



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E** edition

November 29, 2006
Volume 10, Issue 22

THIS SUNDAY

DECEMBER 3, 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.



MORE INSIDE

- Parents' Day Out
- Longest Night Service
- Alternative Christmas Project

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THE SUNDAYS OF Advent

DECEMBER 3 ■ THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- World AIDS Day
- Christmas Faire/Chili Feed
- All Church Conference
- Evening Program: *A Closer Walk*

DECEMBER 10 ■ THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Advent Sermon: *Spirit Come Down: Justice*
- Sharing prayers for Dafur

DECEMBER 17 ■ THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- The Chancel Choir presents John Rutter's *Gloria*

Christmas eve



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Morning Worship

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, the 10:30 AM service will showcase the children's choirs, beginning bell choirs, and the families of First Church. No Sunday School will occur, though the nursery will be open. This service will focus on the Christmas Story with participation from the congregation and the children.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Candlelight Services

7:00 PM	Candlelight Carol Service
9:00 PM	Candlelight Carol Service
11:00 PM	Communion Service

At the 7:00 and 9:00 PM Services, come and enjoy the music of the Chancel Choir, the carols of the season, and a Christmas Eve message from Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs. At the 11:00 PM service experience the intimacy of communion by candlelight and a message from Rev. Tom Foster. Child care will be available at the 7:00 & 9:00 PM services.



DECEMBER AT FIRST CHURCH



PARENTS' DAY OUT FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

There never seems to be enough time to finish all of the family projects during the holidays. To help out, the nursery staff offers a Parents' Day Out program each Saturday in December (2, 9, 16, 23) from 9:30-1:00 PM. Children from newborns through age 11 are welcome for crafts, activities, snacks and a Christmas movie. Reservations are required as we have a limit of 12 kids each Saturday. Cost is \$5.00 per child with scholarships available. Reservations can be made at the sign-up sheet at the nursery or by contacting Agnes Zach at 503/228-3195, ext. 227.

CHRISTMAS FAIRE AND CHILI FEED

On Sunday, December 3, the Christmas Faire/Chili Feed will be in Collins Hall. Make an advent wreath for your family, participate in craft projects with the kids, enjoy a lunch of chili and cornbread made by First UMC Youth. It all happens from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM on December 3, in Collins Hall. No reservations required!

ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE

On Sunday, December 3, our All-Church Conference will be held at 1:00 PM in the Chapel

EVENING PROGRAM: A CLOSER WALK

On Sunday evening, December 3, at 7:00 PM in the Fireside Room, come and see the film: *A Closer Walk*. This film, by Academy Award nominee Robert Bilheimer, is about the global AIDS epidemic and 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.

OUR MUSIC MINISTRY

You won't want to miss our Chancel Choir's presentation of John Rutter's *Gloria*, on Sunday December 17 in the 10:30 AM worship service. On Sunday, December 10, as an outreach ministry, our choir will perform portions of the *Gloria* at Willamette View Manor and juBELLation will be "caroling" at the Canfield Retirement Center.

ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE GREIVING

There will be a Longest Night Service, Wednesday, December 20, at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. Christmas can be a bittersweet time of year-especially if you are grieving. It is a time for remembering both persons and events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but that are now changed or gone. December 20 is one of the longest nights of the year. We will join with First Christian and First Congregational churches to offer a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering and for sharing our hurting places with God.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

On Sunday, December 24, we will have a 10:30AM Family Service showcasing the children's choirs, beginning bell choirs, and the families of First Church. No Sunday School will occur, though the nursery will be open. We will have our Traditional Candlelight Services at 7:00 and 9:00 PM with child care is available. There will be an 11:00 PM Communion Service.

MIXED-AGED ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

On Sunday, December 31, we will have nursery care available for children age four and under. A special movie/craft time will be available for children in kindergarten through 3rd grade. 4th/5th graders will be in worship.



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 United Methodist Women's 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 PM will be the program: *Praising God with Mind, Body & Soul*. 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. Ms. 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 worshipping 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, newborn to 18 years, and/or wrappings. For information: call Colleen Foster at 503/641-3479.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, December 13 at 11:30 AM with a Christmas luncheon at the home of Trudy Kayser. Each member is asked to bring two dozen cookies for a cookie exchange. Also bring new clothing items for our shelter guests. Christmas stories will be planned by Mary Covert. For more information call Trudy Kayser at 503/292-7528.

READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, December 14, at 10:00 AM at the home of Sue Fisher, 3648 SW 60th Place, Portland. Her phone number is: 503/203-1445. We will look at the book, *Hanukah Stories*, by Pearl Steinberg, a member of the National Storytellers League. A Christmas Luncheon will follow.

