



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **F** *edition*

April 5, 2006
Volume 10, Issue 07

THIS SUNDAY

APRIL 9, 2006

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Children's Time

Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse



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.



SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Palm Sunday Service at 10:30 AM

We celebrate the Triumphal Entry of Christ into our lives. Also in this service we will be welcoming new members into the life of our church.

Children & The Palm Sunday Processional

On Sunday, April 9, all children are asked to meet in their classrooms by 10:15 AM to participate in the Palm Sunday Processional. Purple shirts will be provided to wear in the processional. We will enter the sanctuary following the Chancel Choir, under a palm canopy. Once at the front of the sanctuary, we will listen to the Children's Story and receive palm crosses to keep for the year. We will also hand these out to the congregation before returning to our Sunday School classes.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 PM

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Ecumenical Good Friday Service

First United Church of Christ, Congregational, 1126 SW Park, Portland, at noon

Evening Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Easter Services at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Come celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Please note that Children's Sunday School is provided during each service for 2s through first grade only.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

After each service (9:00 and 11:00 AM) there will be an Easter Egg Hunt in Beckham Court near the sanctuary for children age 2 through first grade.





memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

Artist: Unknown
Style: Minimalist
Medium: #2 graphite pencil on offering envelope
Acquired: Sunday, April 2, 2006
Message: Profound!



Those who receive God's love are called to share it with others. One important way we do that is through our Special Easter Offering.

I do not know the name of the young artist/theologian who submitted her work in Sunday's offering plate, but it is a concise summary of the message of Holy Week—the most sacred week on our Christian calendar.

That week we remember the greatest love story ever told. It is the passion of a God whose love for creation endures even denial. It is the tale of a divine love that is so steadfast and deep that even the injustice and hatred of Jesus' trial and crucifixion could not stop it. But finally, it is the victory of a love that even death could not stop—a love that lives forever. It is the epic of God's love for us—and our love for God.

Please ponder that love!

We'll begin our remembrance next **Sunday, April 9** during our **10:30 AM Palm Sunday Worship Service**. Our children will lead us in re-creating Christ's entry into Jerusalem amid cheering crowds waving palm branches. Then we'll hear the story of that week told dramatically in word and scripture.

Then on **Maundy Thursday** evening, **April 13 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary** we will remember the Last Supper as we share the Sacrament of Communion in our Sanctuary. Music will be provided by our Chancel Choir.

At **noon on Good Friday, April 14** we will be gathering with other downtown congregations for an **Ecumenical Good Friday Service** at First United Church of Christ, Congregational, 1126 SW Park. A number of clergy will lead the worship. Dr. Rodney Paige, retired Executive Director of Church World Service and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon will preach.

Good Friday Evening, April 14 at 7:00 PM we will gather to remember the crucifixion and death of our Lord by the powerful Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness **in our chapel**.

Please celebrate that love!

We will join in two great **Celebrations of the Resurrection** on **Easter Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary**. Our Chancel Choir along with the Festival Brass will lift our hearts in song as we rejoice in music and word!

Please share with us!

Those who receive God's love are called to share it with others. One important way we do that is through our Special Easter Offering. Your gifts—along with your offering of time and talent—will continue our ministries of compassion and care not only in Portland but in mission efforts around the world. A special envelope is enclosed for your second-mile expression of compassion and love.

"I love God—God loves me" Please join us as we discover that profound truth for ourselves.

See you in Church!

Arvin

adults at first

sunday classes

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134

This class is discussing the book: *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Towards an Undivided Life*, by Parker Palmer. Everyone is welcome!

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Sunday mornings 9:00 -10:15 AM in Room 202.

This class is studying *Religion and Public Life in the Northwest: The None Zone*. Copies will be available for purchase.

SHORT-TERM CLASSES

STREAMS OF LIVING WATER:

CELEBRATING THE GREAT TRADITIONS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

Sundays, April 9 through June 11, 2006

from 9:15 to 10:15 AM / 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.

FOR THE PEACE OF THE WORLD

When: Sundays, April 23 through June 4

From 9:15 to 10:15 AM in Room 204

What does the Gospel of Jesus teach us about individual and collective peace-making in today's world? This six-week study: *For the Peace of the World*, is a Christian Curriculum on International Relations and will be taught by our Director of Outreach, Annie Heart.

single adults

potluck & game night



FIRST CHURCH SINGLES

There will be a First Church Singles Potluck and Game Night on Saturday, April 22, 2006, from 4:30-7:00 PM in Room 202.

