

CULTIVATING A WEB OF BELONGING, RITUAL AND RESISTANCE FOR THE SAKE OF LOVE



PASTOR'S NOTE

In 2021, the people who call Storydwelling "home" marked three years: three years of gathering in living rooms, in breweries, in coffee shops, in neighborhood parks. Three years of discernment and wonder about how we might practice a spirituality that continually comes back to relationship, trust and care for community. We are different people now than we were three years ago—the pandemic has wearied us; the work for racial justice has clarified our convictions; the welcoming of so many children among us has brought so much joy. We have uncovered that slow, steady kind of love that happens after the first rush of affection when relationship is new. We do not know what the future looks like, but three years have shown us what it is to stay in relationship, in community, and with one another and neighbors. And being with one another is more than enough. I wake up each morning excited to do life in this web of humans, and I end each day humbled and grateful.

Peace,
Pastor Erika

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

We gathered every single week this year—almost exclusively outside. Around fire pits, in Kiwanis Park, walking the trails at Shevlin, in backyards, at outside pubs— we marked each Sunday morning with story, song & intention. (As well as lots of paint, parachute play, coffee, bread & wine.) Creative gatherings are in our DNA as a community, and we discerned this year to remain outside to honor the safety of those in our community, especially our children and elders. We blessed Ian Carrick into a new chapter and welcomed Carol Joy Brendlinger as our new music leader.

Our Sunday-morning community ended the year with a series of stories told by a cohort of people who trained together in the art of Moth-style personal narrative storytelling. We remain rooted in story: ancient ones, new ones— all of them sacred.



PRACTICING PUBLIC RELATIONSHIP

If our collective vocation was action/reaction in 2020, particularly after the murder of George Floyd and the call to act alongside Black Lives, 2021 found us turning to the slow practice of relationship-building and reflection necessary in organizing work. Our Sacred Circle has faithfully gathered monthly to gain better understanding of local education and policing practices as well as deepen a commitment to relationship with the indigenous people of Central Oregon. We facilitated conversations with local houseless community advocates; BIPOC organizers; indigenous leaders; parent activists; and queer spiritual leaders. We are honored to be invited into public spaces alongside these tender and courageous leaders.

CONNECT

www.bendstorydwelling.org/gatherings

Facebook: Bend Storydwelling

680 NW Bond Bend, OR 97701 || 541-566-6064 || thatpastorerika@gmail.com

GIFT

WWW.BENDSTORYDWELLING.ORG/INVEST

CIRCLES OF STORY

If Storydwelling is a web of relationship bound by shared convictions, the circles of relationship that emerge seasonally are the magic ingredient. Our Shameless womxn's group gathered 21 beloveds in circles this year around our stories of body-love and liberating prayer; Ember Circle gathered in early 2021 to practice the detoxification of Christianity by engaging with liberation-theology texts; and Storydwelling leaders hosted playful spaces of connection for young families throughout the summer in neighborhood parks. We are all connected!



ACCOMPANYING FAMILIES

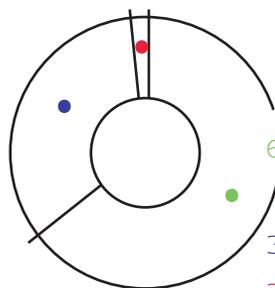
A shimmering thread of our accompaniment this year has been the opening of our first community childcare co-op through ReVillage. In partnership with First Presbyterian, we welcomed 15 families this year into relationship and care at this full-time, certified childcare center. This year was full of learning as we engaged multiple hiring processes, trained and coached parents as play-based classroom aides, accompanied families through the ups and downs of life in pandemic, and continued to discern the work that is ours to do as Central Oregonians address the childcare desert here. We ended the year with terrific news: as a part of the Central Oregon Childcare Coalition, ReVillage received \$350,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners to plant four more co-ops in the coming years. We are working alongside local providers, building relationships with more congregations and their buildings, and engaging in local and statewide work to advocate for a future in which all families have access to high-quality, loving care.



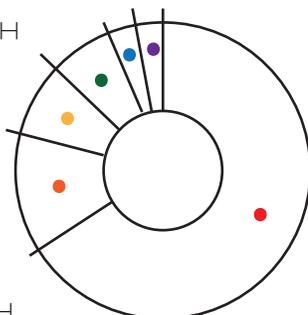
THE NUMBERS

50+ FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS CALL STORYDWELLING "HOME"-- THEIR SPIRITUAL HOME, MOVEMENT HOME OR COMMUNITY HOME

37 MONTHLY GIFTERS HELP SUSTAIN OUR WORK + **21** GENEROUS ONE-TIME GIFTS IN 2021



INCOME



EXPENSES

OUR PARTNERS

- EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA & THE OREGON SYNOD
- THE GREATER NORTHWEST AREA OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
- CASCADIA DISTRICT EXTENSION SOCIETY
- INTERFAITH MOVEMENT FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE
- REACH OUT CENTRAL OREGON
- BEND CHURCH UMC
- NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
- BEND FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- UNITY COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL OREGON
- TOGETHER LAB