



The Wednesday Weekly

September 10, 2025

TUMC Church Family News and Updates

AN EMAIL PUBLICATION OF TUALATIN UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

20200 SW Martinazzi Avenue, Tualatin OR 97062

ph: 503.692.1820 | email: tualatinumc@gmail.com

Join us: Sunday, September 14, 10:00 am
Worship Service & Fellowship, Celebration of Communion

Hold in your Prayers

Prayers for Healing, Thanks & Hope

Sherris: Joy! her grandson Cody doing well after a concussion, cleared for football practice

Penny happy to be back in her home and now able to do limited driving

Karen: Marilyn in hospital;

Continued prayers for Clare and Sharon, both struggling with cancer diagnosis

Melinda: grandson Benson - turned 13, last Monday!

Beverly: cousin's daughter and friend walked away from a rollover vehicular accident

Patt: surprised by one son at Breakfast and then son Michael surprised her at church!

Katelyn: thankful for friends and family;

difficulty with friend Natalie, she is anxious, changes topics often,

brings up things I'd rather avoid;

prayers for grandfather, not doing well mentally

Rachel: Selinda, healing from a broken wrist;

Selinda's mom, Bobbie, healing after a fall;

both in Florida, prayers for smooth transition to Oregon

Safe travels for Karen & Bob as they visit their son and explore UK

Safe travels for Melinda, Kelly, Larry & Pam

Thanksgiving for our pianist, Devin and blessings on his new adventures

The damage and cost of war.

The continued consequences of I.C.E. raids.

To share prayer requests,
all joys and concerns

phone or email :
Rev. Melissa or Sara
503.692.1820
tualatinumc@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 11 PRAYER

On September 11, 2001, the world witnessed one of the most devastating tragedies in modern history. The terror attacks that day claimed nearly 3,000 lives and left an indelible mark on the hearts of millions. As we reflect on this somber day, it is essential to remember not only the lives lost but also the resilience of the human spirit. In the face of overwhelming sorrow, the power of prayer became a beacon of hope and comfort for countless individuals and families.

Dear God, as we remember the tragic events of September 11, we come before You with heavy hearts. We honor those who lost their lives, those who were injured, and the families who continue to feel the pain of their absence. Please grant them peace and healing. May we never forget the courage of first responders and the spirit of unity that arose in the face of adversity. Help us to carry forward the lessons learned, fostering love, compassion, and understanding among one another. We thank You for Your everlasting presence in our lives. Amen.

FAMILY PROMISE

[Eat, Drink and Be Giving:](#) Auction, Dinner, Dessert Fundraiser
(click on link or see flyer posted in the Narthex)

Have a fun night out that benefits Bridge to Home family shelter

Saturday, September 27, 5:00—8:00 pm

TUMC Yard Maintenance

Thank you to all that have contributed to our TUMC Yard Maintenance Fund.
Your donations have had 13 trees pruned and trimmed and barkdust added to our property.
A huge thank you to Oregon Tree Technology for two days of hard work!



MISSION NEWS

Projects, Donations, Volunteer Opportunities



You can & do make a difference!

BRIDGE TO HOME, Family Promise of Tualatin Valley

<https://www.familypromiseoftv.org/>

Volunteer Opportunities

Tuesdays: Sept 30, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 30

Purchase food, deliver to pantry;

Work in food preparation, serving and clean up in kitchen

Contact Wes Tanac for more information or to sign up!

Email: marinerwes@aol.com



SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR COMMUNITY TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL (CTS)

These items are especially needed: *(for consistency, please provide brands specified)*

- * Crayola crayons, Box of 24
- * Pencil pouch for 3-ring binder
- * Ticonderoga lead pencils
- * Sharpie pens (extra fine, black and colors)
- * Notebook paper, loose leaf, WIDE ruled
- * Pencil supply boxes, Sterilite
- * White Board markers, Expo, all colors

**COMMUNITY
TRANSITIONAL
SCHOOL**

Drop off on Sundays, or during office hours. Bins available in Narthex. Thank you!

SPECIAL GIVING SUNDAY FOR CTS : THANK YOU!!

On Sunday, September 7, members and friends of TUMC donated
\$ 755.00 for CTS School Supplies

TUALATIN FOOD PANTRY

www.tualatinfoodpantry.org

Food on the table for our community friends



TUMC CANNED FOOD DRIVE:

Share canned goods! For example canned tuna, canned fruit, canned pasta
(like SpaghettiOs), hearty soups.

