



Merry and Bright!

It is always a joy to give back to the community, to give thanks for our blessings and to share a portion of all that we receive. Each Christmas season, we make a special offering of tangible gifts for one of our community partners. Last year, we shared our gifts with Healthy Families, an aspect of CARE providing for children and families in need. This year, our tangible gifts will go to Homeless Connect.

Please join us in providing warmth and comfort to those in our community who live with far less than many of us do. We are collecting items for the Homeless Connect till January 22nd. Please bring in new blankets, clothes, sleeping bags, and travel sized sundries. You can place your donations under our Christmas tree.

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Christmas Bazaar brings joy and delights!

Our Christmas Bazaar came back into full swing this year, thanks to the many ways in which you all shared of your time, your talents and your gifts! Thank you to all the volunteers who came together to make this such a wonderful and joyful opportunity to bring the community together in a fundraising effort for Tillamook UMC! A very special thank you to Cathie Favret for your amazing leadership, creative endeavors, decorating talent and organizational skills! Thank you, Gen Gates, for making sure each time slot of our volunteer sign up sheet was all filled up, and helping all of our volunteers to feel cared for and welcomed. Thank you, everyone who came to help set up tables, beautify the space and prepare for all of the treasures to arrive. Thank you to everyone who etched and sewed, crocheted hats, donated jewelry and gently loved treasures, created inspiring quilts, stuffed stockings, made wall hangings, created glorious centerpieces, provided welcoming and hospitality, created a welcoming atmosphere, and baked the many, many cookies, breads and sweets that are ever so popular with the crowds.

At the point that this article was composed, we had raised \$3,500 through our Christmas Bazaar. We are so grateful for all of the time, energy and wide variety of giftedness displayed by our church community and the friends of our church family who came to volunteer their time!





Joint statement of welcome and support for Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth

The Boards of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church welcome Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth to our conferences. We celebrate his gifts for the episcopacy, and gladly receive his assignment to our area. As the first openly gay African American bishop in the denomination, he is walking a new path. Our Boards of Ordained Ministry and Cabinet are committed to racial equity and LGBTQIA justice, and we offer our support and look forward to working closely with him in the service of the gospel of love and liberation.

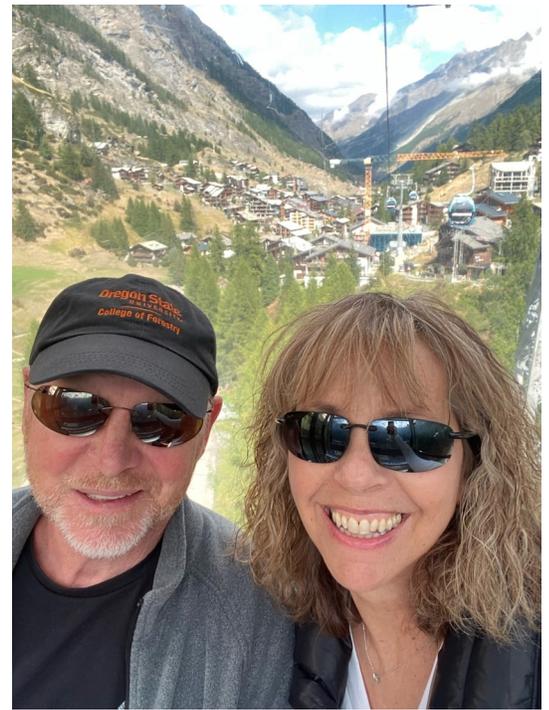


Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth (center in the picture of the GNW delegation/group above) was elected to the episcopacy by the Western Jurisdictional Conference on November 4, 2022, as it met at Christ UMC in Salt Lake City, Utah. He will begin his assignment to the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area on January 1, 2022. You can read more about him [on the Greater Northwest Area News Blog](#).

Member of the Month

TUMC is launching a new part to our newsletter - Member of the Month. It is good to reconnect (or just connect) with our members to stay in touch or just get to know someone that might have not crossed your spiritual path yet.

