

Florence United Methodist Church

Tide-ings 2026



October 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: 10:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m.



October

Ministry Opportunities

Date	Liturgist	Usher/ Greeter	Counters	Projectionist	Communion
4	Chuck Cornell	Peggy Simington	Kay Fitzgerald Patty Evans	Peggy Hughes	Patty Evans
11	Nu Williams	Lillie Leland	Ann Scharf Patty Evans	Karen Baylis	
18	Patty Evans	Nu Williams	Julia Bicek Patty Evans	Ber Schniepp	
25	Sharon Gallagher	Patt Rollins	Nancy Rhodes Peggy Simington	Peggy Simington	

New members will be received during the service on
Sunday, October 18

If you are interested in becoming a member of FUMC,
please contact Pastor Deb or Diane in the office

Dear Family in Christ,

Grace is yours and peace through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior! Over the past several months, I have been thinking and praying about some important questions for Florence United Methodist Church: Who are we? Why are we here? What kind of church is God calling us to become?



As I have listened, watched, and shared ministry with you, certain words have continued to rise to the surface—words that seem to describe both who we already are and who we are still becoming: Radical Welcome. Grace. Compassion. Courage. Joy. Generosity.

These are beautiful words. But, as I said recently in worship, they aren't meant simply to be words on a page. They are meant to become verbs—things we actually do. And perhaps October is a good time to ask what it takes to turn those words into verbs.

Radical welcome needs people willing to make room. Compassion needs people willing to notice. Courage needs people willing to take faithful risks. Joy needs people willing to celebrate. Generosity needs people willing to share. Even grace—God's free and abundant gift—needs people willing to let it move through their lives and into the lives of others.

This feels especially meaningful to me now. As we have said goodbye to beloved people who helped shape this congregation, we feel their absence. We miss their faces, their voices, their particular ways of being part of us. And we also see what they left behind. In ways both large and small, they helped make Florence United Methodist Church the community it is today. Much of what we have was entrusted to us by people who came before us.

Now it is our turn. Not simply to preserve what they built, but to take what has been entrusted to us and faithfully carry it forward. To ask what radical welcome looks like now. Where compassion is needed now. What courage asks of us now. Where joy is waiting to break through. And what our generosity might make possible for those who come after us.

As we enter our stewardship season this October, those are the questions I hope we will carry with us. Because stewardship is ultimately about more than maintaining what we have. It is about trusting that God is still at work among us—and choosing to be part of it.

We have inherited something precious. And God isn't finished with it—or with us—yet. With gratitude for those who brought us this far, we turn toward what comes next, trusting that the same grace that has carried this church through the years will lead us forward.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Deb



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith News

The October UWF meeting is scheduled for the 7th at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to come. Judy Jones is hostess. Diane McCalmont will give a book report on "Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey" by Jane Goodall. Other items on the agenda include nominations for the Special Pin Recognition, discussion on disbursing this year's funds and input for next year's budget, as well as nominations for open 2027 positions.

Our UWF group is looking for nominations to fill leadership positions in the 2027 year. We especially would like to find a President or Co-Presidents. Consider the impact you could have in leading this fantastic group of giving, caring, spiritual, and fun women! Pray about this, and if you are drawn to learn more, contact Diane or Judy.

Items are needed to include in the "give away" basket for those who attend Free Lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Some suggested items are:

-hand warmers -laundry sheets -deodorant -bar soap -toothbrush & paste
-shampoo & conditioner -body wash -Kleenex -lotion -menstrual items
-beef jerky -hair brushes/combs -energy bars -mini flashlights -Tylenol
-socks -warm hats -gloves -body wipes -dental floss -mouthwash

If you can provide any of these things, bring them to the church and give to Judy or Vicki.

Looking ahead: The pecan fundraiser will be back again this year, with pecans arriving in early November.

Diane McCalmont, Secretary

**You're Invited to
THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

**At St. Andrew's Church
2135 19th St, Florence
1:00 p.m.**

Call 541-997-6600 for more information





Kay Fitzgerald will be holding a Tech Talk this month on October 25, right after the church service. The topic she'll be focusing on is "Avoiding Scams". This one should be of interest to many of us.

