



November 2022

# Reimagining Bethel

Dear Bethel Family,

This has been a year of transitions, changing of traditions, and celebrating our deep relationships with each other and the world. We bid Pastor Laura farewell and embraced the loving care and wisdom of Pastor Andy. We moved out the back pew and moved in an art table for our kids to create and participate in the regular worship service. We have two pint-sized deacons who help their mom as a worship leader. We have filled all the OWL classes — “Our Whole Lives” Life Skills and Sexuality Education — and have waiting lists. Some of us explored Mt. St. Helens and camped in local forests. We have raised and donated fresh food for the local food bank. And, we’ve welcomed new families and individuals into our beloved community.

As we look to a new year, Bethel is committed to the evolution of our church community through “Reimagining Bethel.” In this we’ll be guided by Pastor Andy’s image of the well at our center.

*What feeds and nourishes us? What do we hope to share with each other and our greater community?*

*How do we support and sustain the best of what Bethel is and possibly release what doesn’t serve us as well anymore?*

We will explore this center together through conversation, dreaming, prayer and service in the months to come.

As we look to our future, the Giving Team is asking for your continued and, hopefully, increased support. Inflation has brought greater expenses while our endowment fund, which has helped fund our budget in the past, has lost its gains from recent years. Bethel has been fortunate to hire a pastor grounded in the Gorge community and excited and supportive of Bethel’s mission. We must make sure he is fairly compensated.

For many of us, the Bethel spirit is a rare gift. It is critical that each of us make a financial commitment to keep our small church strong. We are grateful for your prayerful consideration of making or increasing your financial pledge, being involved in Bethel activities, and working together to reimagine Bethel’s future.

With deep gratitude,

*The Bethel Giving Team — Rick Davis, Lisa Mullis, Katey Ellen Price, Pastor Andy Wade, and Barb Young (with help from Ali Moore and Kathy Williams)*

**P.S. To make your pledge, please use the enclosed giving card or use the Donate button on our website, [bethelwhitesalmon.org](http://bethelwhitesalmon.org)**