CHOCOLATES FOR A GOOD CAUSE

You can have your chocolate and send a message that you support social justice. By choosing fairly traded products you help create a more just and equitable economy. United Methodist Women will be selling fairly traded organic chocolates and tea during Coffee Hour in December. As consumers in a global economy, you can change some of your buying habits and make a world of difference for many third world families. Learn more about Equal Exchange and Fair Trade during December Coffee Hour.

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.

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:

- December 3 *The American Experiment: The Social Gospel, Neo-Orthodoxy, and the Civil Rights Movement* (Rev. Dr. Greathouse)
- December 10 *The American Experiment: Assessing Our Social and Spiritual Capital as a Nation* (Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse)
- December 17 *The American Experiment: Emerging Movements - The Religious Right and Spiritual Progressives/Where Do We Go From Here?* (Rev. Dr. Greathouse)

our prayers

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY ...

The family of Rose Pfozter, who died November 19, 2006.

An informal service was held at Calaroga Terrace.

The family of Agnes Clark, who died November 23, 2006.

A time of service has not yet been determined.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN ...

Mary Jackson, the daughter of Al & Laura Laney, is awaiting results of test performed last week in Atlanta;

Bryan Smith, at OHSU following pancreatic cancer surgery;

Jane Baker, at Providence Hospital with heart problems;

Merle West, grandfather of Megan West, is at Sacred Heart

Hospital recovering from a stroke;

Michael Panck, serving in Iraq.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Al Leonard, Mike Rogers, James Barnes, Tom Iverson, and Lettie Schultz,

thank you

expressing gratitude

FROM JANE LENON

My family and I want to express our thanks for the many cards and calls we received when we recently lost Harlow after his long illness. The concern of friends is a great comfort and support.

Jane Lenon



DON'T FORGET FISH SUNDAY

Don't forget that, Sunday, December 3, is First Sunday FISH Sunday. Barrels will be available for you to contribute non-perishable food items for families in need.

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 **December 13, 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.



LIVING A VIBRANT FAITH

**PORTLAND'S
FIRST
CHURCH**

**BELIEVING
THINKING
ACTING**

WINTER 2007

Sundays at First Church

Established 1848

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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**

COMMONS EAST

Sunday is an exciting day at First Church. Begin the day with coffee, juice, snacks, and conversation in the Commons East (Room 210), from 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM.

ADULTS

There are a variety of adult classes offered between 9:00 and 10:15 AM each Sunday morning. In addition, to Changing Christianity, which meets at 9:00 AM in Room 202 and The Fellowship of Seekers, which meets from 9:15- to 10:15 AM in Room 134, there are short term classes offered in the Fireside Room. This offers details on learning opportunities available this winter.

CHILDREN

Children's choirs meet from 9:30-10:15 AM, with Sunday School beginning following the "Conversation with Our Children" time in worship. Kids can be picked up from class after worship. Every fourth Sunday of the month for kids in Kindergarten through 5th Grade, we have a special Children's Church service in the chapel. Nursery care is available every Sunday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

YOUTH

Middle School (6th - 8th Grade) class meets at 9:30 AM each Sunday morning in Room 130.
High School (9th - 12th Grade) class meets at 9:30 AM each Sunday morning in the Youth Room.

Youth Group meets Sunday evenings, Middle School (6th - 8th Grade) from 5:30 to 6:30 PM High School (9th - 12th Grade) from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Dinner is provided by volunteers for both from 6:30 to 7:00 PM. Contact Paul Adams if you would like to provide a dinner.

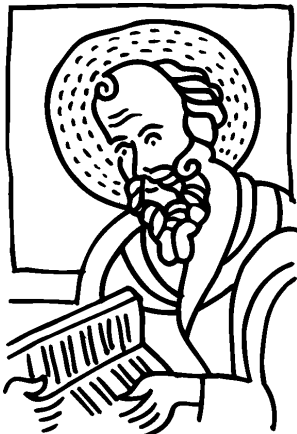
MUSIC

The Chancel Choir sings each Sunday morning. Their rehearsal is 7:30 PM on Thursdays in the Chapel. A variety of other choral and instrumental groups rehearse throughout the week. Visit www.fumcpdx.org for details.



WINTER 2007 JANUARY

upcoming adult CLASSES



JANUARY 7 ■ EPIPHANY SUNDAY & CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONAL

Children's Processional is scheduled for January 7, in conjunction with the Epiphany Service. All Children are asked to bring a gift for a child on this Sunday. Donations will be given to the West Women's Shelter in Northwest Portland. Look for a special invitation after Christmas!

