



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the **E**dition

April 4, 2007  
Volume 11, Issue 07

## THIS SUNDAY

April 8, 2007

### WORSHIP

9:00 & 11:00 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.

# Easter SUNDAY 9 & 11



Worship Services at  
9:00 AM and 11:00 AM  
in the Sanctuary.

■ Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs preaching ...

■ SPECIAL MUSIC ...

Prelude music by the  
Festival Brass and Organ  
Jonas Nordwall, organist

The Chancel Choir and Veritas  
*Hallelujah Chorus*  
*He Lives*

The Chancel Choir  
*Ex Resurexit*  
from *Bach's B minor Mass*

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Egg Hunts will be offered at 10:15 AM and 12:15 PM for children in 1st grade and below. The hunt will be located in the Fireside Room and is sponsored by Children/Family Ministries.



# memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

*“The greatest affirmation of the Church ... is not ... that Jesus was born ... not that he performed incredible miracles... not that he was a profound teacher or that he embodied the very presence of God. No, instead it's the affirmation that Jesus Christ is alive and that he actually lives inside the hearts and souls of each and every one of us...”*

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What a remarkable declaration! God is not distant-a historical memory or a philosopher's conclusion. God has not given up on creation-but continues to work, redeeming, reconciling and renewing the world through the hands and hearts of people like you and me!

That's exactly what we will affirm next Sunday as we gather to celebrate Easter. It will be a day you won't want to miss! The Festival Brass and Chancel Choirs stir our hearts. We will declare our faith in word and song. Through scripture and spoken word we will declare God's good news of life and hope. The services are at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM.

Declaring and affirming our faith is vital-but it's only the start. Christ comes fully alive as we live our faith through our gifts and our service.

Each of us has talent, skill and energy that can help make Christ's compassion and care come alive in our community, our nation and around the world. In the next few weeks our Outreach Ministry teams will be challenging us to a “Volunteer Week.” They have prepared a menu of opportunities and are asking us to give a few hours of time at the end of this month to serve others. I hope that you will plan to participate.

So, too, our offerings extend and make real the mission and ministry of Christ. Already, because of our tithes and offerings there is more food for the hungry, a place of shelter for homeless families, welcome is extended to the alienated, missionaries have received support and peace with justice is proclaimed! Will you help us continue and expand these vital ministries? A special “Easter Offering” envelope is enclosed for your “second-mile” gift to continue Christ's work through our church.

May the living Christ work through you that all may realize the power of Easter in your faith.

Blessings!

**Arvin**

\* (Neaves, Norman, sermon: *A Disciple of The Lord!*, April 22, 1990, copyrighted Church of the Servant, Oklahoma City, OK, 1990.)



## CELEBRATING OUR PAST - CREATING OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN

Over 125 persons gathered to hear presentations about exciting future renovation and enhancement projects designed to make our church a more hospitable and welcoming place for worship and gathering. The formal capital campaign will be presented to the congregation at the April 22 worship service. Renderings of the proposed projects will be displayed in Collins Hall after church on the April 15 and 22, 2007. The trustees will be available to explain the significance of the planned changes.



a good  
place  
to  
grow!

### THE FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 134  
How do you introduce Christians to Islam? Amir Hussain, who loves both religions, speaks of both with the candor that only love can confer in his book, *Oil & Water*. While conveying a core of basic information, this cogent, deeply personal book dodges none of the questions that most sharply divide these two religions. Join us in our study of this insightful book. The Fellowship of Seekers will not meet Easter Sunday.

### CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Changing Christianity will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007. Beginning April 15, the class will combine with the Global Warming course in Room 202.

### GLOBAL WARMING: CHANGING CO<sub>2</sub>URSE

*Global Warming: Changing CO<sub>2</sub>URSE*, is a course developed by the Northwest Earth Institute. This four-week course will begin Sunday, April 15 and go through May 6, 2007. It will meet at 9:00 AM in Room 202. Participants may purchase the materials for \$15.00. This course will be a great chance for you to learn more and participate in the dialogue about how to address the issue of global warming and our environment. If you have questions or would like to sign up for this class, contact: Annie Heart at 503/228-3195 ext. 215 or [ahheart@fumcpdx.org](mailto:ahheart@fumcpdx.org).