Hi - I'm Debbie Klumph and am the TUMC Treasurer. It has been a position that I have enjoyed for almost 20 years! Being a member of the Finance Committee is fun as I really like the other people in the group. And, as a former high school Math Teacher, it keeps my brain engaged with numbers, which is another hobby of mine. Speaking of hobbies, I have a bunch of them! I like to be outside: hiking, biking, walking, crabbing, clamming and just enjoying nature. When I'm inside, I enjoy reading, cooking, sewing, and have recently taken up knitting. My favorite and most interesting hobby of the moment is beekeeping - we love our bees. I'm also Vice President of our local Bee Club which probably makes



me a little bit of a "bee nerd". Being busy makes me happy.

My family is also another happy part of my life. My husband, Rick, and I have three adult kids and six grandsons (no granddaughters for me - ha!). They were all raised in the TUMC and here is a little update on them. Jerrad (44) lives in Missoula, Montana, Brent (41) lives in Sweet Home, Oregon, and Samantha (38) lives in Sherwood. We are often on the road visiting them and enjoy being grandparents.



Worship & Word

From Generation to Generation Sermon Series

**Dec. 4th—
“There’s Room
for Every Story”
(Peace)
+ Communion +**

+++

**Dec. 11th—
“God Meets Us
in Our
Fear” (Love)**

+++

**Dec. 18th— “We
can Chose a
Better
Way” (Joy)**

(Music Sunday)

+++

**Dec. 25th— “We
See God in Each
Other”**

Deepen your Connection to Advent

Tillamook UMC is a connectional church which shares ministries with our Ecumenical partners as well as the United Methodist Cooperative of Tillamook County. Here are a few ways you can be nourished with the Love of Christ in this season of Advent and Christmastide:

Advent Meditation Services – A Time of Prayer and Reflection

Prepare your heart for Christmastide by participating in a practice of weekly contemplation, reflective music and quiet introspection.

November 30th – Holden Evening Prayer
at St. Peter Lutheran Church @ 5pm

December 7th – Taizé Style Reflective Service
at Tillamook UMC @ 7pm

December 14th – Contemplative Eucharist
at St Alban’s Episcopal @ 10 am

December 21st— Evening Prayer
at St John’s United Church of Christ @ 5 pm

Restore your soul with Music

**Monday Musical Tillamook – “The Greatest Gift”
Monday, December 12th, 1st Christian Church in Tillamook @ 7 pm**

**Music Sunday
featuring the TUMC Choir and Pacific Chimes
Sunday, December 18th @ 11:00 am**

A Service of the Longest Night

This reflective service offers us a time to remember loved ones who have passed, to offer prayers for the healing of the world, and to honor the griefs and difficulties of the Pandemic and trauma of racial inequity. The Service of the Longest Night honors the challenges and invites Emmanuel to come and dwell in our midst, even when we are not feeling joyful in this season of light.

**Wednesday, December 21st –
Bay City United Methodist Church @ 7pm**

Christmas Eve Service – 7 pm

Tillamook United Methodist invites you to share in a service of reflective readings, joyful music and candlelight in the Wesley Room. This intimate setting lends itself to a smaller gathering and family-style atmosphere.

“We Tell This Story”

We will also have a Christmas service available on our website which you may view and share while visiting friends or family away from home.



How God Shows up

by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 2:1-20 | Silk painting

In this image, as if looking past a curtain, we peer into this threshold moment when excruciating pain gives way to ecstatic joy as Mary draws her baby to her chest and he takes his first breath. As Mary holds her baby, additional hands reach in to support them both. Maybe these are the hands of strangers, of Joseph, or of a midwife who was summoned. Perhaps they are simply the hands of angels. Each year, we tell this story because it is raw with joy, pain, and the complexities of being human. No matter how your story is unfolding, may you find that this sacred story holds space for you. For this is how God shows up—in a child who cries, in hands that hold, in human flesh, in life and in death.

Blood Drive

We are planning to host a Blood Drive here at TUMC on December 14th from 1pm-6pm. We are delighted that Rosemary Zimmerman will be our core volunteer! If you are available to assist Rosemary, please call our office or contact Rosemary directly. The American Red Cross Staff plans to be here from Noon-7pm for set up and clean up. They will also brief our volunteers on greeting, checking people in, scanning IDs, etc.



