

May 2025 Newsletter

Gresham United Methodist Church



From the Pastor's Desk...

Sage & Columbia District Superintendency team to start July 2026



Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth intends to appoint **Rev. Dr. Troy Lynn Carr, Rev. Melissa Harkness and Rev. Dr. Rob Walters** to a superintendency team overseeing the Sage and Columbia Districts in the Oregon-Idaho Conference, July 1, 2026. Rev. Karen Hernandez will continue to serve as Columbia and Sage District Superintendent through the next appointment year before ending her tenure in the role.

Another person will be named to this superintendency team soon.

All members of the Columbia and Sage District Superintendency team are expected to continue their appointments to churches in the respective districts. However, the new appointment will reduce the time allotted to their pastoral duties when it arrives in 2026.

Rev. Carr will continue to be appointed at Gresham UMC in Oregon; Rev. Harkness will continue at her new appointment to Tualatin UMC in Oregon, which begins on July 1; and Rev. Walters will continue at Nampa First UMC in Idaho.

In December, [Bishop Bridgeforth announced that he would initiate a new supervision model](#) for the Greater Northwest Area. The superintendency team for the SeaTac District (PNW), the first district to shift into this model, [was announced in February](#). The Crest to

Superintendency Team, also expected to begin in 2026, [was announced in March](#). And the Puget Sound team [was announced in April](#).

When sharing the news of these new appointments with their current churches, Bishop Bridgeforth expressed gratitude for the clergy moving into these roles, as well as the local congregations they serve leaning into this new model as well.

When he first announced the new superintendency model in December, the bishop promised to share the anticipated transitions of the district superintendents across the [Oregon-Idaho](#) and [Pacific Northwest](#) Conferences. He also expressed his desire to announce superintendency appointments that will be fixed this June and in 2026, as he did.

With this announcement, Bishop Bridgeforth is taking the next step in naming leaders who will move into these roles. This will give those beginning their service in 2026 additional time to prepare and learn from those who will first live into this new model this appointment year.

This new model of shared superintendency continues our area's commitment to innovation in leadership and care for local churches, offering both continuity and creativity in service as we share the good news in a Wesleyan way.

Rev. Dr. Troy Lynn Carr expressed her goal in this new role:

“My commitment to the church and community is at the heart of my collaborative ministry approach,” she said. “I trust the Holy Spirit is the author of this new way, and I am honored to be part of the movement.”

Although this is a new model, Rev. Harkness said she's inspired by the roots of Methodism in this work:

“One thing that continues to inspire me most about early Methodism is the deep connectionalism that created spaces of belonging and accountability,” Harkness said. “While still rooted in a local church and community, I am excited to help shape a new model of superintendency that cultivates greater connection and deeper discipleship in these divisive times.”

Rev. Dr. Rob Walters sees this as an opportunity to build better relationships:

“This model reimagines the focus of superintendency by fostering closer relationships between the cabinet, conference staff, clergy, lay ministers and very vital lay leadership in local churches. It's through contextual connection that we help each other grow and it's my hope this model will move us into where God is calling us through enhanced collaboration.”

To read the article: <https://greaternw.org/columbia-and-sage-district-superintendents-team/>



April 27, 2025

To the members and friends of Gresham United Methodist Church:

I am writing to inform you that after prayerful discernment and careful consideration, I intend to appoint The Reverend Dr. Troy Lynn Carr as a superintendent, effective July 1, 2026. Pastor Troy Lynn's appointment as superintendent will not eliminate her appointment to Gresham, but it will reduce the time she allows for her pastoral duties.

In a recent meeting with leaders of Gresham UMC, Tualatin UMC, and Nampa First UMC I shared my intent to appoint three pastors (Melissa Harkness, Rob Walters, and Troy Lynn Carr) to serve as a superintendent team that will succeed District Superintendent Karen Hernandez upon the fulfillment of her tenure as a district superintendent. There are many questions to answer and details to address. However, there is excitement around the conference as we explore new ways of serving in this region.

You know the many gifts your pastor brings to every space. Imagine how other congregations and communities will flourish as they experience those gifts. We will work with you throughout the next year to ensure you have the support you need. This model of pastors serving as part-time superintendents to form a team is new and different, but it is a challenge we face together.