### OUR ENDANGERED VALUES

#### BY JIMMY CARTER:

APRIL 15, 22 AND 29

Join us for this three-part series, using Jimmy Carter's recent book *Our Endangered Values*. As Carter writes, "Americans cherish the greatness of our homeland, but many do not realize how extensive and profound are the transformations that are now taking place in our nation's basic moral values and political philosophy." Be a part of this lively discussion as we look at the current changes taking place in America

When: The class will meet on Sunday mornings in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15AM.

### WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH: UMW

All women are invited to the following meetings. President: Pat Brockman, 503.292.6270.

### ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON & QUILT SHOW

The Annual UMW Spring Luncheon and Quilt Show will be Friday, May 4, at noon in Collins Hall. The popular Cover to Cover quilters will be with us again. This year the quilts will feature: *The Whale Rider* by Wili Ihimaera. Tickets will be available in Collins Hall on April 1, 15, 22 for \$15.00. \$10.00 of that amount will go to funding UMW mission projects. For tickets, contact Ruth Green at 503/698-8420 or [RuthEGreen@juno.com](mailto:RuthEGreen@juno.com). Make checks payable to: United Methodist Women.

### UMW UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, April 11, in Collins Hall. We will begin with a meeting and sharing at 10:00 AM followed by a program at 11:00 AM. The program will be: *Seeking Peace Simply...in Serene Camp Settings*. Imagine yourself in the quiet of the forest, gazing at a nearby mountain peak, or simply enjoying the comfort of a cozy cabin by the water's edge. Here we can find spiritual renewal as we seek to revitalize body, mind, and soul. Come, hear our guest, Heather Peterson, describe the wonderful experiences that await us at our conference church camps. Lunch will be a noon in Room 202: Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverages will be provided. For more information, contact Colleen Foster.

### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United Spring Forum will be Thursday, April 12, in the Fireside Room of First Church. Registration will be at 9:30 AM. The program on amnesty will be presented by Kathy Bochman. For more information, contact Betty-Lou Hare.

### READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Thursday, April 12, at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. The program will feature the book: *Kite Runner* by Khadled Hosseini and will be led by Annie Heart. Chair: Sue Fisher

### FAITH CIRCLE

The Faith Circle will meet Wednesday, April 18 at 10:00 AM in Room 110. Marilyn Outslay will present a biographical sketch of her work in the United Methodist Church. Chair: Eleanor Stubbs

### RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, April 18 at 12:00 PM in Room 204. *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards will be reviewed by William Douglas. Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverages will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare

### METRO DISTRICT SPIRITUAL RETREAT

The Metro District one-day retreat will be available Friday, April 20, or Saturday, April 21 at the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center, 32867 SE Hwy 211, Eagle Creek, OR Led by the Rev. Jane Shaffer, pastor at Newberg UMC. Cost: \$17. Make checks payable to UMW and give to Peg Cook by April 11, 2007.

# peace and justice

blessed are the peacemakers

by Annie Heart, Director Outreach

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."  
(Matthew 5:9)

Personally, I am ashamed of the lack of respect shown for the Peacemakers whose voices went unnoticed in the news coverage of the recent peace rally. More than 15,000 peace advocates walked for an end to the war the United States has imposed on Iraq and news media failed to fairly represent the peaceful, nonviolent spirit of the events of the day.

The primary focus and temperament of the Peace Rally on Sunday, March 18th on the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, was an enthusiastic, non-violent compassionate plea from men, women and children representing diverse spectrum of society who spoke in unison for a peaceful resolution to a war that violates human dignity, and the local news media focused on a few random scuffles that broke out between a small minority of protesters and law enforcement.

