



SEPTEMBER 2026

THE EBBERT CONTACT

Ebbert Memorial UMC's Monthly Newsletter

Suttle Lake, Oregon

A Note from the Pastor

REV. LIV GIBBONS

It's been a minute since we did a newsletter here at church, and a whole lot has happened!

— There's been plenty of activity behind us on D Street! After three years of research, discussion, planning, and interviews, the congregation voted on the Affordable Housing Team's and Council's recommendation to sell the corner lot on 6th and D to PorchHouse LLC, Tim and Betty Goracke Olguin's real estate development company. When all is said and done, it will host cottage-style houses available for rent. The house on D Street will also be going up for sale sometime in the near future, and the proceeds from both of the sales will go toward some much-needed repairs on our historic building. And bonus: the parking lot is now refinished and looking sharp!

,— The Mid-High youth have joined forces with the kids at Wesley UMC for some joint youth events. We're still feeling this out, but so far we've gone mini-golfing, painted pottery, learned to play Bocce ball and visited the Scandinavian Festival. We're looking forward to more activities for our youth in the months to come.

— We're about to go on our first joint-UMC retreat at Suttle Lake. I'm praying that the Lord will smile on this gathering and that the Spirit will move among us and show us where we're being called as disciples of Jesus Christ in Springfield/Eugene.

— And through it all, you have continued to show up for one another, welcome new friends, volunteer at church and beyond, and love God and neighbor. Thank you for being salt and light!

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PROJECT HOPE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Ebbert Volunteers head to Maple Elementary to help with this multi-church back-to-school giveaway.



FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

After worship in the Fireside Room. Come one and all!

JOINT WORSHIP AT WESLEY ON SEPTEMBER 6

10:00 AM | NO WORSHIP AT EBBERT THAT DAY

Heads up! There will be no worship service here at Ebbert on Sunday, September 6. Instead, we'll worship together with our sisters and brothers from Wesley UMC and First UMC Eugene at Wesley's building, 1385 Oakway Rd. in Eugene, at 10:00 am.

Rev. Warren Light will be preaching, and our own Amy Adams will lead us in music. We'll be back home at Ebbert for worship on Sunday, September 13.

The service on September 6 will be a little taste of something special happening that same weekend...

LAKESHORE REVIVAL AT SUTTLE LAKE

SEPTEMBER 5-7 AT SUTTLE LAKE UMC CAMP

Wesley, First, and Ebbert are sending more than 100 folks to Suttle Lake for a Labor Day Weekend retreat filled with preaching, baptisms, fellowship, and revival!

Our joint worship service in Eugene will carry some of those same themes, so even if you didn't register for the retreat, you'll still be part of this special weekend of worship and renewal.

Two locations, one weekend, three congregations — and one God bringing us together.

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 5:30

Celebrations

This information is not available in the online version of The Contact.



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

Springfield and 4J students head back to school September 9 and 10. Be praying for them, our teachers and staff!



Echoes of Sacredness

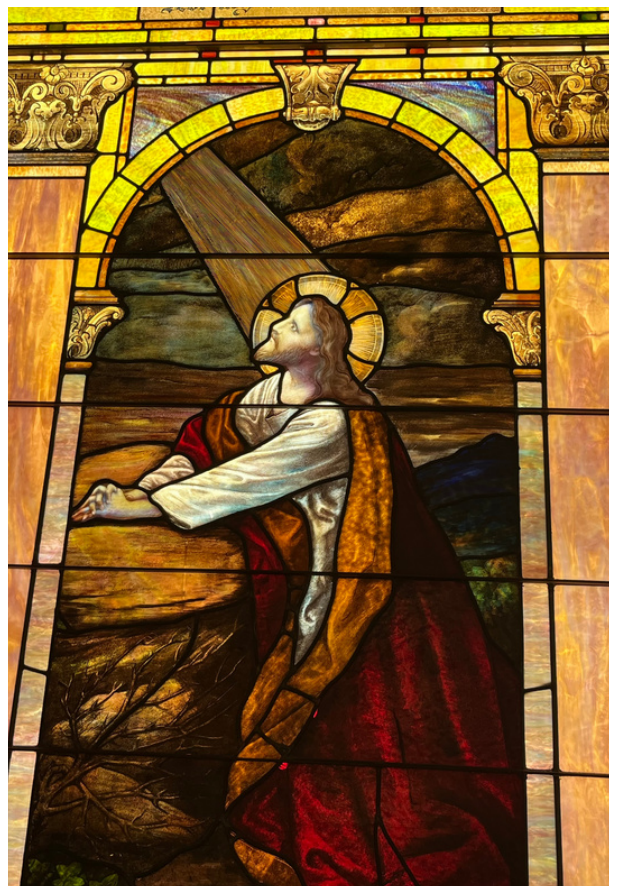
REV. SCOTT HARKNESS

Retired UMC Elder Scott Harkness has set out to help us notice the little things that make our worship life rich and meaningful — the symbols, spaces, and traditions that quietly shape our Sunday experience.

Churches in England and France had simple stained glass windows as early as the 7th century. By the 12th century the art of stained glass had reached its height in Europe, particularly within Gothic cathedrals. Light has deep spiritual significance in many religions; symbolizing divinity, purity, and enlightenment. In Christian theology, light is often associated with the presence of God. Stained glass was designed to filter sunlight into colored beams, creating an atmosphere of awe and reverence. The radiant glow was seen as a divine manifestation, transforming the church interior into a heavenly realm. These grand installations served not only to beautify sacred spaces but also to educate a largely illiterate population. Biblical stories, saints' lives, and religious allegories were vividly portrayed in glass, turning light into visual scripture.

