



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

January 23, 2008
Volume 12, Issue 02

COMING EVENTS

February 3
Reconciling Sunday
Holy Communion

February 6
Ash Wednesday

February 10
Winter Carnival
and Book Sale

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

PORTLAND'S FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



RECONCILING SUNDAY ■ FEBRUARY 3, 2008

Portland's First UMC is celebrating: "15 Years of Diversity Through Inclusiveness" with Reconciling Sunday, February 3, 2008.

As we reflect on the past 15 years we look forward to a brighter 2008. We hope landmark legislation protecting the rights and welfare of all Oregonians will finally be enacted. We celebrate the leadership role that First Church took many years ago on issues facing the LGBT community.

Please join us on February 3, 2008 to celebrate our diversity and to renew our commitment to ensuring that "in God's house - all are welcome."

RECONCILING SUNDAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:30 AM
Reconciling Sunday
Holy Communion

12:00 PM
Coffee Hour
(sponsored by Reconciling Ministries)

12:15 PM
Reconciling Luncheon in the
Fireside Room

alternative Christmas a report

You did it! Together we truly expressed the spirit of the Christ-child, through our Alternative Christmas giving. Your generosity spread hope, life, health, warmth, comfort . . . and most of all, a future, to children and families around the globe. Because of your giving . . .

- A child in Cambodia, living on the edge of Phnom Phen's garbage dumps, will have a brighter future.
- During the cold, wet nights of winter, families in our Goose Hollow Shelter will find comfort, food, warmth and respect.
- Heifer International will provide animals to bring food to a family, enabling them to survive--and share the animal's offspring with others.
- Health and peace will come to the poor in Guatemala, through the clinic that provides medical and dental care, Salud y Paz.
- Palestinian Christians will find a way to peace, through "Friends of Sabeel" -- friends from around the world.
- People in Portland with inadequate health insurance can receive care through the Wallace Medical Free Clinic.
- Birds of the air will have care, through Audubon's watchful eyes.
- Oregon skies will be clearer, and we'll all breathe easier, as Oregon Environmental Council encourages healthful awareness of our beautiful state.
- Sustainable farming is both taught and practiced through Zenger Farm project in SE Portland-- you're invited to visit and participate.
- And our children, and our children's children will see the breath-taking beauty of the Columbia Gorge.

In addition, your money went even further, helping others in many places, through purchasing handmade Guatemalan goods benefiting Los Amigos de Los Romeritos, a child care center in the poorest section of Guatemala City or selecting items from many places, channeled through Ten Thousand Villages, or buying lovingly carved olive wood from Friends of Sabeel or fair-trade chocolate or Chinook Books or stopping by for your free CFL light bulbs, provided by Planet Church.

All the above were delighted with our support of these projects.



In our Alternative Christmas giving, we equaled last year's total, spreading nearly \$7000 over ten agencies:

Goose Hollow Family Shelter,
\$2,565

Heifer International,
\$1,205

Salud y Paz,
\$790

Friends of Sabeel,
\$735

Cambodia Garbage Dump Ministry,
\$735

Wallace Medical Clinic,
\$425

Audobon Society,
\$225

Oregon Environmental Council,
\$185

Zenger Farms,
\$105

Friends of the Columbia Gorge,
\$80

Undoubtedly, the joyful experience of generosity warmed the hearts of the recipients you chose to honor with your gifts. A big thank you to all of you, from your Global Missions, Church & Society, and Planet Church committees at First UMC.



BREAD FOR THE WORLD 2008 OFFERING OF LETTERS

Sponsored by FUMC
Hunger Ministry and Global
Missions Committee

On Sundays, February 17 and 24, members of First UMC will sit down together in Collins Hall to write letters to our members of Congress asking them to do all they can to increase poverty-focused development assistance by at least \$5 billion in the fiscal year 2009. We will ask our Senators specifically to co-sponsor S.2433, the Global Poverty Act. More information on this bill will be available soon.

Why we need to do this:

In September 2000, every nation of the world, including the United States, pledged themselves to work together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Keeping our promises will help achieve the goals of cutting poverty and hunger, improving health care and education, and protecting the environment by 2015.

Nearly a billion people worldwide live on less than \$1 a day. We can support their efforts to better their lives with effective poverty-focused development assistance. We can succeed in reducing extreme poverty if U.S. development policy and programs are working together effectively.

adults at first sunday morning classes

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

The Fellowship of Seekers meets each Sunday at 9:15AM in room 134.

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. Next Sunday we will begin reading *Creation to Revelation: A Brief Account of the Biblical Story* by James O. Chatham. Books will be available in the classroom. Lively discussions are led by a different class member each week.

