

Florence United Methodist Church

Tide-ings 2026



February Newsletter

Florence United Methodist Church
333 Kingwood, Florence, OR 97439

Office: (541) 997-6025

florenceoregonumc@gmail.com
www.florenceoregonumc.org



Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Serving the People of God:

District Superintendent: Wendy Woodworth

Pastor: Reverend Deborah Anderson

Governing Board Chair: Beth Evans

Finance Chair: Kathy Yelle

Trustees Chair: Scott Philben

SPRC Chair: Ann Scharf

Newsletter Editor: Diane McCalmont

Ministers: All Members

- Office Phone: 541-997-6025
- Pastor Deb's Office Hours:
- Tuesday & Wednesday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Contacts: Phone: 651-600-9444
- Email: revdebanderson@gmail.com
- Diane's Office Hours:
- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 10:00am-2:00pm
- Thursday: 9:30am-12:30am



Ministry Opportunities

February

Date	Liturgist	Usher/ Greeter	Counters	Projectionist	Flowers
1	Kathy Waterman	Patty Evans	Julia Bicek Jane Salamone	Peggy Hughes	
8	Sharon Gallagher	Judy Jones	Patty Evans Brooke Shafer	Patty Evans	
15	Nu Williams	Caroline Mesman	Caroline Mesman Nu Williams	Bert Schniepp	
22	Kathy Bones	Patty Evans	Nancy Rhodes Patty Evans	Karen Baylis	

Coffee Hour Sign Ups

- Feb. 1 Bert & Linda Schniepp, Caroline Mesman
- Feb. 8
- Feb. 15 Peggy Wilson, Judy Jones
- Feb. 22



Dear Family in Christ,

As we move toward the season of Lent, the church begins with Ash Wednesday — a quiet, honest service that marks the start of these forty days of reflection and prayer. On Ash Wednesday, we will gather for a service that includes the ancient practice of receiving ashes, a simple sign of our humanity and our need for God's grace.

If you have never been to an Ash Wednesday service—or if it has been a long time—you might wonder what to expect. Ashes can feel unfamiliar, even uncomfortable. The words "*You are dust*" can sound heavy. It's okay to feel unsure. Ash Wednesday does not begin with guilt. It begins with love that tells the truth.

When ashes are placed on our foreheads, they are not a sign of failure or shame. They are a sign of honesty. The ashes remind us that we are human—finite, imperfect, and deeply loved by God. We come just as we are, without pretending to be stronger or more put together than we really are. God meets us there.

Ash Wednesday opens the season of Lent, which is not about punishment or trying harder. Lent is an invitation to slow down, to pay attention, and to make room for what matters most. It is a season for noticing what gives life—and what takes it away.

As we grow more honest about our own lives, Lent also opens our eyes to the lives of others. We begin to see where people are burdened, excluded, or harmed. Love leads us to truth, and truth leads us toward justice—not out of guilt, but out of care.

You do not have to know all the words or rituals to come. You do not even have to receive ashes. Simply come, breathe, and listen. Ash Wednesday is a quiet beginning—an honest one—rooted in the love of God that never lets us go.

In Hope and Peace,

Pastor Deb



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith News

All women are invited to attend the February 4th United Women in Faith meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Beth Evans will provide refreshments and Betty Livingston will lead in devotions. Judy Jones will present a program for the day.

At the January meeting, 2026 officers were installed through a program led by Renee' Hansen.

- Interim President: Judy Jones
- Treasurer: Vicki Philben
- Secretary: Diane McCalmont
- Council Representative: Julia Bicek
- Member Nurture & Outreach: Brooke Shafer
- Mission Education & Interpretation: Diane McCalmont
- Reading Program: Beth Evans
- Social Action: Yola Hesser

If you are moved to be a leader of the UWF, the position of president is open. Training and support will be provided. Please contact Judy Jones.

