



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

PORTLAND FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1838 SW JEFFERSON, PORTLAND, OR 97201

the **E** edition

February 22, 2006
Volume 10, Issue 04

A Guide to Our Church Community

**PORTLAND'S
FIRST
CHURCH**

Established 1848

Address

1838 SW Jefferson
Portland, OR 97201

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503/228-3195

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503/273-8711

E-Mail

office@fumcpdx.org

Website

www.fumcpdx.org

Sunday Worship

10:30 AM



As a Reconciling Congregation, members of First United Methodist Church have pledged to welcome and support all who want to worship with us, regardless of race, gender, class or sexual orientation.



God calls those of us at First United Methodist Church to be a caring and reconciling congregation.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we respond by sharing the good news of the Gospel through worship, music, study and prayer, by nurturing and loving one another, and by reaching out to our community and world.

We seek, welcome and accept all persons, and we commit ourselves to one another and to God.

**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT
www.
fumcpdx.
org**

SPRING 2006

MARCH - JUNE

*"...other seed fell on good soil,
where it produced a crop
—a hundred, sixty or thirty times
what was sown.*

He who has ears, let him hear." ..."
Matthew 13:8-2

Jesus loved telling stories to get his point across. One story he tells is of what my childhood Bible called "The Happy Farmer." (Now as an adult looking at the story it might be called "The Crazy Farmer!") In this parable of Jesus a farmer goes crazy sowing seed. He throws the seed with wild abandon. Some of the seed falls on hard ground and is eaten by birds ... some falls on rocky ground and has a good start but a poor finish ... and some of the seed falls on good ground and does very well.

This spring will be an excellent opportunity to test the quality of your "heart-soil" and a good time to grow in the faith.

GOOD GROUND FOR LEARNING ...

Inside this program guide you will find some great opportunities to grow in learning about your faith.

GOOD GROUND FOR FELLOWSHIP

Discover ways of connecting with people through fellowship and community.

GOOD GROUND FOR SERVICE

Allow the seeds of the Gospel to grow and show their fruits in service to others!

THE COMMONS IN COLLINS

Each Sunday after worship, the Commons in Collins is a great place to see what is happening at First Church. Come sign up for an activity, get information on a current issue, check out a book...or to just have coffee with a friend. Following Sunday morning worship, follow the signs and join us in the Commons.



THE POWER OF HOLY HABITS

Meet others who are interested in becoming more involved in First United Methodist Church. In this three-part series learn more about the disciplines of the Christian life and how to create habits that are a part of the journey of faithful discipleship. These sessions will be offered twice:

- (1) Tuesdays, February 28, March 7 and March 14
- (2) Tuesdays, May 16, 23 and 30

7:00 PM in the Parlor

For more information or to register to be a part of one of the sessions, contact the church office at 503/228-3195.

ESPECIALLY FOR NEWCOMERS

If you would like to officially join First United Methodist Church, then this two-hour session and simple meal is for you. Learn about First UMC, what it means to become a member of this congregation, and meet others who are interested in joining. These introductory sessions will be offered: March 19, May 7, or June 25, 2006 from noon to 2:00 PM in the Parlor. For more information or to register to be a part of one of the sessions, contact the church office at 503/228-3195. Child care is available.

FOR FIRST CHURCH SINGLES

When: Saturday, March 11
4:00 to 6:00 PM

Where: First Church, Room 202
Calling all First Church Singles. We'll have a gathering of all interested singles in the church ... come share food, refreshments, conversation, and fun! Whether you are 28 or 58 come to this event to help us share ideas and explore the future of a single's ministry at First Church. Here's a chance to meet others who are single. RSVP through the church office: 503/228-3195 -
Questions: Call Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 or by email at lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org.

ON-GOING SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

"Changing Christianity" is a deliberately ambiguous title for this class in which we study how Christianity has changed, is changing, will change, and how we can be involved in that change. While the class is open to anyone who enjoys reading, study, and in-depth discussions along these lines, most members would be considered "progressive Christians" or "Church alumni" (Bishop John Spong's term). Over several years we have studied books by Marcus Borg, John Spong, Karen Armstrong, Richard Geering, Jim Wallis, Robert Funk, and Richard Rohrbaugh, among others. Discussion leading is shared by class volunteers and books are usually chosen via consensus. Currently we are considering books by Borg, Ehrman, Funk, Parker, Nelson-Palmeyer, Wink, and Loehr.

