



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

the Edition

November 28, 2007
Volume 11, Issue 23

MORE INSIDE

- Giving Tree
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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.

LIVING A VIBRANT FAITH

BELIEVING THINKING ACTING



ADVENT CONTINUES

DECEMBER 9: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Advent Sermon
- Genesis Bells and Sanctuary Bells
- The Soundseekers Choir
- The Chancel Choir

DECEMBER 16: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- *Magnificat* by J. S. Bach with Chancel Choir and Orchestra
- Violin Recital featuring Rebecca Anderson (1:00 PM in the Sanctuary)

DECEMBER 23: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Lessons and Carols
- The Oregon Renaissance Band (featuring period instruments and alp horns)



MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

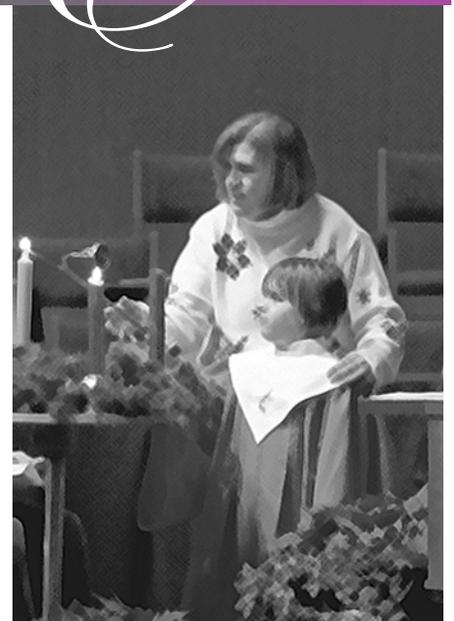
CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5:00 PM Family Service - Lessons and Carols
- 7:00 PM Candlelight Carol Service
- 9:00 PM Candlelight Carol Service
- 11:00 PM Communion Service

The 5:00 PM Family Service will be a service of Lesson and Carols and will feature the Cherubs and Soundseekers Choirs.

At 6:30 and 8:30 PM, Jonas Nordwall will be playing prelude music on the newly rebuilt Mary L. Collins Pipe Organ.

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 5:00, 7:00 & 9:00 PM services.





memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Only our General Conference (which meets every four years) can speak an 'official' word on behalf of all United Methodists. But when our Bishops offer a church-wide statement in their role as pastoral leaders we all listen carefully. I wanted you to read their recent resolution in its entirety—not as a declaration with which we all must agree—but an important contribution to our ongoing discernment of God's will for our lives and our world..

See you in Church!

Arvin

**United Methodist Council of Bishops
Resolution on the Iraq War**

Approved Nov. 9, 2007



Whereas, the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church is committed to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

Whereas, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, calls his followers to be peacemakers (Matt. 5:9); and

Whereas, "We believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ" (*Book of Discipline 2004*, Par. 165.C); and

Whereas, the cost of the war in Iraq as of Nov. 7, 2007, has been the lives of 3,843 members of the U.S. military, 171 members of the United Kingdom military, 132 members of the other Coalition military, 28,385 U.S. military wounded, and the lives of at least 76,241 Iraqi civilians; and

Whereas the war in Iraq has displaced 2 million persons and forced another 2 million persons into refugee status;

Whereas, every day the war continues more soldiers and innocent civilians are killed with no end in sight to the violence, bloodshed and carnage;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS, meeting Nov. 9 at Lake Junaluska, N.C., calls on the President and Congress of the United States and the leaders of all the nations in the Coalition Forces:

- o To begin immediately a safe and full withdrawal of all military personnel from Iraq, with no additional troops deployed;
- o To declare that there will be no permanent military bases in Iraq;
- o To increase support for veterans of the Iraq war and all wars;
- o To initiate and give strong support to a plan for the reconstruction of Iraq, with high priority given to the humanitarian and social needs of the Iraqi people, such as healthcare, education and housing;

FURTHER, THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS calls United Methodist people throughout the world:

- o To pray for peace and to have regular prayer vigils for congregations and communities;
- o To care for all impacted by the war, including combatants and noncombatants by honoring the dead, healing the wounded and calling for the end of the war;
- o To be peacemakers by word and deed that we may be called the children of God.

DECEMBER AT FIRST CHURCH



CHRISTMAS IN MUSIC

On Sunday December 9 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room, Chuck Klang will again play selections from his collection of Christmas CDs. This includes music from the Renaissance up to contemporary composers. Special Christmas treats will be provided.

HANGING OF THE CHRISMONS

On Sunday December 9, following the Sunday morning worship service, we need volunteers to help hang Chrismons on the tree in the sanctuary. Just come directly to the front of the sanctuary after the service.

GIVING TREE

First Church's Children and Family Ministry is sponsoring a "Giving Tree" with toys for tots. Angels are now placed in the church narthex. Please help out children in our local community by bringing an unwrapped gift for a child between the ages of birth and 12 years old. On December 16, 2007 Marine representatives will be here to collect the gifts.