I ask that you pray for your pastor and the others joining this team. Pray for the other congregation as they grapple with this change. Pray for your congregation and community as you prepare for opportunities to serve those who need hope and help.

Thank you for being a beacon of light in what seems like some dark days. Thank you for allowing your pastor to explore other expressions of ministry while continuing to serve with you. Thank you for all you do to make life better for so many.

Hallelujah!



Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Terrie Ham

Why We Worship the Way We Do

Have you ever wondered why United Methodist worship looks the way it does? Our services are shaped by deep roots that reach all the way back to the early church. Before Christianity was recognized by the Roman Empire in 313AD with the Edict of Milan, Christians were a persecuted minority. Believers gathered in homes to pray, read scripture, break bread, and share in fellowship. These simple gatherings formed the foundation of Christian worship. Over the centuries, traditions developed — drawing from both Jewish practices and emerging Christian theology — but the heart of worship has always remained the same: a response to the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

In the United Methodist tradition, our worship follows a fourfold pattern: we **Gather** in community, listen to the **Word** through scripture and preaching, come to the **Table** in Holy Communion, and are **Sent Forth** to serve in the world. Our services are not just rituals or routines, but meaningful acts that form and shape our faith. We celebrate the Christian year — seasons like Advent, Lent, and Easter — to walk with Christ through the story of salvation. We also value participation, where all people are invited to engage fully with God and one another. And the beauty of it all is that worship is something we do together, as a community, each bringing our own faith, questions, and hope.

I've gathered this information while preparing for a class I'll be teaching in June based on the book *Worshipping with United Methodists* by Hoyt Hickman. As I've dug into the history and meaning behind our worship practices, I've found it very interesting — and so deeply connected to who we are as a church — that I wanted to share a little of it with you here. Sometimes when we understand the “why,” the experience of worship becomes even richer.

Peace and Hope,

Terrie



If you would like someone to pray with you, or pray about a situation, but don't want to put it on the prayer chain, please contact Tina Heal or Terrie Ham. They meet together every week to pray for the needs of the church and for many other concerns.

Please contact the church office to be connected with Terrie Ham, Tina Heal or Sandy Brooks.

Church Office: 503-665-1192 or prayers@greshamumc.com



United
Women
in Faith

WOMEN'S NEWS

May 2025

WOMEN'S NEWS..... MAY 2025

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

GENERAL MEETING: MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025..1:30

With *LOUISE DARLING* PRESENTING:

"What Can We Do About the Climate Crisis?"

Once again we are privileged to have a UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH Leader visit us to help us understand how we, as UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH, can participate in making an impact in our global climate crisis. We will share ideas for products and practices (like shifting to a plant-based diet) that encourage each other to participate in changing the destructive course that the American consumer has created that are harmful to the Creator's intention for all earth's creation.

If you are using any earth-friendly product, please bring a sample for us to see!

Louise Darling is a member of Great Spirit UMC and is Columbia District's Education and Interpretation Coordinator for United Women in Faith.

CREATING A GALLERY OF MOTHERS!

The General Meeting of United Women in Faith in May is the day after Mother's Day, so it is fitting that we take time before our program begins to recognize the gift of motherhood, from whence we all came. You are invited to bring a picture of your mother...any size, preferably in a frame, ...for a Gallery of Mothers...as a way of honoring our mothers as we take time to pray for other mothers who are now in need of special prayers.

Let's Do Lunch
Thursday 4/15 at Noon

Heidi's
1230 NE Cleveland Ave
Gresham, OR 97030



Volunteer at SnowCap
Clothing Closet
Thursday 5/1 & 5/15
from 2:00-4:00

21655 SE Stark St
Gresham, OR 97030





MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

MONDAY, MAY 5th - KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO -will meet in Room 101 at 10:30 to work on Prayer Shawls for those in need of special prayers.

MONDAY, MAY 5th - CINCO DE MAYO!

SUNDAY, MAY 11th - MOTHERS DAY - Worship - 10:00 am

MONDAY, MAY 12th- UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH General Meeting - 1:30 - in Fellowship area. See program details above.

MONDAY, MAY 19th -RETELL Book Group meets at 10:00 to discuss "The Demons of Unrest" by Erik Larson. The book to read for June is "The Frozen River".