Hearts and Hands

Wednesday, October 14 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Come be part of **Hearts and Hands**, a welcoming time to explore arts and crafts that do more than inspire creativity—they reach out to meet needs and lift the hearts of others. Whether you are an experienced crafter or simply curious to try something new, all are invited!

Join us for a morning of meaningful projects, great fellowship, and shared creativity. Bring your helping hands and an open heart—we would love to create with you!

Patty Evans



Taizé Community Prayer Service **Sunday, October 11 | 4:00 p.m. | Sanctuary**

This month's theme, "**The Grace of Falling Leaves**," will focus on the sacrament of letting go. The service will include meditative singing, special readings, scripture, silence, and deep prayer. Together, we will support one another in this autumn practice of letting go.

Come as you are, bring an open heart, and join us for this peaceful time of reflection, renewal, and community.

Patty Evans

Adult Bible Study Resumes



Our Monday morning adult Bible study will continue following Tom Berlin's Six Ways We Encounter God. For each one of us, the unique ways in which we experience God can strengthen the faith we live and in a short video introducing each session we can clearly find the connection with our experience.

On October 18, we will begin a new series introduced each week by one of our favorite teachers, Amy-Jill Levine. Her focus on the book of Genesis for six weeks will provide us with insights helpful to us all to solidify our connection to God and to all creation.

All are welcome to join us for the short video and discussion following on Monday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 in the Sunday School room of the Fellowship Hall.

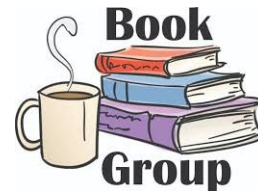
Bert Schniepp



Church potlucks will resume this month and continue on the 3rd Wednesday each month.
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

*** Bring a dish to share if you can,
and your own table service ***

Book Group



Book group meets on Wednesday, October 21 at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be reading Geraldine Brooks' *People of the Book*. Patty Evans is leading the discussion.

If you have been curious about book group, this is a good meeting to attend. We will be selecting books to read in 2027. You can attend the group without having read the book. The discussion is always interesting.

Beth Evans

Coastal Leadership Summit Coming October 10

PFLAG Florence is hosting a special day-long Coastal Leadership Forum on October 10, 2026, at the Pierpoint Inn (Best Western south of the bridge). The event will bring together the leaders of LGBTQ+, Pride and support groups from all along the coast and from western Lane County to build relationships and increase collaboration. "We are stronger when we work together!" is the theme.

The day will consist of sharing successes and concerns, hearing from a variety of speakers, and developing plans to continue this collaborative work moving forward. The event hours are 11:00am-4:00pm. Snacks will be provided throughout the day, with a light dinner at 4:00pm. A "stay and play" karaoke song and dance event will follow from 5:00pm-8:00pm. Ben Greene, author of *My Child is Trans, Now What?* has graciously offered to serve as Emcee for the day!

Funding for this free event is through a grant from Western Lane Community Foundation and sponsorship from Banner Bank.

Registration is required. If you are in or support the LGBTQ+ community and would like to take part, you can register online at: <https://forms.gle/ZkTG6b5pZa9HKafJ8> or contact pflagflo@gmail.com for more information.

Please note that there will be no regular second-Monday October meeting. The next regular meeting will be November 9 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Linda Yoder



OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
				1 10:00am-1 11:30am F
4 World Communion Sunday 9:00am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Svce with Communion Food Share Giving Sun.	5 10:30am Adult Bible Study Office Closed	6 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 11:30am Free Lunch 2:00pm Taizé Music Rehear.	7 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 5:30pm Women of the Bible Study	8 10:00am-1 11:30am F
11 10:30am Church Svce Coffee after church 3:00pm Taizé Music Rehearsal 4:00pm Taizé Prayer Svce	12 Office Closed 10:30am Adult Bible Study No regular PFLAG mtg this month	13 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	14 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 10:00am-12:00pm Hearts & Hands Craft Ministry 5:30pm Women of the Bible Study	15 10:00am-1 11:30am F
18 9:00am Choir Practice 10:30am Church Svce New Members Received Coffee after church	19 Office Closed 10:30am Adult Bible Study	20 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 11:30am Free Lunch	21 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 10:00-11:30am Book Group 5:30pm Church Potluck	22 10:00am-1 11:30am F
25 10:30am Church Svce Coffee after church After service: Tech Talk	26 Office Closed 10:30am Adult Bible Study	27 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 11:30am Free Lunch	28 8:00am-4:30pm Pastor Deb's Office Hrs 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 5:30pm Women of the Bible Study	29 10:00am-1 11:30am F