When & Where: Sundays from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 202

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

The Fellowship of Seekers is an on-going adult class that seeks spiritual growth through study and discussion of writings by current and historic religious thinkers. Currently, the class is studying the book *How to Be an Open-minded Christian without Losing Your Faith*, by Jan Linn. Lively discussions are led by different class members each week, which follows a time of fellowship. Everyone is invited to attend at any time; newcomers quickly fit into the conversation! For more information contact Edie Jensen.

When & Where: Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15AM in Room 134

First Church STAFF

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LENTEN SERIES

Lent is a season of repentance and a time to prepare for the celebration of Easter. It is a time of self-reflection and renewal. Join us for First Church's annual Lenten Suppers and programs. This year's theme is: *Ministries of Compassion and Service*. Come each week for a special meal, beginning at 5:30 PM, and then enjoy a variety of programs, as each week we explore the meaning of compassion and service in our time. Supper will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Program 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Child care will be provided.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Ash Wednesday Service in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Hunger in Oregon: What Can Be Done?

Our guest speaker will be Sharon Thornberry, Community Food Programs Advocate at the Oregon Food Bank.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

A Conversation: What Compassion and Service Means to Me

Come hear adults and youth of First Church share in a conversation as to what compassion and service means to them.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

A Kenyan Challenge

Diane and Ron Ray are UMC missionaries who worked in Kenya for 11 years. They will describe HIV-AIDS ministry there, as well as the challenges of teaching in a Kenyan seminary.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Volunteers in Mission: Gulfport, Mississippi

Come hear the exciting report of our own Volunteer In Mission team upon their return from Gulfport, Mississippi. This team, led by Dee Poujade, will share their experiences of ministry with our partner church there.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Our Heritage of Service

Watch your next *Circuit Rider* for details.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 PM

In this service we will share in the communion of the Last Supper. This service will feature the music ministry of our Chancel Choir. (Sanctuary)

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM

Come to this special dramatic service reflecting on the death of Christ. (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Easter Services at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Come celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection.

SOUP'S ON

At 5:30 pm each Wednesday night during the Lenten Series, come to Collins Hall for a Soup Supper Buffet. Michael Copeland will prepare a delicious meal for us to share. The fellowship around tables is always "warming" too! There is a suggested \$5.00 donation for the meal.





CHILDREN NURSERY CARE

Nursery care is provided from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM each Sunday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Following the Children's Time in worship on Sunday mornings, Sunday School classes for children ages two through fifth grade are available. Ages two through third grade use the *Exploring the Faith* curriculum and a combined fourth and fifth grade class use a short-term *Live It!* program that builds skills in Christian living.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Lenten Service Projects
March 1 to April 16
- Palm Sunday Craft Fair
April 9
- Easter Egg Hunt / April 16
after the 9:00 & 11:00 AM services.
(This event is for 2s through
first grade only.)
- Children's Musical / April 23

YOUTH

SIXTH - EIGHTH GRADES

The Sixth - Eighth grade class meets at 9:30 AM each Sunday in Room 130.

9th-12th GRADES

Class meets at 9:30 AM each Sunday morning in the Youth Room.

SUNDAY EVENINGS FOR YOUTH

Youth Group meets Sunday evenings, Middle School (grades 6 to 8) from 5:30 to 6:30 PM, and high school from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Dinner is provided for both from 6:30 to 7:00 PM.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Youth Sunday, May 21 at 10:30 AM

YOUTH ON THE WEB

Check out the First Church Youth Page at: www.fumcpdx.org/youth

ADDITIONAL ADULT CLASS OFFERINGS

EDUCATION, EVOLUTION, AND INTELLIGENT DESIGN: HOW BIOLOGISTS ADDRESS INTELLIGENT DESIGN THEORY

When: Sunday, March 12 from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Where: Fireside Room

Dr. Myles Jackson, Professor of Science at Willamette University, will discuss the current issues surrounding the national debate about evolution/intelligent design theory. Dr. Jackson is the Director of Science Studies and Chair of Humanities at Willamette. He will focus on the biological approach, discuss the background of the IDT/evolution debate, with time for questions.