TUESDAY, MAY 20th - MULTNOMAH COUNTY SPECIAL ELECTION DAY! Mail in your ballot before May 20th!

SUNDAY, MAY 26th - MEMORIAL DAY National holiday.

BE AN ACTIVE VOTER!

Study your Multnomah Voters' Pamphlet. Directors are being elected for several school districts' Board of Directors...maybe a district you live in: Gresham-Barlow, Reynolds, Centennial, David Douglas, Park Rose, Corbett, and Portland. **REMEMBER, IT IS A PRIVILEGE AND A DUTY TO VOTE AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

On page 30 of the Multnomah County voters' guide, you will find a picture, a list of her qualifications, and a statement by someone we ALL know at Gresham UMC...

ANNETTE MATTSON! Annette has already served on the Mt. Hood CC Board for 8 years, but she was called and encouraged to serve yet another term! We of United Women in Faith are proud of Annette for serving our community in this important way! Let us show our support for Annette by voting for her in this special May 20th election!

Mt. Hood Community College is asking for **Bond Measure 26-258** to be approved to expand, improve, repair and enhance it's aging facilities and it's campus safety. Mt. Hood Community College is "right in our back yard" so to speak, and it is important to up-grade this campus for the students who will soon be the leaders of our community! **Please consider Measure 26-258 when you send in your ballot!**



United
Women
in Faith

WOMEN'S NEWS

May 2025

DON'T FORGET OUR MISSION PROJECT FOR THE WOMEN'S SHELTER: PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS FOR THE WOMEN!

Yes! We are still collecting personal hygiene items for the women's shelter!

Yes! The shelter is now hosting almost 90 women who are without homes!

Yes! Most of the women come to the shelter with very few personal items!

Yes! We can continue to support them with items like shampoo and hair conditioners, razors, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste and tooth brushes, sanitary pads, hand and body lotions.

YES! The women are **very appreciative** of the items we give them !

YES! The collection tub is in the Resource Room...the first room of the south hall. You can bring items to our general meetings or anytime you come to church. The collection tub is marked : "Women's Shelter".

GRESHAM WOMEN ARE THANKFUL WOMEN! GIVE THANKS FOR...

...Your own mother who gave you life...It is the greatest gift you will ever receive!

... women who were like a mother to you, giving you safety, vision, and love!

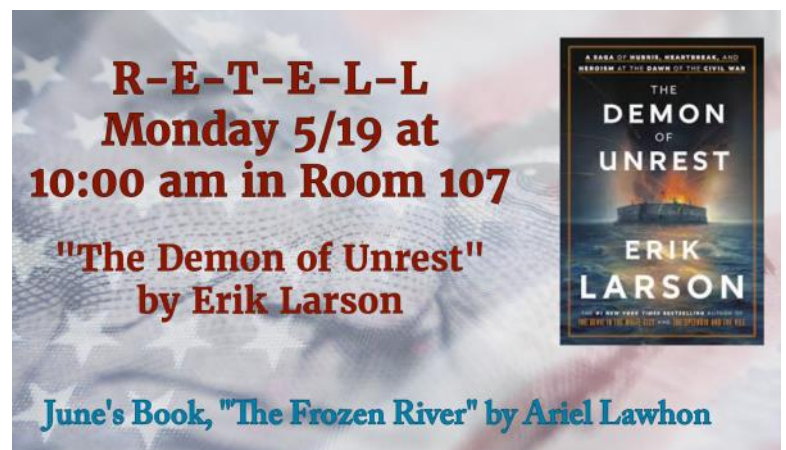
...women who are raising other mother's children...grandchildren, foster children.

Show your thankfulness by donating to your Thank Offering Jar!

OR

Make a special offering to the United Women in Faith Legacy Fund

(Donation should be given to Roz Collins, our treasurer)



SnowCap Most Needed Items



Snowcap has emailed us the following in their most recent newsletter. Please consider donating to The Snowcap barrels in the hall behind the office.

The dramatic increase in need means that SnowCap is low on all pantry staples.

