

*Resurrecting Church  
Project at First  
Congregational  
UTC Salem, OR*

Prepared by Amy Tobey





## *Becoming a Resurrecting Church*

“As a resurrecting church, we commit to embracing hope, renewal, and transformation in our lives and community. Our annual theme, *Living Hope: Sacred Rhythms of Renewal*, invites us to deepen our faith, cultivate meaningful relationships, and embody the spirit of resurrection through the unique spiritual gifts – charisms – that shape our calling as a church.

“A charism is a spiritual gift or grace given by God to individuals and communities for the purpose of building up the church and transforming the world. Just as a sculptor reveals a masterpiece hidden within stone, the process of discernment helps us uncover the essence of our church’s identity – our collective calling- so that we may more fully live out God’s purpose. (continued on next slide)



# *The Plan*

“This year, we will explore sacred rhythms of renewal – cycles of spiritual growth, transformation, and abundance – through monthly themes that guide us in deepening our charism-driven mission. Each month’s focus invites us to recognize how the Spirit is moving among us, calling us to grow spiritually, serve boldly, and celebrate joyfully.”

- Rev. Robin Lunn, *2025 Annual Theme – Living Hope: Sacred Rhythms of Renewal*



# *Monthly Themes*

**February:** Love Beyond Boundaries

**March/Lent:** Turning Points

**April/Holy Week:** Journey to Resurrection

**May:** On Fire for Mission

**June:** LGBTQ+ Pride & Pentecost Celebration and Worship

**July:** Church Anniversary

**August:** Labrinth Under the Stars

**September:** Blessing of the Animals

**October:** All Ages Harvest Festival

**November:** Gratitude Tree Project

**December:** Advent/Solstice Spiral

# *The Plan: Focusing In*

## **Turning Points** (March 5<sup>th</sup> to April 20<sup>th</sup>)

- Secret Church Shopper Program
- Neighborhood Mapping Project
- Community's Perspective Project: How Can We Serve You?
- Congregational Self-Reflection Project (SOAR)
- Synthesize and Report Findings

## **On Fire For Mission** (April 27<sup>th</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup>)

- Mission Decision-Making Process
- Understanding Spatial Needs and Feasibility Study