Media coverage failed to capture the integrity and depth of courage in the messages conveyed by young people representing Military Families Speak Out and Veterans of Peace who spoke about how the destructive nature of this senseless war with Iraq has caused their family's needless physical pain, mental trauma and suffering.

It is sad when news coverage does not represent the voice of the majority and does not affirm the many positive endeavors of our community leaders. When I returned to work on Monday, at Portland First United Methodist Church, many people expressed their frustration that the media did not give equal coverage to the peaceful rallying songs lead by excellent musical performers including, *War is the Enemy* by Grant Remington, a Veteran for Peace. Ignored were compassionate words calling for a peaceful end to conflict from informed speakers, including Raed Jarrar from Iraqis Speak: Voices for Peace in Iraq, Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Portland's Mayor Tom Potter, and representatives of the Faith Community.

Even though news coverage failed to acknowledge the heart beat for peace that vibrated from voices raised in harmony echoing "No More War," I can attest to the fact that last Sunday thousands of voices spoke, and thousands walked nonviolently in the name of peace. We, the voices for Peace are not ashamed to tell the truth - even if it doesn't make the news. War is not the Answer. Blessed are the peacemakers.

# electives

for enrichment

*Bill Moyers*  
on FAITH & REASON

When religion and secularism meet the result is often a labyrinth of misunderstanding. In a five-session class, based on Bill Moyers' PBS series: *Faith and Reason*, we will explore the jagged, mysterious region between rationality and belief guided by the provocative insights of eight significant novelists and writers. Their views range from Islam through traditional Christianity all the way to agnosticism. Dr. Luchs will facilitate discussion of some of the most challenging issues for believers in this 'post-modern' world. The class will meet in the Fireside Room on Monday mornings from 10:00 AM to noon from April 23 through May 21, 2007.

# potluck

the parker group

The Parker Group will have a potluck luncheon on Saturday, April 14, 2007 at 12:30 PM in Room 202. Bring a dish to share. Church members and authorities on diet and nutrition, Bill and Sonja Connor will speak to us about the Lewis and Clark Expedition and its influence on nutrition today. For more information contact: Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.



*bread  
for  
the  
world*  
letter  
writing  
campaign

Save the Sundays April 22 and 29, 2007 to participate in the Bread for the World 2007 Offering of Letters Campaign. In Collins Hall after worship on Sundays, April 22 and 29 join Bread for the World members across the country by writing a letter to our Senators and Congressional Representatives on the need to improve our nation's Farm Policy to better serve:

- Hungry people in the US
- US farmers and rural communities
- Farmers in developing countries struggling to sell their crops and feed their families

The Hunger Task Force will be there with sample letters, supplies, and specific ideas to include in your letters. Help us meet our 2007 goal of 100 letters from our congregation.

# please take note

items of interest

sprc  
welcome dwight

## HEALTH CARE FORUM: PART TWO

Join us on Sunday, April 15 at noon in the Fireside Room for A Forum on Health Care: Part Two. Health care costs are skyrocketing. More families are losing health care coverage. The system is not sustainable. Oregon is doing something about health care! Come to this forum for an update on current health care bills. There will be a discussion of our concerns and an opportunity to write letters that voice both our concerns and appreciation for what is being done. Lunch and child care will be provided.

## GORDON AND TECA GREATHOUSE TO SPEAK AT FIRST CHURCH

Gordon and Teca Greathouse, will share their experiences from 25+ years as missionaries in Brazil on Wednesday, April 18, in Collins Hall at 5:30 PM. The presentation will conclude with a Brazilian meal provided by the Global Mission Committee. Gordon, a native Oregonian and member of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, and Teca, a native of Brazil are presently in the United States visiting supporting churches and sharing information about their work. Donations will be accepted. For further information, contact Dee Poujade at [deelaw33@hotmail.com](mailto:deelaw33@hotmail.com) or Lowell Greathouse at [lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org](mailto:lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org).

## LAST CHANCE BOOK SALE

On Sunday, April 29, after church, the hardworking Library Committee will offer all the books left over from the Papapalooza extravaganza Book Sale. Transactions are by donation; take what you want, and leave what you can. Proceeds will be used to purchase new books for the Library.

