm Sunday Fun!



The Palm Sunday potluck was so much fun!!!! Thank you so much for everyone who served and brought food! ***This summer we will have a potluck in the third Sunday of the month starting June 21st!*** Our potlucks are full of fellowship and intergenerational fun, the whole church family together!

## Church Board News

In the last Spotlight, you may recall that our January retreat was devoted in large part to introducing new board members to their new roles, particularly within the single board model of governance that we are still learning how to use effectively. Our new members are Marty Stiven, Joan Sakaguchi, Jake Petrijanos, and Bev Cramer. And I am newly the board chair after only one year of service, so there's still a good deal of learning curve yet to climb!

Certainly one of the key board responsibilities is proper management of the church's financial situation, and this occupied a good chunk of the agenda for our first scheduled meeting this year, on March 19. Due to a number of challenges, we have not been as proactive as we would like in getting the budget in order for 2026, and we had a very productive discussion to get the whole board up to speed on what's required to get that in place, and how to keep proper track of things as the year progresses. Special thanks are due

to Joan Sakaguchi for leading this very important effort.

The simple version of the story is that we ended up 2025 about as we originally budgeted, with about a \$90,000 shortfall between income (mostly pledges, but also building rent and a few smaller income items) and expenses, with the shortfall being covered with funds from our endowment and bequest accounts. The expectation so far is that 2026 will be similar.

Our expenses were a little smaller than originally budgeted for personnel matters, but a good deal larger than we planned for building maintenance. That's probably the most important thing to understand about our finances: we own some buildings that are old enough that their upkeep is going to continue to be a major issue. The sanctuary dates to the 50s, the Admin building from the 60s, and the parsonage also from the 60s. What I can say is that we have a much better

handle now than we did a year ago about planning for the unexpected, and we will be budgeting more proactively because of it.

In other news, we're beginning to create an on-line filing system for properly storing all the various items that are involved in running LOUMC, in a fashion where things can be found and referenced easily from anywhere as needed by people who require the access. What a concept, eh? How very Year 2000 or so of us! As quickly as we can, we want to get out of having to search through pages of e-mails and attachments, trying to remember, "Now what did that HVAC contractor propose 2 years ago?" and such like. This is in its infancy, just like Realm is, but we'll get there! Hats off to Ken Kramer for getting this started.

Happy Spring, and thank you for all you do as a church body to make disciples of Jesus Christ for transformation of the world!

*Peter Brown*

# Children & Youth Ministries

## LOUMC Kids Involved in West Linn Wilsonville Schools Production of Frozen!

Our very own Vivienne will be playing Anna in the West Linn/Wilsonville School District middle schools' production of Frozen, as part of P-cast. Other LOUMC youth are working backstage on the crew! Let's show them our support! LOUMC Kids will be going on Saturday, April 18 @ 2:00pm. The performances are at West Linn High School Performing Arts Center. There will be a character tea experience before the show! Come dressed up to meet the characters, get autographs, make crafts and play games!

If you can come, please let Liz know,

503.310.0720 or [liz@lakeoswegoumc.org](mailto:liz@lakeoswegoumc.org). Liz has purchased a block of tickets in advance so that we may sit together!

Additional tickets are available online: <https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/tix/2358>



## The Kidz Zone!

Save the Date:  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup>



Registration Opens  
Soon!

4 years old through  
5<sup>th</sup> grade



*pictures from winter retreat and from our service projects at the Ronald McDonald house*



It's time to sign up for camp! Heidi will be camp dean at Suttle Lake July 13-17 for mid-high and July 20-24 for elementary. There are other dates and sites available though! To see what weeks are available at Suttle Lake, click [here](#). To see what's available at Magruder, click [here](#).



From Friday, May 1 at 7pm until Saturday, May 2 at 10am we will be hosting a youth prayer-a-thon at the church, with other local youth groups. Each group will rotate through the prayer stations and enjoy community time together!

You can submit prayer concerns for the youth to pray over during their time together by [clicking this link](#) and filling out the form.



SLAM dates are June 28-July 3. If you are interested in attending SLAM, let Heidi know! ([heidi@lakeoswegoumc.org](mailto:heidi@lakeoswegoumc.org))

# Spotlight

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

Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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## 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

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

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## Easter Week Preview

### Holy Thursday

April 2 at 7:00pm

We'll meet some of the disciples who gathered with Jesus for the last supper and find our own place at the table.

### Good Friday

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

In word and song we will experience Christ's suffering and let ourselves participate in the terrible events of that day.

### 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

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

We'll joyfully celebrate the Risen Christ!



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**Spotlight Deadlines:** The next deadline is May 21 to be published on May 28.

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

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