**On Fire  
for Mission**

Igniting Passion  
for Transformation



## *Status Updates: Turning Points*

### Items Due by Easter

#### Visual Neighborhood Asset Map

- Not necessary to move to next phase

#### Secret Shopper Program

- Recommend move to measure phase after launch
- OR do not complete

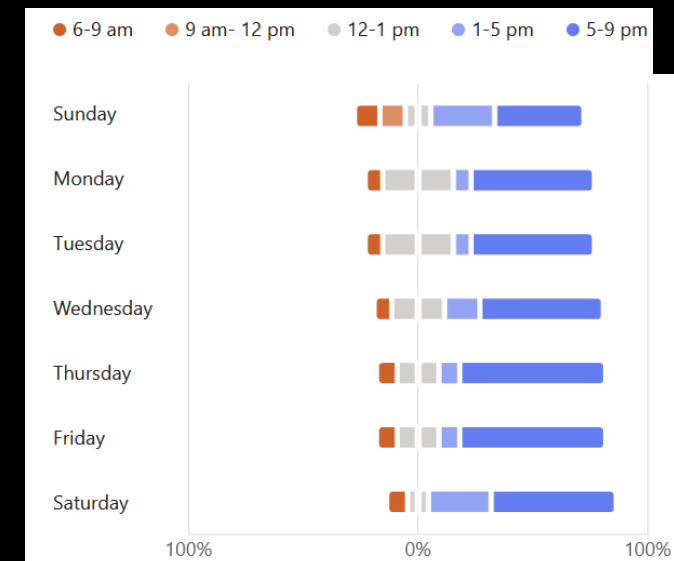
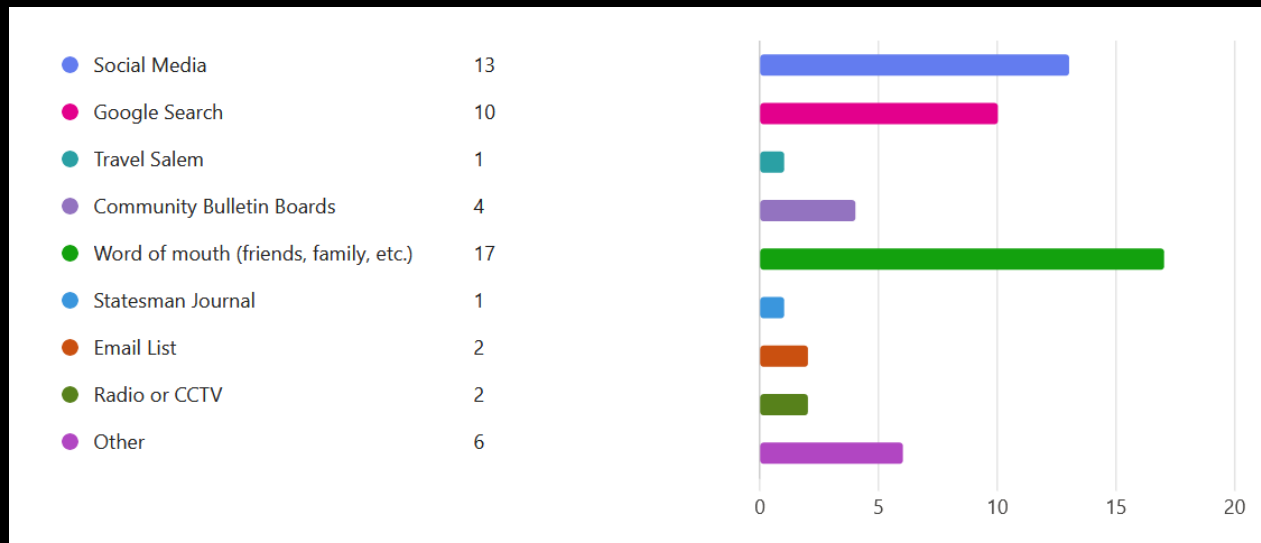
#### Survey Churches and Orgs

(from 5/5 Council Meeting)

- Valuable for collaboration efforts
- Move to area churches only

# Community Perspective Survey

4 respondents (14%) answered Social gathering for this question.



# SALEM COMMUNITY & UCC

## Strengths

Open and Affirming  
(20)- Everyone is  
welcome

Extravagant  
Welcome/  
Community (19)

Progressive  
Theology (8)

Political Action/  
Close to the Capitol  
(8)

Caring for  
Homeless/ Mission  
Focus  
(7)

## Opportunities

Social Gatherings  
(8)

Community  
Service- tutoring,  
yard work, help with  
meal prep,  
childcare (4)

Advocacy- HOPE  
Center woes and  
parking (2)

## Asspirations

Congregational care  
and togetherness/  
Getting to know each  
other better and being  
there for each other (8)

Unhoused  
Ministries (7)

Congregational  
Growth (6)

Involvement and  
leadership in social  
justice/ advocacy/  
democracy/ moral  
high ground (6)

Community/  
Neighborhood  
Engagement (6)

Facilities  
Stewardship-  
rented out and used  
by community and  
other organizations  
(6)

Multiple  
Viewpoints/ Diverse  
Backgrounds  
represented/ even  
Conservatives (6)

## Results (SO THAT)

Add text

Add text

Add text

# Congregational Self Reflection Project (SOAR Analysis)

# Sermon Series



**On Fire  
for Mission**

Igniting Passion  
for Transformation



Transmission  
Ministry Collective



MARION POLK  
**FOOD SHARE**



## *Sermon Series Clips*

