

# HARMONY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## September 2025

### FROM OUR SHARED HEART:

I'm your new pastor, Karen Love Baisinger, a fifth-generation Methodist preacher from Tennessee. (I formerly used to say fourth generation but then I started re-counting on my fingers as I write this introduction!) My mother was born at home in rural middle Tennessee near a Methodist church started when my maternal great-great grandfather donated the land for a cemetery and a Methodist Episcopal church. "Tuck" Crowder was the first pastor of what is now Choates Creek United Methodist Church, a small white clapboard church between Lawrenceburg and Pulaski (the birthplace of the Ku Klux Klan). My mother and two of my brothers, along with my grandparents, my uncle, aunt, and others relatives are resting in peace at that cemetery.

My paternal grandfather, "Charlie," or "Ol' Injin" as he was known, had a moonshine still and taught several of his sons how to run "white lightning" on narrow two lane, very winding highways in the hollers of rural middle TN. When two of his brothers ended up spending a year in the federal pen for their "Thunder Road"-running activities, my father felt called to become a lawyer. Mom had no idea that was his dream and intention since he was driving a watermelon truck when they started dating right after WWII. After I was born at the closest hospital in Jackson, TN, and despite the abject poverty of his family, he was able to go to Vanderbilt Law School in Nashville on the GI Bill following military service in WWII.

After Dad finished at Vanderbilt, holding two, sometimes three, part-time jobs in addition to excelling academically and ending up on the Law Review, our family moved from Nashville to Memphis where he went into law practice. I grew up in Memphis and lived there until I moved to the WA in the PNW in 1988. I started college at Lambuth University, a United Methodist college about 75 miles from Memphis, and graduated from the University of Memphis in 1971 with a BSE, endorsed to teach high school English and history.

I began to experience a call to the ordained ministry in 1975. Against great resistance and with very minimal support, I began seminary at Memphis Theological Seminary in 1976 and what a glorious, exciting, stressful, and painful experience it was! As part of another big wave of women seeking ordination at that time, the four women in my graduating class were the top four academically. I graduated *summa cum laude* with my M.Div. In 1980. I was ordained in 1980. My first appointment was as an Associate Pastor St. James UMC, a 700 member church in Memphis.

During seminary, I trained with a clinical psychologist and Teaching Member of the (ITAA) International Transactional Analysis Association for three years and became certified as a Clinical Transactional Analyst. When I started one and then two and then three "spiritual growth" groups at St James, I began to feel called to an extension ministry in pastoral counseling. I started a private practice under appointment by the Bishop. I was endorsed as a Pastoral Counselor by the regional endorsing board of the UMC for chaplains, counselors and other extension ministries. I was a Licensed Professional Counselor in TN.

1987, as I was meditating, I had a vision appear in my mind, an image of a map of the US with the PNW "lit up," I quit meditating for about 3 months, but despite my "Do what??!!" I continued to feel called to move to the PNW. I was able to make that move to Olympia, WA in 1988. I was in private practice specializing in on-going weekly psychospiritual process groups, running as many as 7 groups a week and offering monthly weekend "Intensives" for a deeper level of emotional healing in work, mostly with clients in recovery. I have provided a lot of couples, family, and individual counseling as well. In 1993, I moved to Spokane WA to work as a Chaplain and EAP counselor for Addiction Recovery Systems.

In 1995, I re-entered parish ministry, serving Stevenson UMC in the Columbia Gorge, Montesano UMC in Grays Harbor County in the PNW, Fircrest UMC in Fircrest, WA, a suburb of Tacoma, and Allen UMC in Skagit County north of Seattle.

In 2005, I received my Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. I was in the "John Wesley and the Poor" track and did my doctoral research and paper in "Coaching as a Ministry Tool."

In the OR-ID Conference, I served Florence UMC from 2019-2022. Additionally, in private practice, I have provided pastoral counseling and psychospiritual coaching in Eugene and here in Coos Bay.