PARENTS DAY OUT

Parents Day Out is a program to help make the holidays a little less hectic for families. Each Saturday, on December 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2007 from 10:00 A to 1:00 PM you can bring your children to the church nursery for care while you shop or just relax. Sign-ups are available at the church nursery. The cost is \$5 per child with a \$15 maximum per family.

ZOO LIGHTS

The First Church trip to the Zoolights at the Oregon Zoo is Saturday, December 15, 2007. At 5:00 PM meet at the church so we can take MAX together to Washington Park. Come see the zoo transformed into a winter wonderland, aglow with nearly a million lights. Cost is \$7 per person, unless you have a free pass as a Zoo Plus Member. For more information or to sign up let Arden Bryce know at 503/228-3195 x227 or by email at abryce@fumcpdx.org.



BACH'S MAGNIFICAT

On Sunday, December 16, in the 10:30 AM worship service the Chancel Choir and orchestra will present Bach's *Magnificat*. You won't want to miss this musical Christmas treasure!

A VIOLIN RECITAL

The Friends of Music will present our own Rebecca Anderson in recital the afternoon of December 16, 2007 at 1:00 PM. Becky will be playing Mozart and Prokofiev Concertos and a Bach Sonata. She will be accompanied by Janet Coleman at the piano. The recital will be a joy for all to hear!

ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING

There will be a Longest Night Service, Wednesday, December 19, at 7:00 PM at First Congregational, 1126 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR 97205, 503/228-7219. 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. Portland First UMC, First Christian and First Congregational churches gather for a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering and for sharing our hurting places with God.

THE OREGON RENAISSANCE BAND

On Sunday, December 23, there will be a service of Lesson and Carols and music by The Oregon Renaissance Band featuring alp horns and instruments of the period.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

On Monday, December 24, at 5:00 PM, we will have a Family Service of Lessons and Carols showcasing the children's choirs, beginning bell choirs, and the families of First Church. We will have our Traditional Candlelight Services at 7:00 and 9:00 PM. Jonas Nordwall will provide prelude music on the newly rebuilt Mary L. Collins Pipe Organ at 6:30 and 8:30 PM. There will be an 11:00 PM Communion Service. Child care will be available for the 5:00, 7:00 and 9:00 PM services.



adults at first

sunday classes

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. The class has just started, *Inscribing the Text: Sermons and Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*. Books are available in the classroom. Lively discussions are led by a different class member each week. Sundays at 9:15 AM in room 134.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Join as the Changing Christianity Class studies *The Language of God* by Francis S. Collins in room 202 from 9:00-10:15 am.

CHRISTMAS IN MUSIC

On Sunday December 9 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room, Chuck Klang will again play selections from his collection of Christmas CDs. This includes music from the Renaissance up to contemporary composers. Christmas has been a source of enormous musical creativity. Lesser known, yet beautiful, music will be played. Special Christmas treats will be provided.

scouting

God and Country

Is your Cub Scout, Boy Scout or Girl Scout interested in earning their God and Country Series awards? There are four different programs designed for the age of your child, 1st grade through 12th grade. Please call Laura Welch at 503/246-1439, if you are interested or have any questions.



the edge

thoughts for
the journey

Rev. Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

I just finished reading *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*. Some of you may have heard these statements of belief related by their authors on National Public Radio. Here is an example of the richness to be found in these statements as shared by Jody Williams, winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for her work as founding coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines:

“I believe it is possible for ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things. For me, the difference between ‘ordinary’ and an ‘extraordinary’ person is not the title that person might have, but what they do to make the world a better place for us all ... I believe that words are easy. I believe that truth is told in the actions we take. And I believe that if enough ordinary people back up our desire for a better world with action, we can, in fact accomplish absolutely extraordinary things.”

(*This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*, pages 257-59)

umw

women of first church

All women are invited to the following activities. Pat Brockman, president, 503/292-6270.

UMW UNIT GATHERING

There's Within My Heart a Melody is an event for all who love piano music. You will thrill to the talent of pianist Elizabeth Caswell on Wednesday, December 5, at 11:00 AM in the Fireside Room. This will be the first time to hear the newly acquired Knabe grand piano played as Liz presents “concert arrangements of favorite Christmas pieces for solo piano.” Selections will include our most beloved carols, as well as beautiful songs from other lands. Colleen Foster will present meditative inspirations interspersed throughout the program. Do invite friends, neighbors, and husbands to this annual musical highlight of the year.

Gathering time is 10:00 AM. for the regular UMW December meeting. Bring gifts, wrappings, or money for needy families. A special Christmas luncheon, with our church staff as guests, will be served at noon in Room 202 by Trudy Kayser, Mary Covert, Betty-Lou Hare, and Ruth Green.

APRON TALES A SUCCESS

Aprons really do tell stories. That's what we all learned recently at the United Methodist Women's tea. Friends enjoyed high noon tea and listened to apron tales. Many tales were funny, others poignant, but all were truly fascinating. The event, which was a fund raiser for UMW mission projects around the world, netted over \$1,000. As women who are organized for missions, we greatly appreciate all who contributed to the success of this event, especially those who bought tickets, those who donated time, Marty who donated centerpieces, and youth who served. You all helped us make a difference in the lives of women, children and youth around the world.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

On April 4-6, 200, the UMW Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting, will be in Honolulu, Hawaii.



