



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** edition

Hunger Awareness Sunday

Sunday, November 19, 2006

November 15, 2006
Volume 10, Issue 21

THIS SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 19, 2006

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

PREACHING

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs

A CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

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.

We are THE LEADERS WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR.

- Rev. Dr. Bob Edgar, keynote speaker at last week's Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger's annual Harvest of Hope Awards breakfast.

Dr. Edgar's words seem appropriate as I digest the results of this week's election returns. I am hopeful that our newly elected politicians are the leaders we have been waiting for, and that they will work to create an environment that insures the health, safety and well-being of all the children of the world. Rev. Edgar also said we need to water the seeds we have planted. This new generation of political leaders are the seeds we have planted and they will need our help to grow the dreams we, as people of faith, value. One of these dreams is that budgets reflect consideration for the working poor by making health care, food and housing a priority, and that peace, not war, becomes a reality.

The United Methodist Church Oregon/Idaho Conference, under the leadership of Bishop Robert Hoshibata, was honored at the breakfast last week for his Initiative to Eliminate Hunger. He has planted a seed that challenges today's leaders in our church to advocate for the hungry and to address the root causes of hunger. He too believes we are the leaders we have been waiting for. We are the leaders called to challenge the new political administration to value the lives of hungry children and to negotiate budget and policy changes that reflect a value system that nurtures and sustains life.

At First UMC I am appreciative to find many leaders planting seeds to address the causes of hunger, advocating for health care, and affordable housing.:

The Hunger Task Force at First UMC is committed to finding ways to eliminate hunger through increased giving, volunteering, and using our roles as citizens to promote just laws and policies that do not relegate people to poverty and hunger.

The Health Care Taskforce has joined with the Kitzhaber led Archimedes Movement to address the growing concern over our health care system in Oregon.

The Goose Hollow Family Homeless Shelter at First UMC continues to expand its mission to provide families without homes a safe, warm, nurturing environment in the form of emergency night shelter. More importantly we continue to work toward fixing the societal problems that allow homelessness to exist.

We are the leaders we have been waiting for and with social justice leaders like us living our faith in the world in ways that reflect the restorative gospel and ministry of Jesus whose mission was intentional, inclusive, and engaged community in ways that healed the body, mind, and spirit, it is not difficult for me to imagine a world that nurtures every person's potential as whole, loved, and gifted human beings, and where every child feels safe, loved, and celebrated. We are the leaders we have been waiting for and we can be the change we want in the world.

Annie Heart, *Director of Community Outreach*



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

If anything in Jesus' ministry is particularly clear it is that children hold a special place. When asked who would be greatest in God's reign, he embraced a child and said, "Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." (1) If that is true, then we are not very welcoming.

That's the conclusion of Dr. Marion Wright Edelman head of The Children's Defense Fund, the respected "watchdog" of American's children. (2) What they have to say is alarming to me-perhaps it will be to you, as well.

On an ordinary day in America:

- 1 mother dies in childbirth.
- 4 children are killed by abuse or neglect.
- 5 children or teens commit suicide.
- 8 children or teens are killed by firearms.
- 77 babies die before their first birthdays.
- 860 babies are born at low birth weight.
- 2,076 babies are born without health insurance.
- 59,768 children in Oregon (1 in every 5) will wake up in poverty.
- 169,892 children in Oregon will eat a meal provided by food stamps. (3)



Thankfully Edelman does more than shock-she suggests action. (4)

- a. Support the CDF's "No Child Left Behind" initiative.
- b. Help build a persistent, powerful witness for Children. (First Church has supported both "Children First," and "Stand for Children.")
- c. Remember that justice for children is our goal.
- d. Vote for children who cannot vote for themselves
- e. Practice the highest form of patriotism by asking hard questions and helping our leaders honor America's highest ideals.
- f. Wake up, be strong and courageous, persevere, and be ready for action as God lifts the curtain on the next act of history.
- g. Pray without ceasing and trust God to hear our persistent pleas and to bless our work to feed, house, protect and educate all God's children.

She has penned a provocative prayer that deserves to be on our lips:

God, please forgive and transform our rich nation where small children suffer from hunger quite legally. God, please forgive and transform our powerful nation where toddlers and schoolchildren die from guns sold quite legally. God, please forgive and transform our rich nation that lets children be the poorest group of citizens quite legally. God, please forgive and transform our rich nation that lets the rich continue to get more at the expense of the poor quite legally. God, please forgive and transform our rich nation that thinks security rests in missiles rather than in mothers, and in bombs rather than in babies. God, please help our rich nation to give you sufficient thanks by giving to all your children their daily bread. God, please help us never to confuse what is quite legal with what is just and right in your sight. Help us to do what is just and right in your sight for all the children of America and the world so that peace with justice will prevail and no child is left behind. Amen.

See you in Church!