## PRIMETIMERS AT UMCOR SAGER BROWN IN BALDWIN, LOUISIANA

Come to Louisiana to experience firsthand the material resources ministry of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. From October 21-27, 2007, you will have the opportunity to take a tour of and work in the UMCOR Depot where material resources are processed for worldwide relief and national disaster response. From buckets of cleaning supplies to blankets for newborns, from health kits to school kits, the depot dispatches tons of supplies worth millions of dollars to points around the world, domestic and international.

This event also provides an opportunity to learn about the various cultures in the area and the contributions and influence of the Acadians (Cajuns), Native Americans, Creoles and African Americans in Louisiana. Participants will also participate in field trips to a variety of local attractions, one of which may be a swamp tour to experience the life in and on the swamps, including shrimp boats and alligators.

## NEW FACILITIES MANAGER

Dwight Dragoo has joined the church staff recently as our Facilities Manager. As Facilities Manager, Dwight is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the church. He will have the responsibility for direct supervision of the custodial and building maintenance staff. When Dwight applied for the position, he was completing his education in HVAC (Heating and Air Conditioning) through Portland Community College. After working at Intel since 1995, he decided there was more to life than running around in a "bunny suit" looking at shapes while at work. He worked in one of Intel's fabrication plants making computer parts on the compressed workweek evening shift. So he embarked on a journey to reinvent himself enrolling in the HVAC training program at PCC with the intention of one day becoming a Facilities Manager.

Dwight has many skills that will help us at First Church. Dwight has an Associates Degree in Microelectronics Technology and a Bachelor's in Information Technology.

Dwight lives in Beaverton with his wife Carla and their two children. Please welcome Dwight to the First Church staff.

the  
edge  
thoughts  
for the journey

## Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

The daily routine of life often has the feel of prose about it with its sense of order, direction and clarity, while the spiritual journey often requires the temperament and artistry of the poet. Welsh poet R.S. Thomas captures this difference in mood and approach rather nicely at the conclusion of his poem, *The Bright Field*:

Life is not hurrying  
Onto a receding future nor hankering after  
An imagined past.  
It is the turning  
Aside like Moses to the miracle  
Of the lit bush. To a brightness  
That seems as transitory as your youth  
Once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

# our prayers

prayers and concerns

## PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY ...

*Cindy Force*, whose mother, Letty Schulz, died recently;  
*Dee Poujade*, whose friend, Zell, died recently.

## CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

*Bryan Smith, Bill Hill, Sadame Tsunenaga, Robert and Virginia Anderson, and Dick Clark*



It is not too early to begin thinking about participating in one of the many wonderful camping opportunities of the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the UMW. Visit their website at:

[www.gocamping.org](http://www.gocamping.org)

## THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD

***Daniel Bomberger***, in the USAF in Kyrgyzstan;

***Jared Bomberger***, in the USAF in Turkey;

They are sons of Judy Bomberger and grandsons of Betty Hager;

***Michael Panck***, in the US Army in Baghdad;

He is the son of Ken & Ruthann Panck;

***Keith Bullock***, in the US Army in Baghdad;

He is the son-in-law of Pamela Moyers;

***John Lemmon***, in the US Army in Baghdad;

He is the grandson of Betty Lemmon;

***Steven Johnson***, in the US Army in Afghanistan;

He is the son of Doug Johnson;

***Karl Alger***, in the US Army in Iraq;

They are nephews of Naomi Charbonneau; and grandsons of the late Edie Alger;

***Vanessa Walton***, working for US Army in Iraq;

She is the daughter of Richard & Elizabeth Walton;

***Craig Kubala***, with US Army Special Forces in Afghanistan;

Craig is the husband of Venessa.

## 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 18, 2007**.

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

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

E-mail: [office@fumcpdx.org](mailto:office@fumcpdx.org) or place in the *Circuit Rider* box in the office.