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Join us as the Changing Christianity Class as we study: *The Powers That Be* by Walter Wink, in room 202 from 9:00-10:15 AM.

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 6 - 27 - THE CRY OF CREATION: A CALL FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

This study focuses on both the growing scientific understandings of climate change and the implied religious and moral imperatives for action in caring for our planet. We are using an Interfaith Study Guide on Global warming published by the National Council of Churches entitled: *The Cry of Creation: A Call for Climate Justice*. Co-leaders of this class will be Jim Clarke and Chuck Klang.

church library winter carnival book sale

THE FIRST CHURCH LIBRARY NEEDS YOU!

As we prepare for Christmas and the turning of the year, the First Church Library is starting to think about the Winter Carnival and our annual book sale, coming up on February 10, 2008! If you have resolved to thin out your book collection, now is the time! If you have books to donate, we would like to invite you to bring them in to the library. We're sorry but space limitations make it impossible for us to accept big donations of "leftovers" from other large sales, and we've found that there's no market for textbooks or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. Otherwise, come on down! If you have any questions, please check with the Sunday Librarian or call Bob Wilson at 503/282-8761. Thanks for your support and we'll look forward to seeing you at the Winter Carnival!

And remember, proceeds from the sale go toward acquiring new books for the library, so feel free to use the "Suggested Titles" sheets in the library and in The Commons to let us know of books you'd like to see in our collection.

umw the women of first church

Pat Brockman, president, 503/292-6270

UMW BOARD MEETING

The UMW Board will meet Wednesday, January 30, at 9:30 AM in Room 110. Chair: Pat Brockman, 503/292-6270

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, January 30, 11:30 AM in Room 204. Bring your curiosity, choose a few of your favorite hymns, and be prepared for some singing as we explore the connection between Music & Missions. Colleen Foster, a School of Christian Mission leader, will introduce mission hymns and their composers. Hopefully, this song fest will whet your interest in the UMW Spiritual Retreat, *God's Mission, God's Song*, coming up in April. Bring a friend. Share a sandwich. Chair: Hazelee Stevenson, 503/283-0041.

METRO DISTRICT EVERY MEMBER ENRICHMENT EVENT

The Metro District Every Member Enrichment event is Saturday, February 2, 2008 at the Parkrose UMC, 11111 NE Knott St., Portland, 503/264-7567. Registration is at 8:45 AM.

The guest speaker will be Dennis Hochstatter of Tacoma Community House, a 100 year old UMW mission project.

UMW UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, February 6, in the Fireside Room. Our monthly meeting and sharing IS at 10:00 AM, and the program at 11:00 AM All are welcome, both men and women. *The Challenge of a Global Community, United Methodist Primetimers in New York City*, will be led by Cal & Pat Brockman, Art & Trudy Kayser, Leah Vislisel, and Linda Anderson. The above event provided the opportunity to further explore the meaning of globalization, where brothers and sisters around the world are being left behind in the process. The above Primetimers met with religious leaders and UN representatives and will share with us what they learned regarding aspects of globalization, including aging, sweatshops, climate change, and media. Also, you will learn about future Primetimers programs in 2008, both in this country and overseas. Brown bag lunch will follow at noon in Room 202.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United Winter Forum will be Thursday, February 7, 2008. For more information contact: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773 .

NEEDLEWORKERS NEEDED

First UMC United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM) team is going to Sager Brown in April. Team members will be carrying suitcases filled with items for "kits" that are compiled at Sager Brown (health kits, school kits, sewing kits and layette kits). More information about exactly will be collected will be forthcoming. However, one item that requires more preparation time is baby sweaters for the layette kits. Simple patterns to knit and/or crochet are available at the church office, in Will Call. Patterns are also available for sewing the bags that are used for the school kits. For information about these projects, or who needs help with the patterns, can contact Dee Poujade at 503/243-3337.

Publication Deadlines

Articles for The Circuit Rider are due no later than 10:00 AM on the Thursday before publication the following Wednesday. The next Circuit Rider will be published on February 6, 2008.

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

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>

The Circuit Rider can be e-mailed to you. E-mail the church office at office@fumcpdx.org to request it by e-mail.

our prayers prayers and concerns

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The family and friends of Mildred Simpson. Mildred, a former member of First Church, died December 28, 2007.

The family and friends of Beverly Kurtz. Beverly died on January 19, 2008. She was a friend of Dee Poujade.