SEPTEMBER SHARING

Drop off on Sunday morning or during office hours.

ONLINE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

To give directly and securely to any TUMC project including general offering:

Follow this link:

[TUMC Giving](#)

or scan this QR code >>



HILLTOP CALENDAR

TUALATIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 20200 SW Martinazzi Avenue, Tualatin OR 97062
ph: 503.692.1820 email: tualatinumc@gmail.com web: www.tualatinumc.org
Church Office Hours: Mon & Wed 9am-3pm; Tues 10am-2pm

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

Every Sunday

10:00 am

Come as you are. Communion Celebrated, First Sunday of each Month.

SMALL GROUP STUDY, DISCUSSION & FELLOWSHIP

Ongoing, Open to All!

Women's Book Study	Tuesdays	10:00 am	TUMC
Men's Group	Wednesdays	9:30 am	TUMC
Women's Fellowship Group	Wednesdays	11:00 am	* Zoom

**Zoom: Contact Sara to join tualatinumc@gmail.com*

EVENTS COMING SOON

SEND OFF for Devin Tran, our Pianist Sunday, Sept 14 After worship service
Devin is heading off to a new adventure! and will soon be attending Oregon State University. Join us to celebrate the music he has shared as part of the Music Praise Team each Sunday and to wish him well.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS Service Saturday, Sept 27 1:00 pm, TUMC Lawn
Join us on the TUMC lower lawn with your animal friends for blessing. *(see page 5 for more details)*

SACRED ART Workshop Saturday, Oct 11 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
Join us for sharing written word, cut and paste collage, fun! All ages and experience! *(more info to follow)*

ADVENT ART PROJECT Share! Today through November 1
Everyone is invited to explore and share your experience of God's joy through ART! Contributions will be used for a special TUMC Advent 2025 devotional. Ideas and samples on display in Narthex, or contact office for info.

HELP WANTED AND ENCOURAGED

COMMUNION COMPANION TEAM Ongoing Traveling Ministry
Pastor Melissa invites team members to provide fellowship and communion to those friends that are home or hospital bound. Contact church office if you are interested in serving on a team. *Please also share with Pastor Melissa or church office the names of those you know in the community that would welcome visits from our traveling team.*

COMMUNION STEWARDS Ongoing
Traditionally, churches have designated people to supply the communion elements for Communion Sunday each month. These Stewards fill a different role than those that assist with the serving of communion in worship. Stewards provide a small roll to break and gluten free bread cut into small pieces, as well as monitor the supply of grape juice. Contact Pastor Melissa or Sara in church office to find out more about this role. Training is provided.
If you can provide bread for Communion on October 5, please contact Sara!

For more information about any events, contacts, or meetings or to submit content for this newsletter:
contact church office: **Sara** (tualatinumc@gmail.com) | **Pastor Melissa** (revmelissaharkness@gmail.com) |



Blessing of the Animals Service

Saturday September 27, 2025

1:00 pm

Tualatin UMC Lower Lawn (weather permitting)

Come two legged, four legged, three legged, no legged to our Blessing of the Animals service. This service is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the special critters in our lives.

We ask only animals that will do well in a public place join us at the service. We want all of our animals and humans to feel comfortable. You might want to consider if your friend gets along well enough with other animals to join us, and if he or she will be okay sitting through a short service. If your animal companion doesn't do well in public or is not ready for such a big event just yet, we encourage you to bring a picture of him or her, a stuffed animal that represents your friend, or you can bring a collar or blanket that your friend likes and we can bless that instead.

Anyone is also invited to bring a picture of those special animal friends that have died. There will be a time in the service to remember those animals that we have lost.

We ask that dogs are on short leashes or in carriers, and that all cats and any other animal that may try to scurry away be in carriers. There will be a special "human only" section of the lawn for anyone who wishes to participate, but who has significant allergies. With some flexibility and creativity, our Celebration and Blessing of the Animals promises to be an exciting way to honor and affirm the love and joy that our animal companions bring to us. I hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Rev. Melissa

History Note

The practice of blessing animals has its roots in two essential figures of the Christian tradition: St. Francis of Assisi and St. Anthony Abbot. While St. Francis is recognized for his profound communion with nature and his love for all creatures, it is St. Anthony, also known as the patron saint of animals, who has inspired one of the most popular celebrations involving the blessing of animals. St. Anthony Abbot, whose feast is celebrated on January 17, has been venerated since the 4th century as an example of ascetic life and holiness. His love and care for animals are reflected in numerous accounts of his life, where he is described feeding, protecting, and showing compassion towards them. In many places, his feast day is a special occasion for the blessing of animals, particularly in rural and agricultural communities where animals have been an essential part of daily life.