Together, we can save a life

Church to start counting non-binary members

By Heather Hahn

June 28, 2021 | UM News

United Methodist congregations in the U.S. will soon have a new way to break down the gender of their members.



UM News

FAIR. FAITHFUL. TRUSTED.

By a voice vote June 25, the General Council on Finance and Administration board approved revising local-church statistical forms to include “non-binary” alongside the categories of “male” and “female.”

The change will take effect with forms for the 2021 collection year and will only affect the denomination’s data collection in the U.S.

“We currently only collect local-church statistics in the U.S.,” explained Rick King, the agency’s chief financial officer.

GCFA also plans to ask U.S. annual conferences — church regional governing bodies — to include the number of non-binary clergy in their Business of Annual Conference records. The finance agency expects to send information on these additions to church data collectors in July.

GCFA’s data includes totals — not individuals’ names.

“Non-binary” is a commonly used term for people whose gender identity falls outside the man-woman binary. A study published this month by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law found that about 11% of the LGBTQ adults, ages 18 to 60, identify as non-binary. That translates to about 1.2 million U.S. adults.

The current United Methodist statistical forms ask pastors to tally the number of female and male members and then give a total membership for the two. However, those gender categories have left some members feeling counted out.

The board made the change after hearing from U.S. annual conference treasurers who have responsibility for collecting membership data from local churches.

“We are having issues reporting people with pastors calling our office and saying: ‘What do I do here?’” said Christine Dodson, North Carolina Conference treasurer and the GCFA board’s vice president.

“Quite frankly, I’ve had a pastor tell me, ‘I’m not going to force a person to choose one or the other when they have told me how they identify.’”

Sharon Dean, GCFA’s chief communications officer, said that the agency gets requests for information from various United Methodist groups about gender distribution.

“We’ve also heard from around the connection that some annual conferences and some other organizations are already using a third choice,” Dean said. “And so to be consistent with requests that come in, we might include this additional selection.”

Of the 18 GCFA board members present, only one board member voted no to the change.

“I’m appreciative of the recognition of all God’s people, but I am also cautious that we are making a

decision that appears to affect less than half our global constituency,” said the Rev. Steve Wood, the board member who is also lead pastor of Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church in Johns Creek, Georgia.

“I’m just wondering if we are creating more angst than we are creating benefits, so I have to speak against it.”

Per-Endre Bjørnevik, a board member from Norway, is chair of the Connectional Outreach Committee that recommended the revision. He as well as board members from Côte d’Ivoire and the Philippines voted for the change.

The statistical-form revision comes as The United Methodist Church faces a possible split after decades of intensifying debate over same-sex weddings and the ordination of “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy.

The Book of Discipline, the denomination’s policy book, says all people are of sacred worth but states that “the practice of homosexuality” is “incompatible with Christian teaching.”

However, GCFA staff confirmed that adding non-binary to the forms does not conflict with any paragraph in the Discipline. Board members also concluded the change is not in conflict with any legislation related to sexuality heading to the pandemic-delayed General Conference, now scheduled for 2022.

The Discipline takes no stance on the ordination of non-binary or transgender people. In 2019, the Rev. M Barclay became the first openly “non-binary trans person” to be ordained a United Methodist deacon, according to Reconciling Ministries Network. The network advocates for full inclusion of LGBTQ people in the life of the church.

“While it will take much more substantial change in policy and practice for the UMC to be a positive force in the lives of queer and/or trans people, I celebrate the effort of those who are striving to honor the existence of non-binary people in their communities,” Barclay said by e-mail. “Lives depend on this seed of change being nurtured in all contexts.”

Non-binary identity is still a new concept to many people, acknowledged board member and California-Nevada Conference Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño. In the spirit of learning together, she suggested adding a commonly held definition of what non-binary means to statistical forms.

“I know for me, it’s been a journey of learning,” she said.

Dean said she would work with the agency’s data services department to add the definition.

Dean and others cautioned that whenever a form change takes place, it takes a while for church leaders to send in additional data.

Ken Ow, a board member from the Baltimore-Washington Conference, also cautioned that pastors should not try to guess how people identify as they report local-church data.

Board members largely spoke with support for the change.