Judy Tosterud, whose father, Russell Payne died in Minnesota on January 21, 2008.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Bernice Mastrangelo, she is a friend of Naomi Charboneau, *Bridget Charboneau,* she is the daughter of Naomi Charboneau,

Eric Garoutte, who is suffering with cancer. He is the brother of Frank Garoutte,

Judy Rogers, who will begin a new chemo treatment this week,

Bishop Bob Hoshibata, who mother, Violet Hoshibata, is suffering with cancer in Hawaii.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Dick Clark
Mary Bywater Cross
Douglas Eberwein
Jim Jozwiak
Diane Hall
Patrick O'Brien
Sadame Tsunenaga

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD

Jared Bomberger
Michael Panck
Vanessa Walton
Craig Kubala
Steven Johnson
John Lemmon
Ryan Martin

finances an update

Even though we had a deficit at 2007 year-end, the \$20,000 carry over from 2006 kept us solvent.

Your support with prayers, talents, and giving has made it possible for us to pay 100% of our apportionment, keep our commitment to our covenant relationships, pay salaries, provide education, support local and global outreach initiatives, and meet the expenses necessary to keep our building operational. Thanks be to God!

Remember. It is never too late to send in an estimate of giving. Your continued support is greatly needed and appreciated.

Thanks to all for your contributions in 2007.

**TOTAL
INCOME**
1,160,827.00

**TOTAL
EXPENSE**
1,162,134.39

BALANCE
(1,307.39)





PORTLAND'S FIRST CHURCH

Established 1848

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Portland, OR 97201

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503/228-3195

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Website

www.fumcpdx.org

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.



*Living a
Vibrant
Faith:*

**BELIEVING
THINKING
ACTING**

**VISIT
OUR
WEBSITE
AT:**

**WWW.
FUMCPDX.
ORG**

SPRING 2008

FEBRUARY - JUNE



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship is at the heart of the First Church community. It is where we join heart, hand and voice in praise to God and are renewed in spirit. We gather at First Church every Sunday at 10:30 AM to worship as a community.

In addition to gathering for worship, be a part of the many wonderful learning and fellowship opportunities listed in this Program Guide.

SOMETHING NEW!

Beginning Sunday, February 17, 2008, we'll offer a new worship experience called: *Spirit Break*. This is a new monthly gathering for people who do not attend (or are not attracted to) traditional worship, but might like another spiritual outlet. Utilizing story, humor, dialogue, and music in a casual setting, these gatherings will explore spiritual possibilities in the secular world to help people get in touch with their spiritual selves. The gatherings will take place in the First Church Chapel on the third Sundays of the month:

February 17
March 16
April 20
May 18

*Spirit
Break*



They will begin at 5:00 PM, last less than an hour, and be followed by refreshments and fellowship. Children and youth are welcome and there will be child care. Jim Ruyle, and occasional special guests, will be joined by First Church musicians to create an experience that is joyful, thoughtful, and meaningful for all. Falling soon after Valentines Day, the theme for the first gathering on February 17 will be: *Matters of the Heart*.

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs
503/228-3195 ext. 226
aluchs@firstchurch.org

Minister of Discipleship

Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse
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Minister of Pastoral Care

Rev. Tom Foster
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Building Maintenance

Bruce Hendrickson
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bhendrickson@fumcpdx.org



HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 16

Palm Sunday Service at 10:30 AM

Thursday, March 20

Maundy Thursday Service
at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary

Friday, March 21

Good Friday Service at
7:00 PM in the chapel

Sunday, March 23

Easter Services at
9:00 and 11:00 AM

There will be no church meetings or outside groups meeting in the building during Holy Week. We encourage you to make this a time of prayer and spiritual reflection.



THE COMMONS-AM AND THE COMMONS IN COLLINS HALL

Come to Collins Hall on Sundays from 8:45 am to 10:15 Am. We'll be open for coffee, juice, snack and conversation.

Then, following the worship service, join our community once again for the Commons in Collins. Each Sunday we gather to share, learn and know one another better. Come to check out a book ... or just have coffee with a friend ... learn about opportunities taking place in the life of the church and the wider community. Follow the signs from the sanctuary.

NURSERY CARE

Nursery care is available on Sunday mornings in room 211 from 9AM through the worship service each week.

A WORD ABOUT PARKING

In addition to the parking next to the church, there is also parking available in the lots to the east of the sanctuary. Visitor parking and parking for senior citizens is specially marked near the front doors. The MAX and Tri-Met buses stop at First Church's entrance onto Jefferson Street.

FELLOWSHIP opportunities

There are a number of on-going fellowship groups at First Church. For details and contact information, call the church office at 503/228-3195.

FOOD AND FRIENDS

An adult dinner group that meets the second Friday of the month at a selected restaurant. This group began as a parents gathering to offer support and fellowship to one another. It is open to all adults that enjoy good food and good conversation. Childcare is provided at the church nursery, donations encouraged. Contact: Agnes Zach

R+FRIENDS

For those interested in the First Church Reconciling Program. This group goes out for lunch following the worship service every third Sunday of the month. Meet after worship in the Commons.

