


# UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**March 9, 2025**  
**The First Sunday in Lent**



everything  
[in] between  
stranger & neighbor

“The Gospel never distinguishes between love of neighbor and justice.” – Simone Weil



**Sunday Worship**  
**10:00 am**

Office Hours  
Tuesday – Friday  
8:30 am – 12 Noon, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
541-926-5551



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330 Fifth Avenue Southwest  
Albany, OR 97321

## We Gather in God's Name

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### Prelude

*You are invited to make the transition from getting here to being here. Be still and know that God is God.  
We are claimed by Christ in the waters of baptism; the light of Christ shines in our lives and in the world.*

### Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Invitation to Worship

We have started down a road that will take us to the cross.

**We carry little with us but that which is in our hearts:**

**Hope, trust, fear, apprehension, wonder, sorrow.**

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

**Who is my neighbor?**

**How can I help?**

**What do I have to learn?**

**Where is God in it all?**

So may we listen. May we learn. May we stay curious and look for God.

**This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our God.**

+ Gathering Song 821 "My Life Flows On"

## We Offer Our Gratitude

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### Community Prayer

Holy God,

Colleen Nelson

you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves,  
but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know:

**Who is our neighbor?**

**Do we have to love the stranger?**

**Must we have compassion for our enemy?**

**Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love.**

**Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every  
stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.**

### Sung Response 399

"God Welcomes All"

### + Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*As you are willing and able, please greet one another with signs of peace.*

## We Listen & Receive

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### Time with the Young Church

*Children of all ages are invited to come forward.  
Nursery and Children's Worship info is on the back of the bulletin.*





## Welcome

We are delighted that you have added to the joy of worship this morning at United Presbyterian Church. We proclaim that ALL people are created in the image of God and affirm that each person is a beloved child of God, worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome all, celebrating our differences while finding unity in Jesus Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey - whatever grief, joy, or doubts you may bring today—you are welcome here.

## Announcements

**Journey Forward Support Group** — If you or someone you know is struggling with grief after losing a spouse or partner please consider joining this group which gathers every second Wednesday of the month from 10am-11am in the Pfeiffer room.

## Upcoming Events

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 9</b>
<b>8:30am</b>	Praise Band Practice
<b>9:00am</b>	Choir Practice
<b>10:00am</b>	Sunday Worship
<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 10</b>
<b>6:45pm</b>	ACT Practice
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 11</b>
<b>10:00am</b>	Sabbath Circle Book Study
<b>6:45pm</b>	ACT Practice
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 12</b>
<b>5:30pm</b>	Youth Group
<b>6:45pm</b>	ACT Practice
<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Practice
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 13</b>
<b>12:30pm</b>	Yoga
<b>1:00pm</b>	Women's Book Study
<b>5:30pm</b>	Soup Supper
<b>6:45pm</b>	ACT Practice

## Serving Today

**Thank you to all who served in worship today.**

**Liturgist**—Colleen Nelson

**Ushers**— Judy Tichenor, Carol Harrison and Sue Van Meter

**Coffee Hour**—Deacons

**Children's Programs**—Meredith Hanson, Holly Halligan, and Josiah Blaisdell

## Children's Programs

We are thrilled that you have chosen to bring your family to worship with ours! We believe children soak up the love of God even when they draw and color, read and create, or rest their head in your lap. Please feel welcome to visit our Children's Space located in the Round Room in the back of the sanctuary.

### Children's Nursery up to Age 3

The nursery (Room 208) will be available for infants—age 3 during worship services. Children can be dropped off any time after 9:30am and picked up following worship.

### Godly Play

#### Age 4 – Grade 2 | Godly Play

As a continuation of worship, Godly Play is a formational practice of exploring the mystery of God's inviting presence in our lives, teaching children how to listen for God and then to make authentic and creative responses to God.

### Creative Minds

#### Grade 4+ | Youth Room

Creative Minds is a formational practice for older children and youth to engage, explore, and re-create the fascinating biblical stories of our faith through the world of Minecraft technology.

## Local Outreach | Ways to Serve

**Linn Benton Food Share**—Packing boxes of food for families who suffer from food insecurities. The next time will be **Thursday, March 6 at 5:00 - 7:00 pm** at the Linn Benton Food Share Warehouse, 33900 Looney Ln., Tangent, OR 97389.

## Prayers & Praise

**Please send prayers of comfort and healing for:**

Ashley Cary  
Marta DeCoster  
Jason Hawthorne  
Bill and Chrys Hulshof  
Lindsay Jones & Parker Jones  
Pat Lockerby  
Marilynn Meyers  
Linda Melikian  
Caryl & Denny Thomas's Family - Cory Whitney  
Charlie Van Meter

### CHURCH STAFF

Brandon Lewis, *Pastor*  
Tami Van Ras, *Pastoral Assistant*  
Sienna Bogart, *Director of Children's Place*  
Meredith Hanson, *Children's Ministries Director*  
Deborah Beier, *Office Manager*  
Kason Stevens, *Facilities-Manager*  
Michelle Mayers, *Music Coordinator/Choir Director*  
Tao Li, *Pianist*  
Chris Misa, *AV Tech*  
Logan Breese, *Bus Driver*