JANUARY 7 ■ FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATIONS

If you would like to officially join First United Methodist Church or learn more about our congregation, 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 becoming a part of First Church. The winter orientation will be Sunday, January 7 at 11:45 AM in Room 110. A spring orientation will be offered March 18, 2007. For information or to register for an orientation, contact the church office at 503/228-3195. Child care is available.

JANUARY 10 ■ WEEKDAY SPIRITUALITY CLASS TO BEGIN

A weekday Spirituality Class will begin Wednesday, January 10, 2007. Join Rev. Lowell Greathouse on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30AM in the library for this new class on Christian Spirituality. We will be using two books: *Devotional Classics: Selected Readings* edited by Richard Foster and James Smith, and *All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time* by Robert Ellsberg. We will look into the lives and writings of the great witnesses within the Christian tradition.

JANUARY 14 ■ HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Human Relations Day and the Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday observance will be, Sunday January 14, 2007. Our guest preacher will be Dr. Thomas Kimball.

JANUARY 14 ■ CHAUTAUQUA TALK: THE IDEA OF JUSTICE

The Chautauqua Talk: *The Idea of Justice* will be offered: Sunday, January 14, 2007 from 12:00 to 1:30 PM in the Fireside Room. This special Martin Luther King weekend forum, which is made possible through the funding of the Oregon Council for the Humanities, will explore various aspects of justice. Lani Roberts, from Oregon State University, will be the presenter.

JANUARY 14 ■ DR. LANE McGAUGHEY CLASS TO BEGIN

A short-term adult class will be offered Sundays, January 14, 21, 28, 2007. Join Dr. Lane McGaughey from Willamette University for a special three-part series: *The Legends of the Apostles*. These classes will be offered Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room.

January 14 Thomas Tradition (Gospel of Thomas, Acts of Thomas, Infancy Gospel of Thomas, and Thomas the Athlete)

January 21 Paul Tradition (the Acts of Paul and the Acts of the Apostles)

January 28 Gospel of Judas and the Gospel of Mary.

JANUARY 14 ■ YOUTH LOCK-IN

On Sunday, January 14, there will be a Lock-In for all middle school and high school youth. Come for youth group, stay for breakfast. It begins with dinner at 6:30 PM on Sunday night and runs until 8:30 AM on Monday.



JANUARY 19 ■ WINTER YOUTH RETREAT AT SUTTLE LAKE

The Winter Youth Retreat will be January 19-21, 2007, at Suttle Lake. The weekend's program is designed to offer Christian fellowship and spiritual growth opportunities to youth, 6th -12th grade.

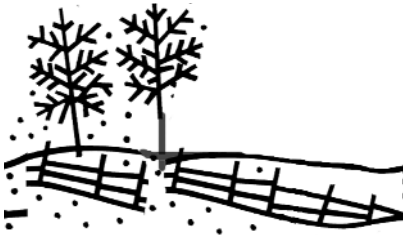
JANUARY 20 ■ THIRD GRADE BIBLE WEEKEND

The Third Grade Bible Weekend will be January 20 & 21, 2007. Third graders are invited to participate in a three-hour Bible Time on Saturday, January 20 from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. Filled with games, activities, lunch and presentation practice, this time is truly geared for fun and learning the Bible. On January 21, during worship, the third graders will be given their Bibles and have a chance to meet the congregation at The Commons in Collins after worship.

JANUARY 30 ■ WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT

On Tuesday, January 30, at 7:00 PM, Global Missions of First Church is presenting a lively concert by the Watoto Children's Choir, in the Sanctuary. This talented group of singers are all AIDS orphans, ages 6-16, from Uganda, Africa. They'll share a message of hope and light.

In addition, five host families are needed to provide overnight housing, and to participate in a potluck dinner at the church, preceding the concert. Your guests would include two boys, and one adult chaperone. Please contact Dee Poujade, 503-243-3337 if you can host these children.



WINTER 2007 FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4 ■ RECONCILING SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday, February 4, 2007 as we highlight the reconciling ministry of the church.

FEBRUARY 4 ■ READERS' THEATER CLASS BEGINS

A four-session Sunday morning Readers' Theater Class will begin February 4, 2007. We will read Lorraine Hansberry's *Raisin in the Sun*, a true classic of 20th century American theatre. As part of First UMC's honoring of Black History Month, our reading (with discussion) of the play will cover three consecutive Sundays. The final session will be overview of our discussion. We will also read selected poems of Pulitzer Prize Winner Maya Angelou. Join us on these Sunday mornings in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.