Contact: Dan Strickland or Dan Woodward

METHODIST HIKERS

This group takes monthly hikes on Saturday mornings. Contact: Paula Justice

THE PARKER GROUP

Meets usually the first Saturday of the month at 11:00 AM.

Contact: Hazel Wells

THE SHOVEL AND RAKE GANG

Meets every Thursday from 8AM to Noon to do projects around the church, with a break for refreshments and fellowship at 10:30 AM.

Contact: Terry Connell

BRIDGE GROUP

Meets on Tuesdays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Contacts: Bill and Thelma MacDonald

T.A.G. (THE ADULT GANG)

This group is for adults of any age who enjoy having fun through fellowship with others. This can include, but is not limited to, dining in homes as well as restaurants, attending concerts, movies, theater productions, etc., participating in various local events or group planned activities. The group meets every other month.

Contact: Jeanne Teisher

especially for NEWCOMERS



ESPECIALLY FOR NEWCOMERS

If you are new to Portland's First Church, we hope that you will make this your church home—a place where you can experience meaningful worship, wonderful music, and opportunities to learn and grow as a person of faith. Please accept our invitation to become involved in our congregational activities, orient yourself to the opportunities available, and connect with others through small, faith-nurturing groups. We hope that you will come to call this congregation your “church home.”

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. These one-time orientations will be offered after the worship service on: January 27, March 30, May 4, and June 29, 2008. For information or to register to be a part of one of these sessions, contact the church office at 503/ 228-3195. Child care is available.



RECONCILING congregation

FIRST CHURCH IS A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

“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.” The Reconciling Ministry team creates a variety of opportunities to demonstrate our commitment as a Reconciling Congregation, including celebrating Reconciling Sunday, marching in the annual Pride Parade, and creating fellowship opportunities within the life of First Church. Our Reconciling Ministry Coordinators are Dan Strickland and Dan Woodward. For more information contact the church at 503/228-3195.

PASTORAL care

First Church provides pastoral care for those who are: sick at home or in the hospital, in a time of personal or family crisis, experiencing grief following a death, or in need of supportive counseling. We also seek to keep regular contact with our homebound members.

In cooperation with the United Methodist Women, we also have a Prayer Chain for members and friends of the church. In addition, there is a Stephen Ministry program at First Church, which provides caring Christian support and friendship through a trained lay ministry team. These individuals provide a listening ear when in crisis, death, prolonged illness, or as other situations arise. To receive the services of a Stephen Minister, contact Rev. Tom Foster.

All pastoral care needs should be directed to Rev. Tom Foster, our Minister of Pastoral Care at 503/228-3195 ext. 233 or at tfoster@fumcpdx.org.



THE LENTEN SUPPER SERIES the beloved community:

REFLECTIONS OF LIFE ALONG THE WAY

Supper from 5:30 to 6:30 PM in Collins Hall
Program from 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Lent is an important time for self-reflection and renewal. It is also a time to remember that we are all a part of God's "beloved community." Join us for First Church's 2008 Lenten Suppers/Programs. This year's theme is:
The Beloved Community: Reflections of Life Along the Way.

"The Beloved Community" is a term that was first coined by the philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce, who founded the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized this concept throughout his ministry, giving the expression deeper meaning and capturing the imagination of people throughout the world. The concept also captures the meaning of several foundational aspects of the Christian faith.

Come each week during Lent for a simple, light supper prepared by Michael Copeland, beginning at 5:30PM. Then be a part of this year's exploration of what it means to be a part of a "beloved community." Beginning at 6:30PM, we will sing hymns, have table time conversations, and hear short presentations from members of First Church. Child care will be provided.

- February 6 **Ash Wednesday Service** (6:30 PM in the Chapel)
- February 13 **The Beloved Community: What Does It Mean?**
Presenters: John Goff and Trudy Kayser
- February 20 **The Beloved Community ... An Extended Family**
Presenters: Angela and Alan Kemling and Paul Nickell
- February 27 **The Beloved Community ... In a Global Context**
Presenters: Roland Clarke and Mark Greathouse
- March 5 **The Beloved Community ... In an Era of Violence**
Presenters: Mary Sagara and Dominick Robertson
- March 12 **First Church A Part of the Beloved Community**
Presenters: Matt Webber and Brandi Tuck



At 5:30 pm each Wednesday night during the Lenten Series, come to Collins Hall for a Soup Supper Buffet. Michael Copeland will prepare a delicious meal for us to share. The fellowship around tables is always "warming" too! There is a suggested \$5.00 donation for the meal.