	Fri	Sat
10:00pm Regular Office hrs Free Lunch	2 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet	3
10:00pm Regular Office hrs Free Lunch	9 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet	10 11:00am-4:00pm PFLAG Coastal Leadership Summit
10:00pm Regular Office hrs Free Lunch	16 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet	17
10:00pm Regular Office hrs Free Lunch	23 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet	24
10:00pm Regular Office hrs Free Lunch	30 10:00am-2:00pm Regular Office hrs 1-2:30pm PALS meet	31



Birthdays

6 Stephanie Gonser
11 Jane Salamone
11 Pastor Deb
15 Sylvia Hand
18 Kay Craig
24 Diane McCalmont
26 Jean Hefty

Anniversaries

22 Bill & Kay Craig

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



Taizé Prayer Service Update

Thank you to everyone who completed the Taizé Prayer Service Interest Survey. Twenty surveys were returned, and the thoughtful feedback has been very helpful to the Taizé Leadership Team as it plans, prepares, and rehearses for each month's service.

The responses suggest that more members of our church family and the wider community may be able to experience this monthly contemplative service if it is offered on a different day and at a different time. In response, the team plans to try a weekday afternoon service beginning in the new year.

The final three services of 2026 will continue to be held on the second Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

If you didn't get a chance to turn in a survey, we would still like to hear from you. Share your feedback and fold and place the survey in the offering plate when you're in church. The leadership team meets this week to make important decisions, and your help will be appreciated.

1. Have you ever attended a Taizé prayer service before?

- ☐ Yes, regularly
- ☐ Yes, once or twice
- ☐ No, never

2. If you have never attended, what is the main reason? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ I do not know what it is or what to expect.
- ☐ The time and day do not fit my schedule.
- ☐ I am not sure if I would feel comfortable or welcome.
- ☐ Transportation or location is an issue.
- ☐ Other: _____

3. How interested are you in a meditative service focused on repetitive singing, thoughtful readings, scripture, and silence?

- ☐ Very interested
- ☐ Somewhat interested
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ Not interested

4. Which of the following would most encourage you to try a service? (Rank your top 2)

- ☐ A personal invitation from a friend or church member
- ☐ A short introductory guide or explanation before the service starts
- ☐ A convenient time (e.g., weekday afternoon or evening or Sunday afternoon)
- ☐ Knowing there is time for fellowship or refreshments afterward
- ☐ Clear online information about what the service looks like

5. For the past year the service has been held on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm. What day and time would be preferable to you?



Church Council Notes

Church Council met on September 8th. We had a guest from the congregation who just wanted to see what happens at a Council meeting. I was glad someone took me up on my invitation to attend. Remember that meetings are always open to church members.

We are preparing for the Fall Charge Conference. This is the time where the District Superintendent approves changes we want to make for the upcoming year. One topic that comes up each year is new church Council members and leaders. We are proposing to add Elaine Bach and Amanda Weaver to the Council.

We really need someone to step up to be the Trustee. This person helps with the church buildings. For example, when the kitchen sink leaks, s/he calls a plumber. It is not a hard job, but it is a necessary one. If you would be willing to take this on, please let Kathy Waterman or Judy Jones know you are willing. It is a job that is not just for males! Most women I know are actively involved in taking care of their homes!!!

October is our time to focus on stewardship. You will be hearing about this regularly this month. I am grateful for what wonderful stewards of our church you are already. Thank you for everything you do.

Beth Evans

Florence United Methodist Church **FINANCES**



August 1-31, 2026: Receipts: \$ 13,086.77
Expenses: \$ 8,322.59

September income through the 22nd: \$ 4,712.00

Provided by Kathy Yelle, Treasurer

New Program: My Church Buddy
Because everyone should have someone who notices.

At Florence United Methodist Church, we believe that being church means more than worshipping together on Sunday. It also means knowing one another, noticing one another, and staying connected.

We are indeed already a very caring and attentive family. And we notice when someone who is usually in church on Sunday isn't there. And when we notice, we want to do more than wonder. We want to reach out. So we are introducing a simple new program--**My Church Buddy**--which is a way for us to check in on one another, especially when someone's absence seems unusual or when we know they are going through a difficult time.