No series of articles on the “echoes of sacredness” that surround us in our place of worship would be complete without addressing the stained glass windows that grace our sanctuary. The moment we walk into our place of worship, especially when the interior lights are low and the sun is shining outside, our attention and amazement are captured by the illuminated images and colors that fill the space. We feel the touch of heaven. So much can be said about the history, artistry, and symbolism of these windows. I'll start simply by focusing on the three main windows with images of Jesus in their center. If you had three spaces to show a scene from Jesus' life, ministry or teachings, which scenes would you choose?

1) On the west side of the sanctuary, the side of the setting sun (perhaps symbolizing that something is “setting” or “ending”) we see the stained glass image of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane shortly before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. The skies behind him are dark and ominous, yet a beam of light shines through the darkness to his face. You may recall that Jesus prayed, “Father, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” 2) In the south of the sanctuary over the balcony is a huge arched window set in five sections. With brilliant colors it shows the risen Christ on Easter Sunday, clothed in a white robe. His right hand is raised in a blessing of peace. The amber/brown colors on the horizon that silhouette the three crosses on a hill show that it's the dawn of a new day. Bowing before him is Mary, who doesn't recognize him at first – as John mentions in his Gospel – but suddenly realizes who he is after he calls her by name. She calls him “Rabboni,” which means Teacher. Behind him, kneeling in homage, is a winged angel.



Echoes of Sacredness, Cont.

Jesus is honored both in heaven and earth. 3) In the center of the window on the east side, the side of the rising sun (perhaps signifying that something is “dawning” or “emerging”) is the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The sky glows with a warm light. In his right arm he cradles a lamb and in his left hand he holds a shepherd’s crook. In chapter 10 of John’s Gospel Jesus talks about protecting his sheep. He says, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

What do you see in these three illuminated scenes that constantly and quietly envelop us in our worship? In Jesus’ Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane – before the coming storm of betrayal, trial, beating and crucifixion – I see FAITH, faith as solid as the rock he leans on as he prays... faith in God’s love, faith in God’s power, faith in God’s goodness, faith in the ultimate unfolding of God’s will. In the Easter window I see a Resurrection HOPE... a God-generated hope that Love is conquering hate, hope that Good is prevailing over evil, hope that Life is overcoming Death’s dominion. In the east window, as I gaze upon the good shepherd, I see LOVE... a heaven-born love that protects, that emboldens, that sacrifices, that endures. “Who can separate us from the love of Christ?” Paul wonders in Romans 8:35... “We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” I see captured in these brilliant, colorful windows the conclusion Paul reached as he wrote to the Corinthian Christians about spiritual gifts. “And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

Stewardship and Finance Mid-ish Year Update

As we look at our church’s finances this summer, there’s a lot to be grateful for! We are in a stable financial position, thanks to the generosity of our congregation and the careful stewardship of our resources.

Looking at the numbers to the right, you’ll see we’re a bit behind on our budget goal for the year, mostly because we’re still looking for tenants to fill the second and third floors of our Education Building. We also said farewell this year to some stalwart givers whose generosity significantly shaped our financial life.

At the same time, our expenses have been well below budget. Thanks to some amazing volunteers, we have been able to keep going without a church secretary or, as of June, Sunday School teachers. We are incredibly grateful for the people who have stepped up to fill those gaps, but that’s a short-term strategy.

Beyond the General Fund, we have a significant reserve in our checking account from the last few frugal years, a NEW ROOF (thank you, Church!), as well as funds coming from the sale of the corner lot/anticipated sale of the D St. house. The latter can only be used for capital projects, but there’s no shortage of those!

We’re in transition, but we’re doing fine. We are thankful to God and to this congregation for your faithfulness, service, and care!

July Financial Summary

2026 Budget: \$176,529

July Budget 14,710.75

July Income: 16,986.47

July Expenses: 10,213.94

YTD Budget: 102,975.25

YTD Income: 89,191.35

YTD Expenses: 77,951.75



Lakeshore Revival Weekend Schedule

Suttle Lake United Methodist Camp
29551 SW Suttle Lake Loop, Sisters, OR 97759



Saturday, September 5

2:00 – 4:00 PM Check-In
5:00 PM Welcome & Orientation
5:30 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Opening Worship
8:00 PM Evening Fellowship/Games

Baptismal Candidates

Two of Ebbert's own will join others from Wesley and First in the waters of baptism on September 6!

Sunday, September 6

7:00 AM Morning Devotional (optional)
8:00 AM Breakfast
9:45 AM Group Photo
10:00 AM Morning Worship & Baptismal Service
12:00 PM Lunch
1:00 – 5:00 PM Free Time
1:30 PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions: Block 1
3:30 PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions: Block 2
5:30 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Evening Worship
8:00 PM Campfire and Talent Show
10:00 PM Quiet hours begin



Workshops

Watercolor, hiking, a song circle, a history class, a justice group, and storytelling (or some free time to swim or rest!)



Talent Show

We'll end the day with a talent...or untalent...show around the campfire. Come share a song, a skill, a laugh!

Saturday, September 5

7:00 AM Morning Devotional (optional)
8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Final Gathering and Blessing
10:00 AM Clean-up, Last out by 2:00 pm