During the church service on January 25, Judy spoke about the purpose and mission of United Women in Faith. An invitation was given to all women to come to a meeting and check out this amazing group. Judy also presented Special Recognition pins to two ladies who go above and beyond in their service to our church and our community. Pins this year went to Sharon Gallagher and Peggy Simington.

UWF will host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 17 at 5:30pm. All are invited!

Yes, there are some pecans left. Pieces, halves, and clusters are available—just in time for Valentine's Day! See Diane, Judy, or Renee' if you'd like to purchase some.

Diane McCalmont, Secretary



Services During Lent

**Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18: Service at 4:30pm;
Soup supper at 5:30pm**
**Wednesdays thereafter: 5:00pm Soup supper
5:45pm Lenten service**



Adult Bible Study Continues Mondays

Our Adult Bible Study, held at 10:30 am on Mondays, will end our series ***The Bible With and Without Jesus*** the 2nd week of February,

Following that, with the beginning of the Lenten season, we will continue on Mondays at the 10:30am time with a six week series of ***The Final Days: A Lenten Journey Through the Gospels***, featuring Pastor Matt Rawle. During this study we will look at the four Gospels as they each tell in their own way the story of the final days of Jesus and the Disciples leading to the Crucifixion. What impact can this story have on our faith and our lives?

Come join in the discussion.

Bert Schniepp

PALS



1:00-2:30 p.m. Fridays
Tedd Powell Fellowship Hall
All women are welcome!

P... Prayer
A... Action
L... Love
S...Sharing



Prayer Shawl Ministry — Growing with Hearts & Hands



Our longtime Prayer Shawl Ministry is still alive, faithful, and deeply valued, and continues to meet on the second Wednesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. This ministry has been a long-time faithful and powerful way we serve and comfort people in prayer, care, and Christ's love, and we give thanks for the many years of devotion that have shaped it.

Everyone who enjoys knitting and crocheting is warmly invited to continue this sacred work of creating prayer shawls and other handmade items that bring comfort to members of our church and the wider community.

As the needs of our community grow, the Prayer Shawl Ministry is opening its doors a little wider, welcoming additional creative expressions that can also serve the ministry of care and compassion. Other suggestions include handmade cards, bookmarks, quilted lap blankets, and fidget quilts for memory-care patients. We welcome all ideas and learning opportunities. Or simply come and see what's unfolding and visit a while. Many art supplies are on hand or you can bring your own.

Above all, this remains a time of rich and productive Christian fellowship. So come as you are. Bring what you know. Try something new. Make new friends and explore new creative skills! Together, we continue the ministry — rooted in prayer, growing in love.

PFLAG Florence

PFLAG to Introduce Customized Training Programs

At its regular meeting in February, PFLAG will show examples of special peer-to-peer training programs developed by chapters in California. This year, PFLAG is looking to provide members and friends with new resources to help them navigate LGBTQ+ issues for themselves, their families and friends.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. on Monday, February 9, in the Fellowship Hall. As with all PFLAG events, the meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available. If you haven't attended PFLAG in a while, consider dropping by and meeting with the new leadership team. PFLAG Florence is one of more than 400 chapters in the largest national organization serving the LGBTQ+ community and those who love them.