FEBRUARY 4 ■ FORUM - HEALTH CARE

A forum, Health Care and the Archimedes Movement, will be held Sunday, February 4, 2007 from 12:00 to 1:30 PM in the Fireside Room. Come and learn more about the Archimedes Movement and health care reform as we look ahead to the Oregon Legislative Session.

FEBRUARY 11 ■ SCOUTING SUNDAY & PANCAKE PAPAPALOOZA

On February 11, we celebrate Scouting Sunday, a day of recognition for all involved in scouting. This includes: Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, Explorer scouts and all leaders. Following the worship service attend the Papapalooza. Troop 1, First Church's sponsored Boy Scout Troop will be on hand at the Papapalooza with a booth or two of their own! The Papapalooza will feature activities for everyone. This celebration of winter is open to all! Started in 2005 as a re-creation of such festivals in England, we will be cleaning out the pantry before Lent begins while enjoying friends and families. The youth will be serving a Pancake Lunch of pancakes and sausage after worship. The Annual First Church Library Book Sale will also be a part of this special event.

FEBRUARY 15 ■ ANCIENT EGYPT

Join us on Thursday, February 15, 2007 for the local travel adventure: *Treasures of Ancient Egypt* at the Portland Art Museum. Meet at the church at 11:30 AM for our short ride to a local restaurant and then a tour that afternoon through *The Quest for Immortality* exhibit at the museum. Cost is \$15 for the Egypt exhibit, lunch on your own. To register, contact Shirley Blalock at the church office at 503/ 228-3195. Questions: contact Lowell Greathouse.

FEBRUARY 18 ■ PLANET CHURCH

Planet Church will be offering the *Global Warming: Changing Course Program*. The Northwest Earth Institute has created a new four-session program on global warming, which will help participants understand the science and history of global warming, explore personal values and habits as they relate to climate change, and inspire actions to curb global warming. An orientation will be held Sunday, February 18, 2007, from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM in Room 160.

First Church STAFF

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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women will hold two very special events and two unique programs in January & February, 2007, and you're invited!

JANUARY 3 ■ ICONOGRAPHY: THE ART OF SEEING THE SOUL

On Wednesday, January 3 our General Meeting program will feature: *Iconography: The Art of Seeing the Soul* with Chris Armstrong-Stevenson, Director of Trinity Cathedral's Iconography Institute.

JANUARY 28 ■ 50th ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN IN ORDAINED MINISTRY

On Sunday, January 28, during morning worship, UMW will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Women in Ordained Ministry.

FEBRUARY 7 ■ ALL SMILES: CREATING CHARMING CHILDREN'S FACES

On Wednesday, February 7 our General Meeting program will be: *All Smiles--Creating Charming Children's Faces*, with Janet Brockman, of OHSU's Craniofacial Program.

FEBRUARY 24 ■ BRUNCH AND NO SWEAT STYLE SHOW

On Saturday, February 24, a Special No-Charge Brunch will feature a *No-Sweat Style Show*, to highlight the effect of Globalization world-wide. Do you know where your clothing comes from? Is it made by a child struggling in a sweat shop somewhere around the globe?

MORE AT FIRST CHURCH

A WORD ABOUT THE GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER

The Goose Hollow Family Shelter is an important part of the ministry of First Church. The shelter opened in November and will operate through April 2007. A variety of volunteers are needed to provide shelter for homeless families. To volunteer visit their website at www.fumcpdx.org/GooseHollowFamilyShelter/.

CREATIVE SPIRIT EXHIBITS

The First Church Fine Arts Program seeks to encourage and share the creativity of our community through the visual arts. The Creative Spirit Exhibitions are located in Collins Hall on the north wall. Exhibits rotate on a monthly basis. The upcoming exhibits are:

December	The Watercolors of Kris Nuffer
January	Expressions of Three Artists: Sunny Smith, Ari Foote, and Bruce Ulrich
February	First Church Photographers
March	The Icons from Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

THE COMMONS IN COLLINS

Join us in The Commons in Collins Hall following the worship service each week.

THE FIRST CHURCH LIBRARY.

The First Church Library is open every Sunday beginning at 9:15 AM until about a half hour after church.

BREAKING BREAD GROUPS

Look for special announcements about the formation of new Breaking Bread Groups for 2007. Breaking Bread Groups are an excellent opportunity for fellowship at First Church.



FEBRUARY 21 ■ ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 21, 2007. There will be a light meal provided at 5:30 PM in Collins Hall and a special Ash Wednesday gathering will be held at 6:30 PM in the Chapel. Child care will be provided.