FORUMS at first church

First Church Forums are held on Sundays after worship in the Fireside Room. A light lunch and child care are provided.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Looking Toward the United Methodist General Conference: A Vision of Hope?
Marilyn Outslay, National Co-President of the Methodist Federation for Social Action, will lead us in an examination of the issues and possibilities surrounding this year's General Conference.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

International Travel: South Africa 2009
Cheryl Luce will share plans for the First Church Travelers' trip to South Africa in 2009.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

An Update on Liberia
Come and hear First Church member, Roland Clarke, update us on his recent experience in Liberia.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

UMCOR Sager Brown:
First Church in Louisiana
Hear about the experiences of the First Church Volunteer in Mission team that traveled and worked at Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana.



Interested in reading good books? The Church Library contains over 6,000 books, audiotapes and videos...fiction and non fiction for adults and children. Subjects include theology, history, biography, psychology, prayers, devotional literature and much more. The library is open Sundays beginning at 9:15AM, and for about a half hour after church. Check us out! The library is located in the 100 wing of the church ... or stop by the Commons after church to see our display.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES at first church



Children/Family Ministry focuses on learning and fellowship for the whole family. Our specific ministry vision states that:

Claimed by God and called by Christ Jesus, we acknowledge that we have special responsibility for God's little ones, the children in our midst and all around us.

Children are always welcome to stay with their families during worship. Those between the ages of three through fifth grade may also choose to participate in Children's Choirs before worship and Sunday School during worship time.

NURSERY CARE

Nursery care is available from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM each Sunday. The nursery is available for infants through two year olds during Sunday worship. Before and after worship, older children are welcome. Our professional staff members have completed a background check and Infant/Child CPR and First Aid training. They also have years of experience and training in childcare. The nursery is also available for committee meetings and other special church events, by request. A \$5.00 donation is requested for these special events.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Children's Choirs meet from 9:30-10:15 AM each Sunday morning. The Cherub choir is for children ages 3 through 1st Grade. The Soundseekers Choir is open for children in 2nd through 5th grade. Additional details are on page 6 of this Program Guide.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sunday School for children ages 3 through 5th grade uses the *Exploring Faith* curriculum. Children attend worship with their families and leave for Sunday School after the "Children's Time" in worship. Kids can be picked up from class after worship. First through 5th graders will have the opportunity to experience Sunday School and worship, learning how to actively participate in the life of the church.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church occurs on the first Sunday of the month for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. This special service for children meets in the Chapel. Following the "Conversation with Our Children" time in worship, children go directly to the Chapel. There they will experience a special worship service designed especially for them. Parents can meet their children in the chapel at the completion of worship.

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

Ice Skating at the Lloyd Center, February 9, 2008 from 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Go Dog Go! At the Northwest Children's Theatre on March 29, 2008 at 3:00 PM

In April we are dining at Grandma Leif's.

In May the event is *Einstein is a Dummy* on the May 17, 2008

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

February Valentines for Seniors project during Winter Carnival, February 10, 2008.

March CARES Bears Community Service Project

We will be collecting teddy bears for the local CARES organization. It provides a safe, child-friendly environment for the assessment of children for whom there are concerns of physical or sexual abuse, neglect and exposure to domestic violence. During the interview process children are given a teddy bear to help ease their fears.

CONTACT For further information about Children/Family Ministries, please contact: Arden Bryce at 503/228-3195 ext. 227 or abryce@fumcpdx.org.

first church YOUTH

Be a part of the Youth Program at First Church ...

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Middle School Sunday School is in Room 130 and begins at 9:30AM

High School Sunday School is in the Youth Room and begins at 9:30 AM.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Middle School meets at 5:30 PM, High School meets at 7:00PM. Everyone eats together at 6:30 PM. Come to room 202.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

First Church youth will be combating world hunger by participating in Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday on February 3, 2008. They will be positioned in the narthex following worship to collect donations.

YOUTH SUNDAY

First Church youth will lead us in worship on Sunday, April 13, 2008. This is always a special event in the life of the church!

CONTACT

For further information about Youth Ministries, please contact: Paul Adams at 503/228-3195 ext. 229 or padams@fumcpdx.org.



MUSIC at first church

The music program at Portland's First United Methodist Church provides musical excellence in all areas of church music. Our music extends the ministry of this church to the greater Portland community.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

The Chancel Choir sings for Sunday morning worship services. Directed by Gary St. John, it rehearses on Thursday evenings in the Chapel from 7:30 – 9:30 PM. All are welcome to sing in this volunteer choir.