Linda Yoder



**Taizé Community Prayer Service
God's People Pray for Peace**

**Sunday, February 8, 2026
4:00 pm**

**Florence United Methodist Church
333 Kingwood Street**

**Musicians' Rehearsals
Tuesday, February 3, at 2:00 pm
Sunday, February 8 at 3:00 pm**

**For more information contact
Patricia Evans, Taizé Coordinator
541-905-4248 or pcevans1556@gmail.com**

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
1 10:30am Church Svce Coffee Hour after svce	2 <i>Office Closed</i> 10:30am Adult Bible Study at FUMC	3 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 11:30am Free Lunch	4 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 1:00pm UWF Mtg	5 9:30am-12:30pm Re Office 11:30am Free Lunch 2-3pm Homeschoole
8 10:30am Church Svce Coffee hour after svce 3:00pm Taizé' Music Rehearsal 4:00pm Taizé Prayer Svce	9 <i>Office Closed</i> 10:30am Adult Bible Study at FUMC 6:00pm PFLAG	10 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 11:30am Free Lunch 3:00pm Church Council Mtg	11 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 10:00am-12:00pm Hearts & Hands Craft Ministry (formerly Prayer Shawl Ministry)	12 9:30am-12:30pm Re Office 11:30am Free Lunch 2-3pm Homeschoole
15 10:30am Church Svce Coffee after church	16 <i>Office Closed</i> 10:30am Adult Bible Study at FUMC	17 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 11:30am Free Lunch 5:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	18 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 10:00-11:30am Book Group 4:30pm Ash Wednesday Service...followed by... 5:30pm Soup Supper	19 9:30am-12:30pm Re Office 11:30am Free Lunch 2-3pm Homeschoole
22 10:30am Church Svce Coffee after church	23 <i>Office Closed</i> 10:30am Adult Bible Study at FUMC Noon Newsletter Deadline	24 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 11:30am Free Lunch	25 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 5:00pm Soup Supper 5:45pm Lenten Service	26 9:30am-12:30pm Re Office 11:30am Free Lunch 2-3pm Homeschoole

Check out our new Master Calendar for church activities! It is on the office look most accurate record we have of church activities. Check it first before planning your event is listed accurately for date, time, and place.

Fri		Sat
gular e hrs rs	6 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet	7
gular e hrs rs	13 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet	14
gular e hrs rs	20 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet	21
gular e hrs rs	27 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet	28

Copy bulletin board. This is the
place for a meeting or event. Be sure



Birthdays

- 3 Tim Salisbury
- 13 Terry Woodward
- 22 Marge Temple
- 26 Kim Holden
- 28 Lainey Goss

Anniversaries

- 23 Robert & Judith Lowe

If I've missed your
birthday or anniversary, please
send an email to
Diane at
florenceoregonumc@gmail.com
to let me know.

Notes from the Church Council



The Church Council met on January 13th and welcomed new members Diane McCalmont, Kathryn Socea, and Julia Bicek. We still need someone to fill a two year term. If you are interested, please talk with Kathy Waterman or Judy Jones. The Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Meetings are open to all church members. If you think you might be interested in serving on the Council, attend a meeting and check it out.

At Council meetings, we hear reports from the Pastor and from United Women in Faith. These reports update us on church activities and ministries. Pastor Deb reviewed the proposed new ministry teams that she outlined during the January 18th Sunday service: Spiritual Life, Service and Outreach, and Care and Nurture.

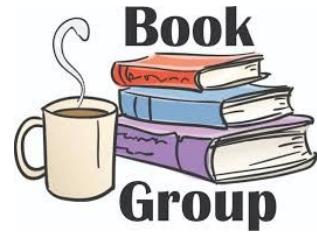
The Council has four committees that do the administrative work of the church: finance, trustee, staff/parish relations and nominating. At this meeting, we approved the 2026 operating budget. This included budgeting for a new roof for the parsonage (approximately \$24,700). We reviewed ideas suggested by Northwest Landscaping for the memorial for Rosie Goodwin and Hazel Vacura. You remember that we raised money to develop a garden area with a bench. We approved the contract for Diane McCalmont, our new office administrator. We also gladly accepted Sharon Belville's offer to fill in as our pianist.

Sincerely,

Beth Evans

FUMC 2026 Book Group

We have a newly formed book group that is open to all members of the church and their friends. We will meet on the third Wednesday of each month, from 10:00-11:30am, in the Fellowship Hall. The book we are reading for February 18th is ***Theo of Golden*** by Allen Levi. An information piece about the upcoming books is on the table at the entry to the church. I hope you will join us.



Beth Evans

SERVE

Ministry Opportunities

Can You Help?