The idea is simple: Everyone should have a Church Buddy and everyone should be someone's Buddy. Individuals, couples, or households who choose to participate will be paired with another individual, couple, or household in our church family. There are no meetings to attend, no reports to make, and no complicated responsibilities. It is simply about paying enough attention to one another that we notice when something might not be right.

For example, if your Buddy hasn't been at church and that seems unusual, give them a call or send a text: "We missed you Sunday. Just checking in to see if everything is okay." You might also check in when you know your Buddy is having a difficult time, celebrate good news with them, or simply say hello when you see each other on Sunday.

This is not about taking attendance or keeping track of one another. People travel, visit family, worship elsewhere, or sometimes just need a Sunday at home. And this isn't about pairing someone who "needs care" with someone who gives it. The relationship goes both ways. We all need someone sometimes, and we all have something to give.

This simple connection could be especially meaningful for those who live alone, those without family nearby, or anyone who would simply appreciate knowing that someone is looking out for them. Most of the time, a check-in will be nothing more than a friendly hello. But sometimes, noticing that someone is missing and making that phone call could make an important difference. It might even save a life.

More than anything, this is one more way we can be the church for one another—paying attention, staying connected, and reminding each other that we matter.

If you would like to participate in My Church Buddy, please contact Pastor Deb or the church office at 541-997-6025 or florenceoregonumc@gmail.com.

Blessings and Peace,
The Care and Nurture Ministry Life Team

Go Camping

Camp and Retreat Ministries Of Oregon and Idaho

Summer camps have come to a close, but there are still camps for adults scheduled through the end of the year. Consider this one coming in December at the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center, southeast of Portland. I'll watch for updated information as the time gets closer. You might consider carpooling with friends, and even making a weekend of it by staying overnight someplace nearby. -Diane McCalmont, Camp Liaison

Great Hymns of the Faith: Christmas Edition

Site: Alton L. Collins Retreat Center

Dates: 12/11/2026 - 12/11/2026

Age Level: Adult

Cost: TBA

Alton L. Collins Retreat Center invites you to a special Christmas Edition of Great Hymns of the Faith. Learn a bit about the history of some familiar Christmas songs and enjoy singing a wide variety of carols and Advent hymns in the beautiful Collins Chapel.

Arrive anytime after 10am for hot cider and Christmas cheer. The musical program will begin at 10:30am followed by an amazing holiday lunch.

After lunch you are welcome to stay as long as you like, visiting with new and old friends, enjoying the sights of the season, and browsing our Christmas gift shop.

Cost and registration information will be coming soon.





Congratulations to Lainey Goss (Gibson)! She's had a whirlwind summer. On June 6, she married Monique Gibson in a beautiful beach wedding. Soon after, Lainey graduated with her Master's degree from Capella University and has been granted the title of Marriage and Family Therapy Associate! The happy couple honeymooned in Hawaii, then came back home to Junction City. Lainey is working at Cascade Health in Eugene, while Monique handles marketing for Dairy Mart and works part-time at a gym.



Farewell Reception for the Hand family on Sept. 20. They have moved to Eugene, but will keep in touch with us.



Keeping in Our Prayers

Kathy Yelle; Yola Hesser; Earl Rosendaul; Family & friends of Ray Feay; Family & friends of Peggy Wilson; Dean Spencer; Sharon Belvill; Peggy Simington; Julia Bicek; Machel Goodwin; Butch Goodwin; Judy Jones & family; Carolyn Munson; Betty Livingston; Georgia Garrett; Sandy & Terry Woodward.

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

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

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

Free Lunch News

We could still use more 16 and 32 oz containers with lids for Free Lunch. These containers are like those that hold things like cottage cheese or yogurt. We use them for to-go containers. We can't use clear plastic #1 containers because they melt when you put hot soup in them and we really can't use those smaller than 16 ounces. We also don't need Tupperware-type containers.



Thanks,
Vicki Philben

One day in late August, as I was pulling into the back church parking lot, I spotted this darling young male deer munching on some of the bushes along the fence. He gave me a quick glance and returned to his munching.



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously



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333 Kingwood St., Florence, OR 97439
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Office Phone: (541) 997-6025
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Online: www.florenceoregonumc.org

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