Arvin

- (1) Matthew 18: 4-5, NRSV
- (2) www.childrensdefense.org
- (3) Children's Defense Fund, *The State of America's Children 2005*.
- (4) Children's Defense Fund, *The State of Children in America's Union: A 2002 Action Guide to Leave No Child Behind*.

adults at first

sunday classes

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134
Using Harold Kushner's book, *The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-Third Psalm*, this class is discovering what it has to teach about living our day-to-day lives. Everyone is welcome at any time during the course of the class.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Sunday mornings 9:00 -10:15 AM in Room 202.
We are studying the book: *Honest to Jesus* by Robert Funk.

FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE SERIES

This adult class series will explore various public issues through the lens of our faith life. Each session will meet in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM. Upcoming topics include:

- November 19 **The American Experiment-American Roots, American Soul, and American Creed**
(Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse)
- November 26 **Christmas Music** (Chuck Klang)

umw

united methodist women

WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH: UMW

All women are invited to the following meetings.
Note that the Unit Gathering is the first Wednesday of each month. President: Pat Brockman, 503/292-6270

UMW UNIT GATHERING

The First Church UMW Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, December 6, in the Fireside Room. At 10:00 AM there will be a meeting and sharing. At 11:00 AM the program, *Praising God with Mind, Body & Soul* will feature liturgical dance. Our December Unit Gathering will bring a fresh, new experience to the Advent/Christmas season. The program will feature Alicia Wrablik and Bonnie Parr Philipson, our District Superintendent, whose many talents include dancing. Alicia Wrablik has traveled with a Christian dance group in Europe and formed a similar dance group at Pocatello UMC. Liturgical dance is a way of worshiping God through movement. Come worship and be inspired. A Christmas luncheon will be served at noon in Room 202. Remember to bring unwrapped gifts for children birth to 18 years and/or wrappings. For information: call Colleen Foster at 503/641-3479.

NO UMW BOARD MEETING

No UMW Board Meeting in November.

grief support

healing from loss



HEALING FROM LOSS

Healing from Loss: Taking Care of Yourself, a grief support group offered by First United Methodist and Samaritan Counseling begins on November 19, 2006. Meetings will continue for eight weeks, from 1:00 – 2:30 PM on Sundays in the First Church Library. The group will be facilitated by Dominick Robertson. This is a safe place to be with others experiencing grief and to receive the support that is necessary in order to move forward after loss. The cost is \$10 per session, or \$50 for all eight sessions. Some scholarships are available. Please leave a message for Dominick at 503/281-3318 ext 41 to register, or if you have questions. Please join us for this journey in healing.

fellowship

the parker group

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, December 2, at 12:30 PM for a potluck and program in Room 202. Bring a dish to share. Table service will be provided. All are welcome to share this time of celebrating the beginning of the Christmas season. The Fosters will lead us in Christmas carols and Hazel Wells will present Louis Untermeyer's *The Second Christmas*. For more information contact Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

POINSETTIAS



It is time to order poinsettias to prepare our sanctuary for the Christmas season. This year poinsettias or azaleas are \$14.00 each. Use this form to indicate if the poinsettia is in memory or honor of someone and return the form to the church office with your check for \$14.00, **by Sunday, December 3, 2006** Indicate: POINSETTIA in the memo portion of the check.

Also indicate if you are picking your plant up after the 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service. Please note that the earliest that plants can be picked up is after the 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service.

- POINSETTIA
- AZALEA
- I will pick up plant.

Your Name _____

Name _____

- In Memory
- In Honor



CHRISTMAS MUSIC

On Sunday, November 26, 2006, at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room, Chuck Klang will present Christmas Music from his CD collection. Christmas has been a source of inspiration to composers across many centuries and cultures. Christmas music goes vastly beyond the “traditional” music fare to which we are accustomed. Come enjoy some music of the season. Christmas treats will be provided.



CHILDREN’S CHURCH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Children's Church will occur on the fourth Sunday of the month for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade. The next Children’s Church scheduled is Sunday, November 26, 2006. This special service for children meets in the Chapel. Following the “Conversation with Our Children” time in worship, children go to their regular Sunday School classrooms (4th/5th graders go directly to the Chapel). The kids will meet in the Chapel for a 20-minute service. Parents should meet their children at the Chapel.



WORLD AIDS DAY

In Advent we are especially reminded to look beyond our own needs to those of others. A part of our worship service on Sunday, December 3, 2006 will be observing World AIDS Day.

As a part of our observance of World AIDS Day, we will be viewing the film, *A Closer Walk*. Academy Award nominee Robert Bilheimer’s film about the global AIDS epidemic is narrated by Glenn Close and Will Smith. *A Closer Walk* features cinematography by Richard D. Young, interviews with the Dalai Lama, Bono, and Kofi Annan, and musical contributions by Annie Lennox, the Neville Brothers, Eric Clapton, and Sade. The film will be shown on December 3 at 7:00 PM in the Fireside Room.