The Sanctuary Bell Choir, directed by Nancy Hascall, rehearses on Thursday evenings in Room 130 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Experience ringing hand bells is necessary for this to be an enjoyable experience. This group will play for worship on:

February 10 March 9 April 27 June 8

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Cherubs Choir, directed by Janice Hauser, is for children from ages 3 through Second Grade. This choir meets on Sunday mornings in Room 206 from 9:30 – 10:15 AM. They are singing for worship on:

February 10 March 9 April 13 May 18 June 8

The Soundseekers Choir, directed by Ronnee Edwards, is for children in grades 3 – 6. This choir rehearses on Sunday mornings in Room 136 from 9:30 – 10:15 AM.

They are singing for worship on:

February 17 April 20 May 11 (Musical) June 15

The Veritas Choir, also directed by Ronnee Edwards includes Seventh Grade through Senior High School students. They rehearse on Sunday mornings in Room 133 from 9:00 – 9:30 AM.

The Genesis Ringers, directed by Karin McDonough, is for beginning bell players. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings in Room 130 at 6:00. They will play the prelude for worship on:

March 9 May 25

juBELLation, also directed by Karin McDonough, is the premiere youth handbell choir. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings in Room 130 at 7:00 PM. They will play for worship on:

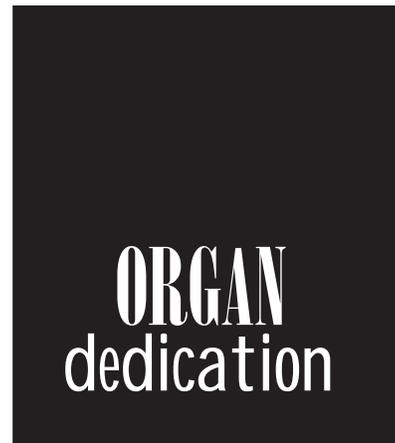
January 27 March 16 April 13 May 25

CONTACT

Jonas Nordwall, Artistic Director of Music and Organist: jnordwall@fumcpdx.org

Kelly Qualls, Executive Director of Music: kqualls@fumcpdx.org

For more information about participating in the music program at First Church, contact Kelly Qualls. 503-228-3195. You may also look at the Music Ministry area on our website at: www.fumcpdx.org.



On Sunday, April 20, 2008 there will be a dedication of the rebuilt Mary L. Collins Pipe Organ in the 10:30 AM worship service. That afternoon there will be a concert featuring Jonas Nordwall at the console sponsored by The Friends of Music. A reception will follow in Collins Hall.



The purpose of the First Church Fine Arts Program is 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. Shows rotate on a monthly basis. The Spring schedule is as follows:

- FEBRUARY** Tupper (Nan) Malone (watercolor)
- MARCH** Jo Ockerman (painting)
- APRIL** Spring Show: Barbara Mercer, Sandy Brook, and Fran Richards (pastels)
- MAY** United Methodist Women Annual Quilt Show

ADULTS at first



ONGOING SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

Changing Christianity

Sundays from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 202

This group studies a variety of books throughout the year and uses these materials as the basis for class discussion. The class focuses on how Christianity has changed, is changing, will change, and how we can be a part of that change. Recent books have included: *American Gospel*, *The Sins of Scripture*, *The Gospel of Thomas*, *Bridging Science and Religion*, *The Language of God*, and *The Powers that Be*.

Fellowship of Seekers

Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in Room 134

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. Recent books have included: *A Hidden Wholeness*, *The Gospel of Thomas*, *How to Be an Open-minded Christian without Losing Your Faith*, *Inscribing the Text: Sermons and Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*, and *Creation to Revelation: A Brief Account of the Biblical Story*. Following a time of fellowship, lively discussions are led by different class members each week.

FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE SERIES

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

American Genesis— February 10, 17, 24 and March 2 and 9

We will be listening to and discussing *American Genesis: A Musical Narrative*, which is the ancient Epic of Creation and Evolution wrapped in fresh lyrics and tunes by Karl Luckert and arranged for organ by Jonas Nordwall. In each session, Karl and Jonas will take us through the music and provide an opportunity for us to discuss its meaning.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Session 1: February 10 | Love, Word and words, Eternity and the times |
| Session 2: February 17 | Separation of the Firm and the Soft—animate life between |
| Session 3: February 24 | Creation of Humankind |
| Session 4: March 2 | Paradise and Fall, Work and Rest |
| Session 5: March 9 | New Heaven and new Earth—History and Salvation Revised |

Myth and Sacred Story in the Modern World — March 30 and April 6, 13, and 20, 2008

We live in a world in which fact and physical reality compete with myth, sacred story and the spiritual world for our attention and allegiance. Is the world simply about facts to be learned and the physical reality we experience with our senses? Or ... is it about mysteries to be discovered and a “sacred canopy” that frames our experience of life? In this series, Rev. Lowell Greathouse will help us address this and other related questions, using a variety of resources that includes Joseph Campbell, Peter Berger, Abraham Heschel, biblical references, the ancient mystics, and key framers of our modern world. We will explore how we, as people of faith, might come to terms with the various realities that shape our lives.