“I think it reflects that the church is aware that it’s a reality,” said the Rev. Sandra Olewine, who starts July 1 as a district superintendent in the California-Pacific Conference. “And it is a way for the church, even in its forms, to begin to acknowledge more of the fullness of who we are as human beings.”

Charge Conference Minutes

CASCADIA DISTRICT ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCES 2022

MINUTES OF CHARGE CONFERENCE FOR TILLAMOOK UMC

November 19, 2022 - Sherlock Lodge, Camp Magruder

Present: Members of the congregations of Tillamook UMC, Bay City UMC, and Nehalem Bay UMC; and, District Superintendent (DS) Wendy Woodworth.

Present for Tillamook UMC: Pastor Alegra Lynne, Debby Hendrickson, Debbie Klumph, Betty Hickey, and Rosemary Zimmerman.

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m., and DS Wendy Woodworth opened with a time of worship and centering.

Administrative Work:

1. Lay Leadership Nominations Report: There is a deficit in members willing to say yes to leadership roles in the church. Rosemary Zimmerman is willing to serve as SPRC Chairperson, and this was unanimously approved. Moving forward, leadership vacancies during the year may be approved by the Church Council.



2. Trustee Report: A \$40,000 loan was obtained by CDCES for repair of the roof, and siding on the upper portion of the front of the church around the stained glass windows. New lighting was installed, and painting is ongoing. The church has sufficient funds in reserve to pay for the CDCES loan in full. A woodstove needs to be installed in the parsonage as a secondary heat source. The back deck has been power washed and needs to be stained. Ducts need to be cleaned.

3. Finance Report: Coming out of the church being closed during COVID as well as the deaths of long-time members contributed to a reduction in finances. Using funds in reserves was required for a couple months. Detailed monthly financial reports, which include a Profit and Loss Statement, help to show where the church is

financially each month and assists the committee with financial decisions. A stewardship campaign is held annually each fall. This year, personalized notes were handwritten on each letter that was mailed. The response has been positive so far. New people have been attending the church since Pastor Alegra Lynn joined the congregation; however, not all contribute financial gifts to the church. The congregation took a leap of faith on a 3/4-time pastor as well a new administrative assistant. The Finance Committee is working creatively to increase income to the church over and above members pledging.

4. Creating a Culture of Call. There was discussion led by DS Wendy Woodworth that centered around the development of call to pastoral ministry in local churches.

5. Congregational Life Report: How did Tillamook UMC spend the \$500 Reboot Grant? The funds were spent on microphones, a large screen TV, and IT services provided by Scott Casey. The grant provided the technology necessary to livestream and record and post services online.

A discussion was led by DS Wendy Woodworth regarding the components of a vital church with a solid foundation. Those components include: realistic expectations of a pastor and supportive lay leadership; resources and a mechanism in place for building maintenance/upkeep as well as a building that is safe and comfortable for congregational and community use; and, discipleship - learning and serving in the community. When one of these components becomes challenging, that is the time to explore partnerships to strengthen that particular component.

Pastor Alegra Lynne is leading the Tillamook Cooperative (Tillamook County Methodists United). The cooperative held trunk or treat events during Halloween. The cooperative is also working on an online longest night service and an online Christmas Eve service.

Highlights of the past year for Tillamook UMC include, but are not necessarily limited to, hiring an office manager, updating the website, and a more creative and personal monthly newsletter.

6. Clergy Compensation Report: Total compensation for Pastor Alegra Lynne for Tillamook UMC is \$55,593.02. This was unanimously approved.

7. View/Reflect on Bishop Elaine Stanovsky's Video Message: Bishop Elaine Stanovsky's video message was viewed, and there was a time of discussion/reflection after viewing the video.

No Reports: Membership Report, SPRC, and Certified Lay Servants.

Adjourned: 12:15 p.m.

Minutes Submitted By: Debby Hendrick-

Pastor Alegra Lynne

(Formerly known as Trista Wynne)

Beloved ones in Christ,

What a gift it is to be in the season of Advent preparations — reminding ourselves and one another that God is incarnating again and again and again, in with and through us! We honor this time of remembering, telling the Sacred Story of prophecies foretold and mysteries unfolding and courageous love and joyful acclamations. This time of year can become overly hurried, filled with frenzy and fervor moving ever more swiftly than our brains or our hearts can keep up.