My husband Alan and I met through match.com in 2011. He grew up in Tacoma, WA, and went away to college at Stanford University, majoring in math and physics. Alan always notes that his parents met on stage at University of Puget Sound, married, and continued working for the university after Wilbur got his PhD. He was Director of the Speech and Drama Department at UPS (a United Methodist-affiliated university), and Anita worked in the Alumni Affairs department. They were life-long Methodists. Alan lived in California in the Santa Cruz area with his late wife and her two children until her sudden death of H1N1 in 2009. After Alan got lonely, several years later, he went online to find a partner. Match.com emailed me that we were a 100% match, which has proven to be the case! We married in 2013 and share 3 children and 5 grandchildren between us. My son Rick is Vice-President of Card Kingdom in Seattle, WA. My grandson Gavin is 21 and a senior at University of Wisconsin, Madison, majoring in electrical engineering. My grandson Donovan is 19 and is a freshman at Colorado State University, majoring in clothing design. My daughter Kara and her husband Ken live in Eugene. Kara is an LCSW and is in private practice in psychotherapy. Her husband Ken teaches online and alternative high school English at Oak Ridge High School. Kara's 26-year-old daughter Laurel is a graduate of OSU and has a job in graphic design in Seattle. Kara and Ken's son Kenny will be 14 this month and attends O'Hara Catholic School. Alan's daughter Amanda lives with her partner Pete in Brooklyn, NY. She teaches music and Pete is a sound engineer. Their daughter, Beatrice, is 9 years old.

I am so excited to be your pastor here at Harmony UMC! I feel called to be here. I believe deeply that we were born for times such as these, my brothers and sisters in Christ. I believe we are making a difference in lives and are channels of transformation as disciples of Jesus Christ.

With love in Christ,  
Pastor Karen

## **Living with Creation: Faith, Justice, and Renewal**

### **A 5-Week Creationtide Worship Series – Harmony United Methodist Church**

**September 7 – October 5, 2025**

#### **What is Creationtide?**

Creationtide (or the Season of Creation) is observed by churches around the world from September 1 to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. It is a time to give thanks for the gift of creation, lament the ways it is harmed, and commit ourselves anew to care for God's world. We join the Anglican Church in Great Britain and many others in celebrating this season.

#### **Why Creation Care?**

In Scripture, God calls humanity to be caretakers of the earth (Genesis 2:15). Jesus teaches that not even a sparrow falls without God's notice (Matthew 10:29). Creation care is an act of discipleship, justice, and hope. As a faithful community at Harmony UMC in Coos Bay, our witness may feel small, but it matters deeply. Even small seeds grow into mighty trees, and our collective care for God's creation can bloom into transformative change.

#### **Special Highlights This Season**

- Week 1 (Sept 7): Shaped for Creation** – Launch of our Creation Eco-Covenant, establishing our commitment as Harmony UMC to faithful earth-keeping.
- Week 2 (Sept 14): Creation Groaning, God Searching** – Guests Abby Knipp and Ashley Audykci from Rogue Climate share about local climate justice work and how Harmony can partner in caring for our coastal community.
- Week 3 (Sept 21): Faithful with What We Have** – A reflection on Creation stewardship and using our gifts faithfully, exploring how Harmony's unique ministries can serve Creation.
- Week 4 (Sept 28): Planting Seeds of Hope** – Our monthly (last Sunday of each month) laity-led worship service will feature Taizé worship with our Catholic friends, focused on Creation Care. We will plant bulbs and seeds as a sign of hope for Harmony's continuing ministry.
- Week 5 (Oct 5): Brother Sun, Sister Moon** – St. Francis Sunday with a community Blessing of the Animals. All pets welcome (leashed, crated, or pictured) as we celebrate God's creatures great and small.