ALTERNATIVE Christmas 2007



AN EXPANDED ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

Excitement is in the air as we approach our annual Alternative Christmas giving! On each of the four Sundays of Advent, December 2, 9, 16 & 23, you will have an opportunity to choose from a wide selection of projects which will provide for the basic needs of persons in our community, our country, and around the world. A printed "gift card," describing the project you have chosen will become a meaningful and ongoing gift for those you wish to honor in this season of giving. What better way to portray the spirit of the Christ Child than to give to others whose needs are great! A greatly expanded Alternative Christmas list is available in the Commons in Collins Hall. It will feature projects of not one but three church outreach groups: Global Missions, Church & Society, and Planet Church. Health care, homelessness, hunger, education, the environment, global missions, and peace efforts will be our focus for 2007.

INDIGENOUS CRAFT PROJECTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

An exciting, new feature this year will be items available for purchase from self-help and other agencies. When you accompany your printed gift cards with these unique, handmade items, it's like giving twice. The money from those purchases also goes to help individuals in far-away places.

December 2: Los Amigos de Los Romeritos

Los Amigos de Los Romeritos is a VIM project providing funding for a day care center in Guatemala City. Hand-woven cloth and other Guatemalan crafts will be available.

December 9: 10,000 Villages

10,000 Villages is an outreach, which features a diversity of fair-traded, self-help crafts from many countries.

December 16: Sabeel (The Way)

Purchase olive wood crèches and other hand-carved objects from the Holy Land, funding Palestinian Christians working through Sabeel (The Way), an Advance Special project.

December 23: Planet Church

Purchase Chinook Books, light bulbs and fair-trade chocolate to make this Christmas a truly "green" season.

Gift cards for all ten Alternative Christmas organizations will be available in the Common in Collins Hall each Sunday of Advent.

outreach at first project updates

BOOKS FOR PRISONERS

Thank you to the many people who brought in their books to donate to the Books to Prisoners program. It looks as if we topped out at close to 200 quality books (which is a lot!). We'll be donating a great selection of classic literature, educational and self-help books, as well as several dictionaries.

DOOR TO STORE

The newly formed First UMC Store to Door team will be working to do their first volunteer outreach day in December. The team will work to volunteer one time each month to help get groceries and prescriptions to those who cannot leave their homes. There's always room for more who want to join the team.

EYE GLASSES FOR LIBERIA

Thanks to everyone who donated glasses and funds for the Eyeglasses to Liberia Project. Roland Clarke, a new member of First Church, will be taking nearly 200 pairs to Liberia next week. A special thanks to Wid Bleything for checking and recording the prescription on every pair of glasses that was donated. This will make it much easier for recipients to get what they need once the glasses are in Liberia.



THE OREGON FOOD BANK

Sixteen members of First Church helped bag apples at the Oregon Food Bank on November 17, 2007, as a part of a Children and Family Ministry project. If you'd like to be a part of a future community service event (and maybe even wear great clothes like these) let Arden Bryce know at 503/228-3195 or e-mail her at abryce@fumcpdx.org.

Publication Deadlines

Articles for *The Circuit Rider* are due no later than 4:45 pm on the Thursday before publication the following Wednesday. The next *Circuit Rider* will be published on **December 12, 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 or bring to the church office

The Circuit Rider Online or by E-Mail

See the latest and past issues of *The Circuit Rider* in color at <http://www.fumcpdx.org/newsletter>

Have the link to the latest issue of *The Circuit Rider* e-mailed to you and be up-to-date fast and first! Sign-up at the church office, or call 503/228-3195 or e-mail at office@fumcpdx.org

our prayers

prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Callie Templin, who is now hospitalized following her treatment for cancer ...

Betty Cobb, as she continues to recover from surgery on her Achilles tendon ...

Bev Graver and his brother Ron, as they care for seriously ill parents in Kansas ...

Diane Hall, as she seeks a surgeon who is able to repair her leg injury ...

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Dick Clark

Mary Bywater Cross

David Edson

Douglas Eberwein

Jim Jozwiak

Judy Rogers

Sadame Tsunenaga

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD

Jared Bomberger

Michael Panck

Karl Alger

Vanessa Walton

Craig Kubala

Steven Johnson

John Lemmon

Ryan Martin

take note

items of interest

THE CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORIES

The new First Church Photo Directories are in. Stop by the church office and pick up your copy now. Please limit directories to one per household.

THE GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER

We have had a wonderful opening season so far. Thanks to everyone who has donated time, food, clothing, and money. We couldn't do it without you! As we move into the holidays, don't forget to sign up to volunteer at the shelter! We need your help to make sure our guests have a nice holiday season. We especially need Overnight Hosts, bus tickets, \$25 gift cards to Fred Meyer, and breakfast food.

We are also in need of new washers and dryers for our laundry room. Ours are just barely holding and as much as they get used, we need brand new ones! Please consider donating toward the purchase of new washers and dryers. If you know anyone who runs an electronics store that might be willing to donate to GHFS or cut us a great deal, please pass call us: 503/228-3195 ext. 215.