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

Episcopal Address from Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth
2025 Annual Conference, Greater Northwest Area UMC

Editor's Note: We will be sharing a section or two each week in this newsletter from Bishop Bridgeforth's address to the 2025 Annual Conference. This week we share sections 5 and 6.

5. Eliminating Racism: A lens for all we do

Just as equipping laity is vital, so too is ensuring that every aspect of our work is viewed through the essential lens of eliminating racism—the 'E' in M.I.L.E.

As we think about the 'E', the elimination of racism, we note it's last again, but only so we can spell M.I.L.E., not because it's of least importance or the last thing we do. You've heard me say it before, and I'll repeat it here and in other places. Everything that we do needs to be done through this lens of eliminating racism. Everything.

If we pay attention to eliminating racism, we will begin to understand the systems that have restricted housing policy and access in this country. If we pay attention to eliminating racism, we also begin to see why our health systems—mental, physical, and public—are shaped the way they are.

Right now, our focus on eliminating racism helps us think about how we deploy, employ, and support our pastoral and lay leaders across our area. It also informs how we examine systems that affect us and those that we perpetuate within our broader society and within our denomination.

Everything that we do needs to be done through this lens of eliminating racism.

Everything.

Some of you are aware that over the last 18 months, we've hosted learning sessions that we've called equity cohorts. Individuals in key leadership roles and select congregations came together for a nine-month learning experience about what it means to practice equity in our everyday lives and our collective ministry.

As a part of this effort, we trained a cadre of leaders who will continue to serve in this area and work with pastoral leaders, laity, and ministries across our area to help us examine our policies, our practices and our structures. One of the equity tools we were exposed to is universal design. Universal design asks that we consider those who are most marginalized, their needs, and the barriers that keep them from participating in our work and call to ministry, as we do our work and ministry. When we tend to those needs, we begin to address those barriers that have kept everyone from participating in our call, because we begin with those most marginalized.

We will continue to support this work, shaping practices and policies and delivering equity tools that help eliminate racism across our churches, districts, conferences, and the wider world.

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(continued from page 6)

6. *Cultural competency and truth-telling*

Building on that commitment to racial equity, we are also expanding our capacity for cultural competency and truth-telling—both essential for meaningful change.

Beyond our equity training, we've also identified and trained a group of Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) administrators. These individuals will be able to work with us individually and collectively, around matters of intercultural competency, to help us understand where we are individually and as an organization. Then we can develop plans and practices to help us move toward a more equitable way of living in the world. This work, which the Rev. Lisa Talbott will direct on an area level, helps us identify blind spots in race, culture, and openness. This is not something to fear or resist.

IDI is not a blame game. It's a way of learning so that we can change our ways of being, internally and externally.

This also aligns with the truth-telling work we've embarked upon, which was first introduced by our Western Jurisdiction Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM). Here in the Greater Northwest, this exploration of our church's history with those who were here long before us is being coordinated by our Circle of Indigenous Ministries, led by Rev. Dr. Allen Buck. Our truth-telling work is not Allen's work to do; it's Allen's to coordinate and champion. The work belongs to all of us.

The truth-telling project is underway across our Greater Northwest Area. We'll continue to hear from those who are participating, and we will follow through on recommendations and conversations that emerge because of the truth-telling exploration that's happening in various places.

Our truth-telling work belongs to all of us.

We will also gain some tools and ways of being and serving together. That will help us in other areas, such as being able to have difficult conversations.

The final topic related to eliminating racism concerns cross-racial, cross-cultural appointments. We have many of those in our area, and, unfortunately, we have even more areas in our conferences where cross-racial, cross-cultural appointments—in the classic sense of the designation—will not be possible in the near future. Regardless, we will continue forward and do the necessary work to prepare every one of our ministry settings to receive a cross-racial, cross-cultural appointment.

If you think about it, most of our appointments are already cross-racial, cross-cultural appointments.

When we consider age, class, geography, theological difference, and other variables, we have many ministry settings that would benefit from the heightened awareness that cross-racial, cross-cultural training brings.

To read along at your own pace, please visit:
[Putting the Pieces Together GNW UMC](#)
Audio is also available for each section.