FIRST SUNDAY IS FISH SUNDAY

The first Sunday of each month we ask the congregation to bring non-perishable items for the FISH barrels in the narthex. Think of it as an early Christmas present!

CHRISTMAS FAIRE

The First Church Christmas Faire & Chili Feed is set for December 3, 2006, in Collins Hall after worship. With the youth serving their famous chili and cornbread and Children's Ministries offering crafts and cookies, this is a great day to be at First Church!

Youth chili feed is \$4.00 per person, \$10.00 per family and includes beef chili or vegetarian chili and cornbread. Children's Ministries Crafts include: color-your-own coffee mugs, Christmas bouquets, Christmas cookies and more! We encourage a donation of 50 cents to \$1.00. Advent wreaths will be available to make for \$5.00 each.

Each year, we ask people to bring in their holly and evergreen tree branches to be used to create Advent Wreaths. If you have any extra greenery, please bring it to Collins Hall the morning of December 3, thank you!

ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our All-Church Conference will be Sunday, December 3 at 1:00 PM in the Chapel.

**7 THE
FIRST
SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT**



Poinsettia Form

To order a poinsettia for the sanctuary, please fill out the Poinsettia Form on the reverse side of this page.

Here I am, Lord



thank for your generous response

On Sunday, November 5, 2006 we held our Commitment Sunday service. In the months prior to this service you have been asked to pray the simple prayer, "Here I am, Lord!" On Commitment Sunday the people of First Church responded overwhelmingly, "Here, I am, Lord ... ready to give." To date we have received 262 estimate of giving cards, totaling commitments for:

\$671,300

It is not too late to respond with your estimate of giving for 2007. If you need an estimate of giving card, please call the church office at 503/228-3195 and a card will be mailed to you. Arthur Ashe, world-famous tennis player gives us these words of wisdom: "From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life."

missions
come meet Evelyn Erbele

MISSIONS POTLUCK AND FORUM

Evelyn Erbele, missionary to Russia, Lithuania and Latvia, will speak at a potluck lunch, hosted by the Global Missions committee, on Sunday, November 19, 2006. The potluck will be held in Room 202, following the church service.

Evelyn and her husband, Teri, one of the missionaries who are in Covenant Relationship with First UMC, have been serving in Russia since 1996. Teri is an elder in the Oregon-Idaho conference, and Evelyn lived and worked in Oregon prior to her mission service. The Erbeles are presently in the United States visiting supporting churches and sharing information about their work.

Those attending the potluck are asked to bring their own table service and a dish to share; beverages will be provided. Child care will be available. For further information, contact Dee Poujade



alternative
christmas
2007

Christmas (the alternative kind) is Coming! Do you dread all those Christmas jingles suggesting you "buy this, buy that. . ." Well, does Global Missions have the answer for you! Yes, the most important gift of the season is, as you know ... love. We have meaningful ways for you to channel that love to five different places around the globe. Stop at the Alternative Christmas table in the Commons on November 26, December 3, 10, or 17 to do your shopping for:

- 1) Salud y Paz in Guatemala
- 2) Shade & Fresh Water in Brazil
- 3) Garbage Dump Ministry in Cambodia
- 4) Goose Hollow Family Shelter
- 5) Bread for the World.

Your gift is a complete package which goes a long way,-- feeds the hungry, relieves suffering and gives hope, and honors and pleases your friends and family as well.

the edge
thoughts
for the
journey

Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

Over the years, I have used the meditations of a number of spiritual companions as a part of my daily morning time of quiet, prayer, and reflection. These companions have ranged from Thomas Merton to Madeleine L' Engle, from Rumi to Howard Thurman. There are many great companions to choose from, and they each can stretch our understandings of life.

Is there someone whose life work you'd like to use as a source for your own reflection about the meaning of life? Why not find a spiritual companion and begin your journey together.

our prayers

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY ...

The families of *Elma and Jan Benefiel*, who lost their lives in a storm-related accident at the Oregon Coast on November 7, 2006. Elma's service will be Sunday, November 19, at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary.

The Rev. Barbara Bellus, on the death of her father.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN ...

James Barnes, the son of David & Jean Barnes, is in serious condition as the result of an auto accident. David is at Legacy Emmanuel Hospital;

Al Leonard, in hospice care at Willamette View Care;

Tom Iverson, who is not responding to cancer treatment;

Parks Walker, hospitalized with a broken leg.

WE CELEBRATE WITH ...

Trent LeClair & Darby Keenan, who were married in Ashland, OR on October 7, 2006. Trent is the son of Dee Poujade

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Dick & Agnes Clark, Dwight Gilley, Jackie Bullock,

Mike Rogers, Lettie Schulz and Bryan Smith.

a chuckle

the lighter side



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 **November 29, 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.