Food and Faith -- May 4, 11, 18, and 25, and June 1, 2008

What is the relationship between food and our faith? This class will use the book *Food and Faith* by Michael Schut. Join us as we seek to make connections between faith and food choices, celebrate the provision of “our daily bread,” build a sense of community and support within the group, encourage more healthful eating habits, and explore the connections between industrial agriculture and ecological degradation. Leader: Laura Engle, an MDiv student at Marylhurst

Who Is My Neighbor? Economics as if Values Matter — June 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2008

Who Is My Neighbor? will help us recognize our own ability to be economists, to dare to dream of the world we want to construct, and to offer suggestions on how to bring that world into being. This study will begin with stories that describe the problem in both historical and personal terms and end with how people of faith can expand our participation and that of our religious institutions in substantial new economic initiatives. We will be using a study guide developed by the editors of *Sojourners* magazine.

PAIRS FOR COUPLES: INTENSIVE WORKSHOP

May 3 & 10, 200 from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Couple Cost: \$119 per couple

This two day workshop is a chance to “clean out the pipes” of your relationship where the build-up of months and years of unexpressed feelings, misunderstandings, and conflict might have impeded the free flow of open-hearted love. The PAIRS (Practical Application of Intimate Relationship Skills) workshop is an intensive program developed by Lori Heyman Gordon, Ph.D. This offering will help you expand your “emotional IQ” while developing practical, usable skills.

Location: First United Methodist Church, 1836 SW Jefferson, Portland.

Facilitated by: Dominick Robertson, MS with additional Samaritan counselors

Contact: Samaritan Counseling Centers to register or for questions - 503/281-3318

PLAYFUL SPANISH

Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Library, beginning Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Join Rene Pino on a weekly basis and learn conversational Spanish in a fun, playful setting that uses Total Physical Response.

55 ALIVE MATURE DRIVING COURSE

55-Alive is a unique program for older drivers. This popular course is offered three times a year at First UMC. Each day the class runs from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$10. Make checks payable to: AARP. To register call the church office at 503/228-3195.

When: In 2008, this class will be offered three different times in the Fireside Room:

Wednesday and Thursday, March 12 and 13, 2008

Wednesday and Thursday, June 11 and 12, 2008

Wednesday and Thursday, October 15 and 16, 2008

ELECTIVES FOR ENRICHMENT: CHRISTIANS AND EMPIRE

Mondays, April 21 and 28 and May 5, 12, and 19, 2008 from 10:00 AM to noon in the Fireside Room. This five-session program will be taught by Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs, First Church Senior Pastor. Look for more information and registration details in the Commons in Collins Hall.

ADULTS
at first
SPECIAL
LEARNING
opportunities



There are special travel opportunities available for adults throughout the year. Pick up registration materials in The Commons or at the church office.

For more information contact: Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 ext. 224 or lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org.

March 4, 2008

THEATER: THE PLAY “HONOUR” AT OLD CHURCH

Join us at Old Church 1422 SW 11th Avenue at 10:00 AM for the play, *Honour*, written by Joanna Murray-Smith. It is a touching, poignant tale of a mature marriage that is suddenly set on its heels. Cost: \$6.00 for the play and \$10.95 for lunch at the BLEU at the Western Culinary Institute.

April 23, 2008

TOUR: VISIT TO MARYLHURST UNIVERSITY

Meet at First Church at 9:00 AM and travel to the Marylhurst campus. The program and tour will include adult ed/elder learner programs, piano concert at 12:30 PM, and an art exhibit. The daytime program is free of charge with lunch and dinner costs not included. (An optional concert at 8:00 PM by guitarist David Russell is being offered for \$25.00 per admission.)

May 22, 2008

TOUR: OHSU CASEY EYE INSTITUTE

Trip includes a series of mini-seminars on cataract surgery, retinal damage impacting vision in older eyes, low vision devices when damage has occurred, and current research in these same fields. Gather at First UMC at 9:00 AM. Trip includes tram ride and lunch at OHSU. Bring \$4.00 for round trip tram fare and money for lunch.

June 27-28, 2008

TRIP: OVERNIGHT TOUR TO ASTORIA

Join us for a trip to historic Astoria via motorcoach. We will be leaving First UMC at 9:00 AM on Friday, June 27, stay overnight in Astoria, and return late afternoon on Saturday, June 28. Details to come.