Each Sunday our congregation has a group of people who dedicate themselves to serving us in worship. Liturgists read scripture and lead litanies. Ushers greet people, receive visitors, light candles, receive the offering and do a head count. Counters count, record and deposit the offering. Projectionists operate the Power Point presentation. None of these jobs are difficult but they are all very important to the smooth running of our service and church life. Training is available for anyone who might be willing to take on one or more of these tasks on a rotating basis. We try not to schedule anyone more than once a month. The ranks are small but mighty! If you would like to explore this serving possibility, please contact Patty Evans at 541-905-4248 or pcevans1556@gmail.com, or Pastor Deb.

Go Camping

Advocacy Letter

One of the reasons we are so passionate about diversity and inclusion might be that those of us in camp and retreat ministries spend a lot of time in God's creation, where diversity is on full display all around us! At Oregon's Outdoor Schools, which hold educational events at three of our sites, children are introduced to this amazing diversity.

Last week we emailed our camp supporters in Oregon about their state legislature's decision to reduce monetary support for Outdoor School. Beginning on February 2, the Oregon Legislature will be back in session. One of the pieces of legislation on the docket is to further cut funding for Outdoor School.

The first recorded Outdoor School event in Oregon was with Crook County School district, which held its event at Suttle Lake Methodist Camp in 1957! For nearly 70 years Outdoor School has been operating at Suttle Lake; later Camp Magruder and Camp Latgawa have also hosted this significant educational opportunity for school-aged children in Oregon.

Should further cuts happen, Oregon school children will miss out on about 30 weeks of outdoor education at our sites alone, not to mention other sites that support this program. For our sites, these cuts will mean a loss of about 20% of our income: \$800,000 out of a \$4 million budget!

If you are so moved, we encourage you to reach out to contact your state representative and senator to tell your story of camp and outdoor education. You can find our original letter [here](#), along with some additional resources to help you share your message, with additional information as well as a few links to help you share your message.

**copied from Go Camping E-news, January 21, 2026*

Contact:

Boomer Wright (R)
900 Court St NE, H-476, Salem, OR, 97301
Rep.BoomerWright@oregonlegislature.gov

Dick Anderson (R)
900 Court St NE, Room S-303, Salem, OR, 97301
Sen.DickAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov

We want to wrap up the updating of the church directory!

Please make any corrections or additions in the Directory Update binder on the back table in the sanctuary.

Add your birthdays and anniversaries too!



Church Directory
UPDATE



Tech Talk

Tech Time

Tech talks with Kay Fitzgerald will continue quarterly on the second Sunday of that month. In order to get on the quarterly track, the next one is scheduled for March 8, in the Fellowship Hall. She can help you understand better how your phone and/or lap tops work. So bring your troubling technology questions and visit with Kay!



Keeping in Our Prayers

Julia Bicek; Chuck Cornell; Machelle Goodwin; Ray Feay and other friends & family of Aaron Gallegos; Diane McCalmont; Judy Jones; Earl Rosendaul; Yola Hesser; Carolyn Munson; Betty Livingston; Donna Embree and daughter, Barbara; Sandy & Terry Woodward; Georgia Garrett; and Ursula Sears.

Soldiers everywhere in the world and those who wait for them to come home.

We ask God's blessing on these people and those in need, but not named.

Note: To receive the electronic prayer chain, contact ...
kathywaterman10@gmail.com.

Florence United Methodist Church FINANCES

December 1-31, 2025: Receipts: \$ 9,738.93
Expenses: \$ 9,347.34

January income through the 26th: \$ 6,453.66

Provided by Kathy Yelle, Treasurer



UMC Bishops speak out against violence...

Following is a reprint of a press release from the United Methodist Church Council of Bishops dated January 26, 2026.

United Methodist Church Bishops Condemn Violence in Minnesota

In recent days, events in Minnesota and beyond have caused deep grief, concern, and alarm across our connection. The use of lethal force in public spaces, the detention of naturalized citizens, members of our indigenous communities, children, documented and undocumented immigrants, and the treatment of other vulnerable persons have weighed heavily on the hearts of many in our church. These actions have unsettled communities, strained trust, and intensified fear among those already living at the margins.