Single adults of all ages are welcome to attend, as well as offer input on future activities for this new First Church fellowship group. The evening will include a social time, followed by dinner (please bring a dish to share), and board games (bring your favorites!). Anyone who has ideas for group activities, as well as anyone who would like to help facilitate future group events is encouraged to contact Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 x224 or e-mail him at lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org.

umw

united methodist women

The UMW Unit Gatherings are held the first Wednesdays of each month. All women are invited. Co-presidents:

Trudy Kayser, 503/292-7528,

Mary Covert, 503/652-6480.

QUILT EXHIBIT AND LUNCHEON

Friday, April 28, Collins Hall

11:30 Quilt Viewing

12:00 Luncheon

Program: Quilting club, Cover to Cover, will artistically show the story of an African woman who opens a detective agency. Her ways of sleuthing the truth are hysterical. Cost: \$15.00 includes a \$10 donation to UMW mission projects.

BY RESERVATION ONLY before April 21.

For tickets, contact Ruth E. Green at 503-698-8420 or ruthegreen@juno.com

FAITH GUILD

The Faith Guild will meet Wednesday, April 19 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor.

Program: Sue Fisher & William Douglas will review the book, *Gilead*, by Marilynne Robinson, a Pulitzer Prize winner. Contact: Marilyn Weber, Devotions: Eleanor Stubbs
Hostess: Hazel Wells

RUTH GUILD

The Ruth Guild will meet Wednesday, April 19, at noon in Room 204. Program: *For the Birds* by Ruth E. Green, a rare bird show winner. Bring a sandwich. Dessert & beverage provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare

READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, April 20 from 10:00 – 11:30 AM in the Library. The featured book will be: *In the Company of Cheerful Ladies* by Alexander McCall Smith. Discussion led by Trudy Kayser. Smith wrote *No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*, which will be the theme of our next Quilt Luncheon on April 28.

METRO DISTRICT

A Spiritual Growth Retreat will be available April 21 or April 22, one day retreat at Alton L. Collins Retreat Center, Eagle Creek, Oregon Conference president, Carole Sullivan, will facilitate. Contact: Crystal Oliver at 503/598-7863.

forums@first

addressing important issues

GLOBAL WARMING: A SCIENTIFIC AND POLITICAL UPDATE

Sunday, April 30, 2006 in the Fireside Room from noon to 1:30 PM.

Light snacks and refreshments will be available. Child care available.

The Planet Church Committee of Portland's First United Methodist Church is pleased to present Dr. Eban Goodstein, professor of Economics at Lewis and Clark College. His talk, *Global Warming: A Scientific and Political Update*, will address what many have described as the most serious problem facing us today. Dr. Goodstein is the author of numerous books on the environment, including the 2004 textbook, *Economics and the Environment*. He has also written for *Scientific American*, *The New York Times* and *The Economist*, and has spoken extensively on the subject of global warming.

For more information, contact Annie Heart at aheart@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195 ext 215.

FAMILY OF FRIENDS: FAMILIES MENTORING CHILDREN

When: Sunday, April 23
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!

our giving

one great hour of sharing

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING REPORT

Our recent One Great Hour of Sharing offering will help the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to change lives by bringing hope and aid when a catastrophe strikes. The total given to date for One Great Hour is \$1701.64. All money donated through One Great Hour of Sharing goes directly into recovery and relief efforts. In the United States UMCOR extends a humanitarian hand to re-build homes damaged by hurricane Katrina, continues to provide assistance to fishing villages in Sri Lanka after the 2004 Tsunami, and also provides seeds and tools to help families living in South Darfur's displaced persons camp. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering assures humanitarian service for however long it takes disaster survivors to regain a steady hold on life. It's remarkable what our gifts can do!

For more information on the work of UMCOR in response to disasters around the world visit their website at:

www.gbpm-umc.org/umcor/

our shelter

goose hollow family shelter



THANK YOU

You're the best
thanks!

You Are Invited to Our Annual Appreciation Night

Tuesday, April 18, 2006

First United Methodist Church, Collins Hall

Doors will open at 5:30 pm

Dinner and the evening's program will begin at 6:15 PM.

Come and enjoy an evening with fellow supporters of The Goose Hollow Family Shelter. This is our way of thanking all of you for your many generous gifts of time, money, and goods to the Shelter.

This event is hosted by the Goose Hollow Family Shelter Council. Events include a light dinner and dessert buffet, a Silent Auction, music, a talk on Portland's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, and Volunteer and Sponsor Awards.

Please RSVP to Annie Heart at aheart@fumcpdx.org or call: 503/228-3195 ext. 215.

PALM SUNDAY

Craft Fair & BOOK SALE

APRIL 9, 2006

On Palm Sunday, April 9, children of all ages and their families are invited to come to Collins Hall following worship for a Craft Fair. There will be craft activities for children of all ages.

The First Church Library Book Sale will be a part of the Craft Fair. The sale will be open in Collins Hall before and after church. The books aren't priced; instead we are asking for donations. All proceeds go to support the purchase of new books for the Church Library.