#### **How Can You Participate at Harmony?**

- Take part in the Eco-Covenant** (Week 1) – Make personal and congregational commitments to creation care.
- Join the guided reflection with Rogue Climate** (Week 2) – Learn how Harmony can be a voice for environmental justice in our community in a dialogue sermon with Pastor Karen and our guests Abby Knipp and Ashley Audykci.
- Share a story of stewardship or creation care** (Week 3) – Tell how God has worked through you or Harmony to care for creation.
- Worship in Taizé prayer and planting hope** (Week 4) – Join in contemplative worship and literally plant seeds of hope for our church's future.
- Bring your pet, a photo, or prayers for creation to the Blessing of the Animals** (Week 5) – Celebrate all of God's creatures in our (new) annual tradition.

Join us at 3 weekly Climate Café's on Tuesdays 9/16, 9/23, 9/30 from 5:30-7:00pm.

*"The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it." – Psalm 24:1*

**Harmony United Methodist Church – Caring for Creation, Caring for Community**

# September 2025

| Sun  | Mon                          | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | <b>1</b><br><i>Labor Day</i> | <b>2</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal)<br><br>2 HIV Alliance<br>6:30 Ripple Effect  | <b>3</b><br>12 Garden Club<br>6:30 Choir<br><br>7 Alanon | <b>4</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal)  | <b>5</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal)  | <b>6</b><br>11- Lunch<br>(First Presbyterian)<br><br>3:30 Sq Dancers                   |
| <b>7</b><br>11 Worship<br>3:30 Sq Dancers<br><br>4:30 Dreams &<br>Visions Bible Study  | <b>8</b>                     | <b>9</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal)<br>2 HIV Alliance<br>2:30 Snack Pack<br>6:30 Ripple Effect                         | <b>10</b><br><br>6:30 Choir<br><br>7 Alanon              | <b>11</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal) | <b>12</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal) | <b>13</b><br>11- Lunch<br>(Gloria Dei)   |
| <b>14</b> 11 Worship<br>3:30 SQ Dancers<br><br>4:30 Dreams &<br>Visions Bible Study  | <b>15</b>                    | <b>16</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal)<br>2 HIV Alliance<br>2:30 Snack Pack<br>5:30-7 Climate Cafe<br>6:30 Ripple Effect | <b>17</b><br><br>6:30 Choir<br><br>7 Alanon              | <b>18</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal) | <b>19</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal) | <b>20</b><br>11- Lunch<br>(HUMC)<br><br>3:30 SQ Dancers                                |
| <b>21</b> DS Wendy<br>Woodworth<br>11 Worship<br>12:15- Ad Council<br>Meeting<br>3:30 Sq Dancers<br>4:30 Dreams &<br>Visions Bible Study | <b>22</b>                    | <b>23</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal)<br>2 HIV Alliance<br>2:30 Snack Pack<br>5:30-7 Climate Cafe<br>6:30 Ripple Effect | <b>24</b><br><br>6:30 Choir<br><br>7 Alanon              | <b>25</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal) | <b>26</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal) | <b>27</b><br>11- Lunch<br>(Faith Lutheran)<br><br>3-7 MayimShalom<br>(Fellowship Hall) |
| <b>28</b><br>11 Taizé Worship<br>(Lay Led)<br><br>3:30 SQ Dancers  | <b>29</b>                    | <b>30</b><br>11-1 Compass<br>(Outreach Meal)<br>2 HIV Alliance<br>2:30 Snack Pack<br>5:30-7 Climate Cafe<br>6:30 Ripple Effect |  |  |  |  |
|  |                              |  |  |  |  |  |

# Harmony UMC Updates



**~SHARE ~ CONNECT ~ SERVE ~ GROW~**

**Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m.**

**TWO WAYS TO CONNECT ON SUNDAY MORNINGS**

- 1. COME TO CHURCH IN PERSON @ 11:00 AM SUNDAY MORNING**
- OR**
- 2. STREAMING LIVE ON HARMONY UMC FACEBOOK page**

If you are attending in person, please remember:

- Childcare is available
- Fellowship time after church

Our District Superintendent Rev. Wendy Woodworth will be joining us for worship on Sunday, September 21. She will be available for about 15 minutes following worship to take questions and hear any concerns from the congregation. Following this time with everyone, she will be meeting with the Ad Council in the Fellowship Hall during our Coffee Fellowship. We are delighted and honored to have Rev. Wendy with us and are deeply grateful for all of her support and encouragement!