Scripture reminds us that “when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer with them (I Corinthians 12:26). As a Connectional church, we are reminded that we are one body that cares for and needs each other. The whole body is suffering, right now, today! The violence being perpetrated on our streets, the loss of safety, and the inhumane treatment of God’s children, are hurting us all. We cannot stay silent in the face of the evils of our day.

The United Methodist Church deplores the use of violence, fear, separation, and intimidation as a means of creating social order. Such means do not build beloved community. We reaffirm our longstanding commitment to the sacred worth of every person and to the way of peace taught and embodied by Jesus. We stand against the separation of children from their families. We detest the inhumane, evil actions that are perpetuated by governmental authorities.

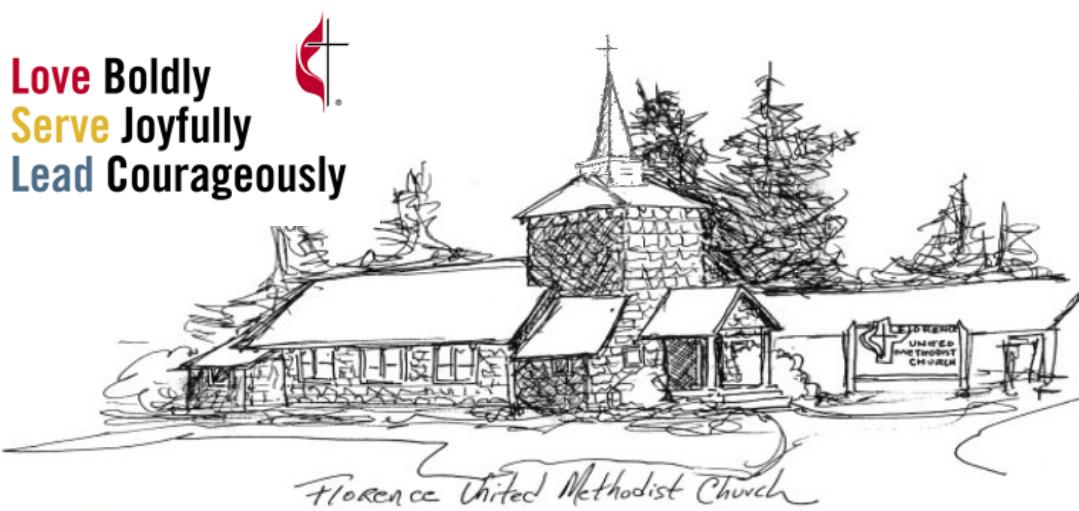
Our Social Principles are clear: “We reject governmental use of threats, extortion, unlawful detentions, extrajudicial killings, and other forms of coercion to silence political opponents and those objecting to unlawful or immoral government policies and practices.” They further affirm that the church has both the right and the responsibility to educate and equip its members to be advocates for justice in the wider world (¶163D).

This is a moment that calls for prayerful courage to speak against actions that are bringing harm to our neighbors. This is our time to have an effectual faith that stands with those who are suffering. This is our faithful response to our baptismal vow that summons us into what is required of us “to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8). We must continue to work for justice to help heal the brokenness in our communities and in the world.

We ask you to pray for peace and for justice. And we ask that we work together with our communities so that we can create a world where the sword is turned into plowshares, and the lion lays down with the lamb. May we be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, who empowered by the Holy Spirit, do our part to bring comfort, just practices, and healing for all God’s suffering people.

Reprinted with permission. For the entire article, please visit <https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-church-bishops-condemn-violence-in-minnesota>.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



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Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Office Phone: (541) 997-6025
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Online: www.florenceoregonumc.org
Directory Update
Do we have your current address,
phone number, and e-mail address?
Please forward them to:
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If you do not wish to receive this
Newsletter, please notify the church office.