The First Church Youth will be providing a Sandwich Buffet. Donations will be accepted for the craft activities and the sandwiches.



our environment recycling

RECYCLING REVAMPED AT FIRST CHURCH

Planet Church, with the help of Portland's Office of Sustainable Development, is taking a fresh approach to recycling at First Church...maybe you've noticed it. The blue recycling wastebaskets which have been a fixture for years are in the process of being replaced by cardboard recycling containers-small, for offices and classrooms; and large for the bigger common rooms. What goes into the containers is changing too. Now, everything recyclable can go into one bin...except glass. Glass can be recycled in the appropriate large blue containers in the hallway by the 202 kitchen, or in the large Collins Hall kitchen. So what can go into the combined containers? Papers of all sorts; cardboard; plastic bottles and cans (aluminum and "tin"). Please DON'T put frozen food packaging or material containing food or drink waste (including coffee cups) into the recycling. Our hope is that this will make recycling simpler and more convenient than ever. But there's more to it than that. The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church remind us to "recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social, and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God's creation."

Please join us in the discipline of recycling at church...one of many ways we can make a difference in caring for God's Earth, our home.

music at first church



NEW J.G. NORDWALL ORGAN EDUCATION FUND RECIPIENT CHOSEN

In 2001, as a part of the 150th anniversary of Portland's First United Methodist Church, an endowment fund was created and named to honor the artistry and years of dedication to the church given by Jonas Nordwall, our organist for over 30 years. He has enhanced the overall worship experience of persons who have attended this church over that time frame. The interest from that endowment is to be used by a person desiring to further their interests and enhancing their ability to become a church organist by providing personalized education from Nordwall. For the past two years Elizabeth Wright has taken lessons from Nordwall, and is presently employed as the organist/choir director of Piedmont Presbyterian Church.

We are very pleased to announce that a grant has been offered to and accepted by Joy Novak as the second person to have the use of the scholarship for the next two years. Novak is a graduate of Oregon State University with a B.S. in Business Administration and a Minor in Music. She has her own piano teaching studio and is a member of the Oregon Music Teachers Association. She has played classical piano for 22 years and is currently the accompanist for worship services at the Hillsboro United Methodist Church. She says in part, "As a member of the church's music team, my personal goal is to help maintain and attract interest in our wonderful church in the only way I know how - through a quality music program. I feel that the music played during worship services plays a major role in inspiring faith in our current members as well as attracting new members. By becoming accomplished at the organ, I hope to accompany our congregation in singing the powerful and magnificent hymns - and inspire faith in God." The fund will also allow Novak to become a member of the Portland Chapter of the American Guild of Organist's. Our congratulations and good wishes go to Novak as she pursues the challenges of the next two years.

around the parish

prayers and concerns

this & that

items of note

WE PRAY FOR ...

Karen Bennett, daughter of Janet Bennett, who is home recovering from a successful surgery;

Eric Robertson and his family following the death of Eric's father;

Joan Hill, recovering from a broken elbow.

WE REJOICE IN THE BAPTISMS OF ...

Anouk Sabine Cha Clendenning,

daughter of Eun-Jung and Scott Clendenning

Thomas William MacFerrin, son of Traci and Michael MacFerrin

Odin Thede, son of Jill Graden and Raymond Thede

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Johnson Doe, *Jane Baker*, *Jim Whitcomb*, *Al Leonard*, *Agnes & Dick Clark*, *Tom Iverson* and *Bob & Virginia Anderson*

A BELATED NOTE OF SYMPATHY

A letter was received by me, from Joanne Ruyle, shortly after the death of her mother, Clara Brown, in Michigan in February. She was expressing her appreciation for our prayers at the time of her grief.

Regretfully I neglected to get the notice of the death or Joanne's appreciation in the *Circuit Rider* at that time.

- *Tom W. Foster*, Minister of Pastoral Care.

PASSPORT TO PEACE

There will be an interfaith peace service on Sunday, April 23 at 4:00 PM at the St. Andrew Catholic Church, 806 NE Alberta Street, Portland. This is the fourth of five monthly services to pray for peace.

SEMINARY GRADUATION

Chuck Currie, formerly our Director of Community Outreach, will be receiving a Masters of Divinity degree during graduation ceremonies at Eden Theological Seminary on May 12, 2006. Cards can be sent to him at his new Portland home, 2524 NE 35th, Portland, OR 97212.

ART EXHIBIT IN COLLINS

Be sure to take in the April show on the north wall in Collins Hall "Creative Spirit Gallery," this month. Featuring "Liturgical Art," it focuses on works that enhance or reflect religious experience.

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 **April 19, 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.