## Household battery recycle

We have just learned that by taking your used household batteries (AA, AAA, hearing aid batteries, etc.) to Staples and give them the church's phone number (541-267-4410), the church will be credited an unknown amount of money to the church's Staples account. Although this is just a small amount of money, it will help with payment of office supplies.

## SNACK PACK NEWS

Coos County Schools start the fall semester on September 2. We will have our first pack day on Tuesday, September 16 at 2:30. Volunteers are always welcome!

Robyn Greenlund, Joan Glasgow's daughter, has consented to make product purchases and pick up and delivering the product to the church for packing. Many thanks to Robyn as this will allow us to continue this valuable mission for the food insecure children of Eastside Elementary School.

## Harmony General Fund & Ministries

### Harmony UMC Outreach/Ministries

- \* Saturday Community Fellowship Meal
  - \* Clothes Closet
  - \* Mat Ministry
- \* Eastside Snack Pack Program
  - \* Harmony House
  - \* Juniper House
  - \* Wesley Fund
- \* Coos Food Cupboard
- \* Camping Scholarships (United Methodist Camps)

Remember, giving with a cheerful heart and a spirit of generosity is a beautiful way to honor God and bless others.

### Coos Food Cupboard

Harmony UMC is a faithful supporter of Coos Food Cupboard. Please give non-perishable goods. There is a basket in the narthex for Coos Food Cupboard.

Thank you!



### HARMONY UMC General Fund As of August 27, 2025

#### July Monthly Expenses

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Income:       | \$ 8,410.13 |
| Expenses      | \$ 8,439.82 |
| Inc. less Exp | \$ -29.69   |

### HARMONY UMC Dedicated Fund Balance As of August 27, 2025

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Wesley Fund          | \$ 5,103.70 |
| Eastside Snack Pack  | \$ 5,825.78 |
| Sat. Fellowship Meal | \$ 2,790.48 |

Share...Connect...Serve...Grow

# WE ARE STEWARDS THROUGH...

## ...OUR PRAYERS

- Fonda Keller
- Jan Johnson
- Jan Crew
- Olivia (Dr. Joe Margan's Sister)
- Doug & Connie Earhart
- Terry (Kim Agricola father) and family



If you would like to add someone to the prayer chain, please contact Pastor Karen at 541-915-0335 or email [pastorkaren.humc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkaren.humc@gmail.com)

## ...OUR GIFTS

- Coos Food Cupboard
- Harmony House
- Juniper House
- Eastside Snack Pack Program
- Saturday Community Fellowship Meal
- The Wesley Fund : Helping those in need
- Mat Ministry
- Harmony Singers, Musicians & Sound Booth
- Harmony UMC Staff

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3- Wayne Murray  
5- Cheryl Drumheller  
10- Francine Kelsay  
15- Seana McLain  
27- Peggy Maddron  
30- Sarah McLain



## ...OUR PRESENCE

Please come and join us on  
Sunday 11:00 am. Worship Service  
If you do not feel comfortable with in-person worship, we are still streaming our services on Harmony UMC Facebook Page.  
Please join us in worship !

## ...OUR SERVICE

- \* *Providing hot meals to the community on Saturdays : 5 churches participate.*
- \* *Realizing that we do not own this building—God owns it and we need to allow other groups to use it.*  
⇒ *Big Thank You to all our volunteers*

### ***Volunteering when needed***

- ♦ *Those who work for Harmony UMC*
- ♦ *Our groups that cook, help, and feed those individuals who come to the Saturday Community Fellowship Meal.*
- ♦ *All the other volunteers who help to make our church the place to be.*

## ANNIVERSARIES

21st- Steve & Susan Cox