Yet, the cry of the prophets rings out. Even in the midst of the noisy streets, the black Friday frenzy and the swooshing of credit cards, we can be cognizant of the presence of our shared humanity. When we take time to breathe deeply and remember why we share gifts, we recall the gift of Incarnation, Emmanuel, God with us. And we know this is a gift beyond all compare. God actively participated in the time/space continuum and chose to limit God's self to the actions and experiences of the human realm as part of God's own created order. How can we truly fathom such a gift?

In my heart, I believe that the very moment that God chose to incarnate — to walk and breathe and move among us — *this* was the moment of salvation. Everything else that was experienced, including the death and resurrection was all part of the story that needed to unfold in order for us to comprehend something of that very gift. And there is something about the moment that we actively choose to participate in life—in the fullness of living, in the fullness of giving, and in the fullness of experiencing life where our stories intertwine intimately with that ever-expanding story of creation and recreation. Here we are, two thousand some odd years following the life of Christ, and we as humans are still learning how to allow that story to shape our own.

When we take time to share our resources, to give to the poor, to care for the orphan, the widow, the disenfranchised, we are learning something beautiful about our participation in God's story of creation and recreation. As we work together, embracing our calling as the Church of Christ to be a place where people of many backgrounds, sizes, shapes, skin tone, gender identity, sexuality, cognitive ability, physical ability and the many, many different ways that humans are created all feel welcomed, loved, cared for and nourished, then we are participating more fully in the story of Incarnation.

As you go about your tasks, movements, gatherings, activities and shopping endeavors this season, breathe deeply and know that you are loved. And then go forth and share that same Breath of Life with your fellow earth creatures and all you encounter, for truly, you will be sharing the Light of Christ. And isn't that what this season is all about? Blessings upon your Advent Journey!

New Name, New Pronouns

Our Pastor, formerly known as Trista Wynne, has now been legally recognized in the state of Oregon as Alegra John Lynne and uses “they/them” pronouns. As a person who identifies as bi-gender, they were deeply relieved to learn that our state now officially recognizes the legal status of non-binary persons. We, here at TUMC, invite each of our members to live more fully into their true identities to the best of each one’s capacity at any given moment. We believe that all persons are created in God’s image, and as such, all persons reveal something very special about our Creator.

Please help our minister to feel more at home in their own skin by using the pronouns that are preferred (they/them) to the best of your ability. This is a great opportunity for learning more about our LGBTQIA2S+ community if the use of pronouns is new to you!

Recommended Reading highlighted by the Reconciling Ministries Network: “Beyond a Binary God: A Theology for Trans* Allies” by Tara K. Soughers

A Helpful YouTube video: “Still Me | Non-binary short film (Masked Part 2)” by Momentum Studios Australia. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NtrKcMQRTM&list=LL&index=24&t=24s>



December Birthdays at TUMC:

Patricia Teran 12/08
Tilda Chadwick-Jones 12/15
Debbie Klumph 12/18
Rosemary Zimmerman 12/18
Rick Klumph 12/30

**Nourishing our Community
with the Love of Christ**

We journey together in the Christian tradition where everyone is welcome! TUMC is a safe place to explore your faith. We want you to ask questions, to bring your wonder, to bring your inspiration, to bring your creativity, to become curious about your existence, and to join with fellow seekers as we work together to bring healing, comfort, wisdom and hope to a hurting world. We pledge in our baptismal vows to resist evil, oppression and injustice in whatever forms they may be found, and we invite you to join us.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

As we journey through the season of Advent, we gaze upon a quilted labyrinth in the sanctuary, light candles of hope, peace, love and joy, and sing once more this simple prayer: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”. God with us! Be with us this day! This is our prayer, each and every day, and yet we speak it all the more fervently in this season of growing shadows and lengthening night.

Join us for our Advent journey on Sunday mornings, on Wednesday nights with our Ecumenical community, and through online classes with our UMC Cooperative Ministries lovingly known as the Coasties. Wherever the season takes you, we share this journey together as human dirt creatures, who rejoice in the Light emerging from the darkness. Oh loving Christ, be born in us anew as we journey towards Christmastide! Amen.

**Tillamook
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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

