



JUNE 2025

THE EBBERT CONTACT

Ebbert Memorial UMC's Monthly Newsletter



JUNE

A Note From the Pastor

LIV GIBBONS

At their recent meeting, the United Methodist Council of Bishops shared a new guiding vision for our denomination: “The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ, who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.”

This vision resonates deeply with who we aim to be here at Ebbert. It reminds us that discipleship means being shaped by Christ through worship, learning, community, and mission. We are called to lives of care and servant leadership — right here in our neighborhood and across the world.

If you want to see this vision in action, join us on June 22, when our Affordable Housing Team will share their ideas for how our church might respond to the housing crisis with creativity and compassion (pg. 2). Or every Thursday at 5:30 p.m., when members and neighbors gather for a Peace Vigil at the Bob Keefer Center, showing up with prayerful presence and public witness (pg. 3). These are just two ways we are stepping forward in faith, in connection, and with purpose.

The Spirit is moving, friends, and Christ leads the way. Let's keep moving in step with God as we strive to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously!

So glad to be your pastor,

Liv

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News and Events

Hamlin Middle School Drive a Success

Thank you to everyone who purchased items or donated funds to our Hamlin Middle School drive. We donated three heaping baskets full of quality supplies, as well as \$160 in additional funds to the wonderful kids next door. Thank you, Church, for showing up for your neighbors. It was really appreciated!



June Council Meeting

THURSDAY, JUNE 12 AT 5:30 PM

Ebbert Housing Team Informational Meeting

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

The Ebbert Housing Team has learned a lot in the past two years, and can't wait to share what they've been working on with the whole congregation. After worship on Sunday, June 22, the team will present their findings and recommendations as well as several options for discussion. Please make plans to stay after service to learn and help the team discern our next steps.

Book Group Wraps June 18

WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, JUNE 11 AND 18

Unlce Screwtape would like a word! Ebbert's Book Club is reading C.S. Lewis' famous satire, "The Screwtape Letters" and is in its final weeks. Everyone is welcome to join us at noon at the Washburne Café at 326 Main St on June 11 and 18 to discuss chapters 18-22 and 23-31, respectively. First timers are welcome, and coffee and tea are on the house!

Celebrations

We want to celebrate with you!
If you find that your birthday or anniversary is missing from the CONTACT, please email office@ebbertumc.org.



A warm Ebbert welcome to the group of distinguished gentlefolk (pictured above) who visited us at this year's Holy Humor Sunday service.



Peace Vigil

Thursdays at 5:30 pm

Bob Keefer Center Peace Pole
250 S 32nd St, Springfield, OR 97478

In response to ongoing war in the Middle East and with an eye on conflict across the globe, we gather every Thursday at 5:30 pm for a weekly vigil around the Peace Pole at the Bob Keefer Center in Springfield.

The purpose of this gathering is to actively support and pray for peace in our troubled world. We find it unacceptable that our fellow human beings, especially children, are dying as they endure capture, starvation, dislocation, and lethal attacks. We do not seek to make a political statement or to place blame, but instead to recognize the immensity of human suffering.

We call on the Divine through prayer, poetry, song, and silent meditation, and invite people of all faiths to join us each week.

Community Garden Report

Behind our Sanctuary building, on the corner of 6th and D, you'll find Ebbert's Community Garden, currently overseen by Naphtali Renshaw, director of the BeLonging Space. Church folks and neighbors are invited to help care for and enjoy this space. Learn more below!

Whose Bed Is Whose?

If you were wondering where to work, boxes #5, 6, 11, & 12 are all being cultivated by individual gardeners. The rest of the planting is collaborative and available for use by the whole community. Feel free to come by and lend a hand with weeding, watering, and maintenance, or just to enjoy the beautiful flowers and produce.

Berry Important News

Strawberries have been relocated from Berry Bed #1 to Berry Bed #2 as they were being overshadowed by the blackberries and raspberries. Berry Bed #1 is being pruned to make upcoming berries more accessible.

Harvest Central

It looks like it will be a good year for our grape vine. There are plenty of grape leaves, if anyone feels like experimenting with making dolmas. The Herb & Pollinator bed is flourishing! Come pick some Eucalyptus for your shower or flowers for your table. The Spaghetti Bowl and Salsa Dish have been mostly planted -- stay tuned for some delicious tomatoes this summer! Beds #2, 3, 8, & 9 have been planted with summer and winter squash starts, eggplant starts, and a variety of seeds that should be popping up in a few weeks.

To-Do List

June promises to be a full month for the BeLonging Space. Our mound beds (#1, 7, & 10) will get a facelift before planting. Hopefully students from A3 will be able to help with this. If anyone is interested in helping to water, especially during the last two weeks of the month, the assist would be greatly appreciated!





Mission Central

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT EBBERT AND BEYOND

This looks interesting!

Become a Sunday Morning Counter

The church is in need of volunteers to assist with counting the weekly offering after our Sunday services. This vital task involves counting cash and checks, filling out a simple form, and preparing the deposit. No prior experience is necessary! We'll walk you through the process step-by-step. It's a rewarding opportunity to contribute directly to the financial health of our church. If you are willing to pitch in, please call or email the church office.

Thank you so much!



Churchmouse Central

If you have a bit of spare time, consider helping out around the property with some of the small tasks that pile up in a building like ours. Check out the Churchmouse Central chart by the door to the church office and add your initials when you complete a task. You can also add to-dos when you find them!

Write for The Contact

SHARE YOUR STORIES

If you have a story of an everyday encounter with God — a special moment, a Christlike person, a lesson learned — we want to put it in The Contact! You can send your 150-300 word story or reflection to office@ebbertumc.org. We can't wait to hear from you!



Summer Help in the Sunday School Room

SUNDAYS AT 10 AM

We need volunteers to help staff our Children's Ministry this summer when Teacher Annison is on summer break from the University of Oregon. Our Safe Sanctuaries restriction on family members serving together makes the need even greater! Please email Pastor Liv at pastor@ebbertumc.org if you can help.

A Reflection for Memorial Day

“Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends.”

John 15:13

“Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”

John F. Kennedy’s Inauguration Speech, 1961

Many of us have had our lives shaped by the words we hear or read. Sometimes these quotes resonate within our soul and begin to offer meaning to us as we continue to grow. When I was a child in Sunday School I was deeply impressed by the quote from John: “that a person lay down his life for his friends.” I began grade school while the Korean War was still going on, and my young mind understood the honorable act of a soldier giving his life for his friends. Then as I was completing junior high school John F. Kennedy inspired us to “ask what you can do for your country.” My oldest brother considered the Peace Corps; I began planning a career in the US Army.

As we celebrate Memorial Day, I urge you to consider its origins: After our Civil War, soldiers gathered in late spring on the battlefields to remember and honor their fallen comrades and foes. These Veterans brought spring flowers to decorate the graves. They prayed for their friends: for the living, the wounded, and for those who had died.

On Memorial Day when I was a child, families would visit their family gravesite. They would bring flowers to decorate the graves; they would clean and weed the site and would bring a picnic lunch as they shared their memories of their family.

This Memorial Day I ask that you remember our traditions. I ask that you visit those gravesites and honor our dead. I also ask that you thank a Veteran. Please remember our history and those who gave so much for our freedoms.

Bob Beck, Lt Colonel, USA, Retired