They are in particular need of:

Hearty soups, chili and stew	Quart size zip top bags
Canned fruit & vegetables	Pet food
Packaged snacks	Men's clothing (all types & sizes)
Shampoo & soap	Cans & bottles with deposit - rinsed please!
Baby wipes	New underwear and socks (especially boxer briefs for boys/men)

Thank you for your help.

Submitted by Linda Bridges

May Anniversaries

Rick & Laurel Grimsted Rick & Tina Heal
David & Aimee Horton

May Birthdays

Sandy Brooks	Vinnie Hammond	Dan Symons
Larry Crawford	Matthew Harrison	Becky Trautman
Cynthia Flynn	Aimee Horton	Don Weber
Rick Grimsted	Claudell Metzger	Gisela Weber
Terrie Ham	Kyle Moore	Luke Williams
	Lianne Bailey-Williams	

GUMC Calendar of Events

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:30 - Faith Based Fitness ¹ 2:00 - SnowCap Clothing Closet @Burnside location ³	2	3 8:00 Solve-it-Saturday
4	5 Cinco de Mayo 10:30 - Knit One Crochet Too	6	7 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal ² (every Wed.)	8 2:00 - Worship at Courtyard Fountains ⁴ 6:00 - Brews and Bible @ Gresham Black Bear Diner ⁵	9	10
11 Mother's Day Women's Shelter Fruit Donation Sunday	12 1:30 - UWIF General Meeting	13 6:30 - Church Council Meeting via Zoom	14	15 12:00 - Let's do Lunch @ Heidi's ⁶ 2:00 - SnowCap Clothing Closet @ Burnside location ³	16	17
18	19 10:00 - RETELL	20 May Special Election Day	21	22 6:00 - Brews and Bible @ Gresham Black Bear Diner ⁵	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day 1:00 - Caregivers Support Group	27 Shelter Potluck Meal Dropoff Day	28	29	30	31

All events happen at Gresham United Methodist Church unless otherwise noted.

¹ Faith Based Fitness is held every Monday and Thursday

² Choir rehearsal is held every Wednesday

³ SnowCap Clothing volunteers meet at 21655 SE Stark St; Gresham, OR 97030

⁴ Please contact Terrie Ham for details and location of Courtyard Fountains Worship

⁵ Brews and Bible meets at Black Bear Diner; 105 NE Burnside Rd; Gresham OR, 97030

⁶ Let's do Lunch will be held at Heidi's Restaurant in May. 1230 NE Cleveland Ave; Gresham, OR 97030



Hello. We hope you have heard the news: **Camp Magruder**, on the Oregon Coast, is turning 80 this year! A special celebration is happening on Saturday, May 24th, starting at 10am.

Camp Magruder's assistant director, Hope Montgomery, has created the video linked below to help promote the celebration. We are asking you to use it in your worship as well as in electronic communications with your congregation to help spread the word.

[Camp Magruder 80th Anniversary Celebration Video](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff "Andy" Anderson, Camp Magruder 80th Anniversary Coordinator, at Jeffjand0620@gmail.com.



Here's the schedule for the day:

10:00am: Arrival/Check-in (Carrier)

10:00 to Noon: Free time Activities

These will include a coffeehouse with John Nilsen, a tour of today's Magruder, volleyball, self-guided hikes on Camp Magruder's nature trails, beach walks of course, opportunities to hang out with friends from your era and a place to get together with others and do some camp singing (there will also be singing in the programs of course)

Noon: Lunch (free)

1:00pm: Magruder Yesterday Today and Tomorrow

2:15pm-3:30pm: More Free Time

These will include all of the above plus another coffeehouse but this time with Jonas Nordwall and Ron Hughes, boating on Smith Lake plus a craft table. At 3:00pm, there will be a memorial service to honor those very special people from Camp Magruder who have passed from this life. **3:30pm:** Campfire (Sherlock)

4:30pm: Goodbyes

5:00: Dinner for those staying for the train (small charge)

6:30pm: A train ride that begins at Magruder and goes down through Garibaldi and back!

Register at <https://gocamping.campbrainregistration.com/>

Thank you for helping us share this amazing achievement of Camp Magruder!

A New Way to Donate to the Church

Scan this QR code with the camera app on your phone to donate electronically to our church.

You will be asked to download and install the Paypal App if you do not already have it on your phone.