STREAMS OF LIVING WATER:

CELEBRATING THE GREAT TRADITIONS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

When: Sundays, March 19 and then April 9 through June 11, 2006
From 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Where: Fireside Room

Using Richard Foster's award winning book *Streams of Living Water*, this class will look at six dimensions of faith and practice that define the Christian tradition. Each historical movement emphasizes a different aspect of life and faith. They include the contemplative, holiness, charismatic, social justice, and incarnational dimensions of our faith. This study will examine these movements through the stories and living examples of faithful people whose lives defined each of these "streams." Rev. Lowell Greathouse will lead the discussions.

2006 UNITED METHODIST SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

When: Sunday, March 19 - From 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Where: The Parlor (Room 110)

Come for this special information for parents, youth, children related to United Methodist Camps. Information will include: registration materials, scholarship process, opportunities for people interested in serving as counselors, attending camps as a family and more. A representative and display from the Camp Office will be on hand. Don't wait, make your summer camping plans today!

FOR THE PEACE OF THE WORLD

When: Sundays, April 23 through June 4 - From 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Where: Room 204

What does the Gospel of Jesus teach us about individual and collective peacemaking in today's world? This six-week study: *For the Peace of the World*, a Christian Curriculum on International Relations, where together we will examine scripture and reflectively think about how United Methodists might respond to the injustices of poverty and the suffering that economic globalization generates, look at our own involvement in world affairs through the lens of our faith, and prayerfully reflect on the ways that our faith informs our need to prevent war with peace. We will explore biblical foundations and principles that can be a source of hope and well being in the world. The class will be facilitated by Annie Heart, First UMC Director of Outreach. Annie holds a Masters in Peace with Justice Studies from Iliff School of Theology.

DEVOTIONAL LIFE IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION

When: Wednesdays, March 8 - May 3, 2006 at 9:00 AM

Where: The Library

This seven-week class is structured around John Wesley's "means of grace" and covers prayer, scripture, the Lord's Supper, and fasting, among other topics. Learn from Wesley's teachings and writings concerning God's grace and the life in Christ. We will be using a workbook entitled *Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition* by Steve Harper. Rev. Lowell Greathouse will facilitate these sessions.

FORUMS AT FIRST



April 23, 2006

FAMILY OF FRIENDS: FAMILIES MENTORING CHILDREN

When: Sunday, April 23 from Noon to 1:30 PM

Where: Fireside Room

A large number of children in the United States are living in situations that destroy their chances of growing into healthy, productive human beings. "Mentoring in America," research sponsored by the AOL Time Warner Foundation, found that there are 17.6 million young people who need or want mentors. Families like yours can make a difference in the life of a child who is growing up in poverty and community violence. Family of Friends is a program that matches volunteer families with six-to-nine-year-old children in need. The families serve as "mentors," or "guides" encouraging the child's positive growth and development. This forum will introduce you to this wonderful, life changing program. Kersti Pettit-Kekel, First Church Coordinator for Family of Friends, and Kris Linden, Executive Director of the program, will be on hand to discuss this important program and answer your questions. The definition of family is all-inclusive. Come and learn more!

April 30, 2006,

Global Warming: A Scientific and Political Update

When: Sunday, April 30 from Noon to 1:30 PM

Where: Fireside Room

There has been a recent shift from debating if global warming is happening to debating strategies to combat it. How can we make immediate, dramatic and steady changes reducing global warming pollution so as to prevent a runaway climate catastrophe? Our guest speaker will update us on this crucial discussion about the future of our planet. He is Dr. Eban Goodstein, professor of Economics at Lewis and Clark College. He has written and spoken extensively on this issue and is the volunteer coordinator of a national mobilization against global warming. Their national volunteer Speakers Network includes over 250 citizens in more than 33 states available to speak at no charge about global warming pollution, climate change policy and the path to a clean energy future.

REACHING OUT

Outreach Ministry at First Church involves our faithful response to local and global issues. It is reflected in a variety of ways: covenant relationships with missionaries around the world; education and advocacy related to matters of justice based on Jesus' model of compassion; and efforts to create a society in which all of God's children can live in peace. Volunteers play a key role at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, which is housed at First Church. You can explore ways to volunteer by visiting The Goose Hollow webpage at www.fumcpdx.org. We are also responding to rebuilding efforts following hurricanes Katrina and Rita. First Church has created a partnership with Handsboro United Methodist Church in Gulfport, Mississippi. A Volunteers in Mission trip from our church is going there in March.

May 21, 2006

BRAZIL 2006: THROUGH THE EYES OF FIRST CHURCH PRIMETIMERS

Come hear about the Methodist Church in Brazil as seen through the eyes of members of First Church, who will be traveling there in April and May 2006. This group will be participating in a program coordinated by Gordon and Teca Greathouse, UMC missionaries. First Church has a longstanding Covenant Relationship with Gordon and Teca. Special focus will be on Brazilian children and the "Shade and Fresh Water" Network, which provides children with an alternative to the street.

When: Sunday, May 21

12:00 to 1:30 PM

Where: Fireside Room

THE MIDDLE EAST- PART TWO: THROUGH THE EYES OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

The date, time, and place of this forum are yet to be determined. Watch future issues of the *Circuit Rider* for details.

LOCAL ADVENTURES

HELLO DOLLY AT THE LAKEWOOD THEATER

April 28, 2006

Dolly Gallagher Levi, a New York match-maker has been enlisted to find a mate for Horace Vandergelder, a merchant from Yonkers, New York. Along the way, Dolly decides to match him up with none other than herself! Winner of 10 Tony Awards, Hello Dolly is the quintessential American musical featuring well-known numbers like: *Put On Your Sunday Clothes, It Takes a Woman, Before the Parade Passes By*, and the title song, *Hello, Dolly!*

Join us at the Lakewood Theatre in Lake Oswego for opening night. The performance begins at 8:00 PM. Cost is \$25 per person. A deposit of \$15 is due by March 15, with full payment due April 1. Carpooling available with advance notice. To register call the church office at 503/228-3195 or dmorse@fumcpdx.org.

TOUR OF THE OREGON FOOD BANK AND LUNCH AT McMENAMIN'S KENNEDY SCHOOL

June 28, 2006

Learn what the Oregon Food Bank is doing to combat hunger in Oregon. Then gather with friends at the Kennedy School for lunch and a discussion about how we can make a difference in our community. A donation of \$5 for the Oregon Food Bank is recommended. Meet at the church at 10:00 AM to carpool. Lunch is not included. To register call the church office at 503/228-3195 or dmorse@fumcpdx.org.



NEW FITNESS: A WEEKLY EXERCISE CLASS

An exercise for seniors that meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM in Collins Hall. There is a \$3 donation per session. Instructor: Valerie Branch. Everyone is welcome! Just come any Tuesday or Thursday morning.

55-ALIVE

When: Wednesday and Thursday,
March 15 and 16, 2006

OR

Wednesday and Thursday,
May 31 and June 1, 2006

Where: Fireside Room
55-Alive is a unique program for older drivers. This popular course is offered three times a year at First UMC. Each day the class runs from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Irene Reid, from AARP, teaches this refresher course for drivers 50 years of age and over. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$10. Make checks payable to: AARP. Register soon since class size is limited to 30 students, and there have been waiting lists in the past. To register call the church office at 503/228-3195 or dmorse@fumcpdx.org.

ELECTIVES *for* ELDERS

THE QUESTION OF GOD: SIGMUND FREUD AND C.S. LEWIS

When: Tuesdays,
April 18, 25 and
May 2, 9, 16th
10:15 AM to Noon

Where: Fireside Room

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs and Dr. Leif Terdal co-teach this class on the fascinating early life experiences of these two important thinkers from the 20th century: Sigmund Freud and C. S. Lewis. They will explore the sources of deep family tragedy shared by each. These sessions will also review important contemporary influences that shaped their worldviews. A main goal of these class sessions will be to encourage each participant to consider their own worldview and how life experiences have helped shape our own views of God, spirituality, and the convergence or dissonance between spirituality and science.

To register call the church office at 503/228-3195 or dmorse@fumcpdx.org.



MUSIC AT FIRST CHURCH

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

The Chancel Choir, directed by Gary St. John

All are welcome to sing in this volunteer choir, which sings for Sunday morning worship services. It rehearses on Thursday evenings in the Chapel from 7:30 - 9:30 PM.

The Sanctuary Bell Choir, directed by Nancy Hascall

This bell choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in Room 130 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Experience ringing hand bells is necessary for this to be an enjoyable experience. This group will play for worship on: March 26, April 30, April 9, June 18

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

The Cherub Choir, directed by Janice Hauser

This choir is for children from ages 3 through second grade. It meets each Sunday morning in Room 201 from 9:30 - 10:15 AM

They are singing on: March 19, May 7, April 2, June 11

The Sound Seekers Choir, directed by Ronnee Edwards

This choir is for children in grades 3 - 5. It rehearses on Sunday mornings in Room 136 from 9:30 - 10:15 AM.

They are singing on: March 12, June 4, April 23 (Musical)

The Veritas Choir, directed by Carol Young

This choir is for grade 6 through Senior High. They rehearse each Sunday morning in Room 133 from 9:00 - 9:30 AM

They are singing on: March 5, May 21 (Youth Sunday), April 16, June 4

The Genesis Ringers, directed by Karin McDonough,

This choir is for beginning bell players. They rehearse each Wednesday evening in Room 130 at 6:30 PM.

They will play on: May 14

juBELLation, directed by Karin McDonough

This is the premiere youth handbell choir. They rehearse each Wednesday evening in Room 130 at 7:30 PM.

They will play on: March 12, June 11, May 14

First UMC Chamber Orchestra, directed by Angelo Honjas

This instrumental group is for youth of all ages that play an instrument. They rehearse each Wednesday evening in Room 133 at 6:30 PM

They will play on: March 19 and May 7

SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENTS

Watch for upcoming events including special music:

April 16, 2006 - Easter ... June 11, 2006 ... June 18, 2006

About Music at First Church

The music program at Portland's First United Methodist Church provides musical excellence in all areas of church music.

Our music extends the ministry of this church to the greater Portland community.

Jonas Nordwall,

Artistic Director of Music
& Organist
jnordwall@fumcpdx.org

Kelly Qualls,

Executive Director of Music -
kqualls@fumcpdx.org

For more information about participating in the music program at First Church, contact Kelly Qualls at 503/228-3195. You may also look at the Music Ministry area on our website at www.fumcpdx.org



BREAKING BREAD GROUPS

First Church has a number of dinner groups that meet in people's homes and go out for dinner. If you'd like to be a part of a Breaking Bread group, call the church office at 503/228-3195.

LOOKING AHEAD

SUMMER 2006

- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**
June 15 & 16
- **GAY PRIDE PARADE**
- **NORDWALL & NORDWALL:
A FATHER AND SON CONCERT**
June 18
- **LOCAL TRAVEL: VISIT
TRANSITION PROJECTS JEAN'S PLACE**
July 11
- **LOCAL TRAVEL: VISIT MERCY CORPS**
July 25
- **BASEBALL / FAITH NIGHT AT PGE PARK**
August 23

United Methodist Women

The UMW Unit Gatherings are held the first Wednesdays of each month. All are invited. Co-presidents:
Trudy Kayser, 503/292-7528 and Mary Covert, 503/652-6480

GENERAL MEETING FOR MARCH

Wednesday, March 01, at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room.
The program (11:00 AM), *The Legacy of Gertrude Boyd Crane* with Rev. Tom Whitehead. Lunch will be at noon. Bring a sandwich.
Dessert & beverage provided.
Contact: Colleen Foster, 503-641-3479.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United World Day of Prayer will be Friday March 3, at St. Luke's Lutheran, 6835 SW 46th Avenue, Portland
Registration: 9:30 AM The program: *Signs of the Times* was written by the women of South Africa.
Contact: Betty-Lou Hare, 503-292-1773

Publication Deadlines

Articles for *The Circuit Rider* are due no later than 4:45pm on the Thursday before publication the following Wednesday. The next *Circuit Rider* will be published on **March 8, 2006.**

Bulletin insert information is due no later than 4:45pm on **Wednesday.**

Sunday service participant information for the Sunday bulletin is due no later than noon on **Wednesday.**

E-mail: office@fumcpdx.org or place in the *Circuit Rider* box in the office.