Outreach Ministry at First United Methodist Church is inspired by the social gospel witness of Jesus, which calls us to love kindness, do justice and walk humbly with our God. We seek to be an intentional, inclusive, engaged community working to eradicate poverty of mind, body, and spirit as we commit ourselves to being a significant voice in the community, working to address the issues of housing, health care, hunger, living wages, education, environment and social justice and peace. Outreach Ministries at First UMC include:

CHURCH AND SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Providing witness to and relates the social gospel ministry of Jesus to the members of the church, and all persons and institutions of the community and world on issues of human rights, poverty, peace with justice, and the integrity of creation in keeping with the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.

GLOBAL OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

Promoting issues of national and international concern within our congregation. Each year it provides educational opportunities on global needs and sponsors Volunteers In Mission trips worldwide.

PLANET CHURCH

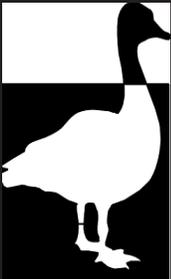
Provides leadership and education within First UMC, the local community and the expanded community around issues of Energy Conservation, Recycling, Global Warming and Responsible Stewardship of the Earth.

HUNGER MINISTRY TEAM

Responding to the major issues and needs regarding hunger in Oregon and the larger world community to identify ways in which the congregation might best respond. Sponsors First Sunday “FISH Sunday” each month. Bring donations to the FISH barrels, located in the church narthex.

For more information, contact Matt Webber, Director of Community Outreach at 503/228-3195 x220 or mwebber@fumcpdx.org.

GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY shelter



ABOUT THE SHELTER

The Goose Hollow Family Shelter is a winter emergency shelter, started at First Church in 1994, and is one of the few family shelters in the Portland metro area that allows homeless families to stay together while living in a temporary shelter. Goose Hollow is also part of a larger community alliance to end homelessness by addressing the root causes of homelessness and advocating for affordable housing, living wages, health care, and situations of poverty. The Shelter season is November 1 – April 30th.

We utilize over 600 volunteers each season to help operate the shelter. Our volunteer positions range from bringing dinner to playing with the children to staying overnight with our shelter guests. We encourage you to come volunteer at the shelter - and feel free to bring your family or friends with you to make it a really enjoyable evening.

VOLUNTEERING

You are invited to explore ways to fully participate in the life and community of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter by visiting our webpage at www.fumcpdx.org/goosehollowfamilyshelter or contact Brandi Tuck, Director of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter at 503/ 228-3195 ext. 215 or btuck@fumcpdx.org.

a chance to GIVE

FIRST SUNDAY
Remember First Sundays are *FISH Sundays* On the first Sunday of each month, FUMC members bring non-perishable food items and place them in the designated FISH barrels located in the narthex. These donations go to Portland's FISH Emergency Services

THIRD SUNDAY
The *Let's Make Change* is an effort of First Church to collect change on the third Sunday of each month for a designated cause.

UNITED METHODIST women

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Book Group, Third Wednesdays

10:00 AM, in the Church Library

Ruth Circle Third Wednesdays

Noon, in Room 204

Circle of Friends Last Wednesday of Month

11:30 AM in Room 204

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 4-6, 2008

UMW Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii

April 12, 2008

Western District Mission Event, Woodburn UMC

April 18 or 19, 2008

Metro District Spiritual Retreat, *God's Mission, God's Song*, Collins Retreat Center. Facilitator, Barbara Bate

May 2, 2008

Spring Quilt Luncheon.

July 31 – Aug 2, 2008

School of Christian Mission, George Fox University, Newberg, OR

United Methodist Women is for all women, and open to men as well. Our purpose says it well: “(We are) a community of women whose purpose is 1) to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, 2) to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and 3) to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.” Our primary focus is upon ministries for women, children and youth. We are committed to inclusiveness.

UMW UNIT GATHERINGS

UMW Unit Gatherings are the first Wednesday of each month. The meeting is at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room, with program following at 11:00 AM. There is a brown bag lunch at noon in Room 202.

Wednesday, February 6, 2008: The Challenge of Global Community

One of three studies at School of Christian Mission. Globalization affects everyone. We are privileged to have a first-hand report from First UMC members who saw the workings of the UN in New York City, as part of a Primetimers event they attended in October. All are invited to this program.

Wednesday, March 5, 2008: Fear Not; Pray Earnestly

Features the annual observance of Prayer & Self-denial. This time of meditative soul-searching is designed to bring a sense of peaceful quiet, rest and renewal to our too-busy days. A special offering will be taken.

Wednesday, April 2: Enough for All

An eye-opening program, challenging us to treat our earth, and our neighbors with whom we share it, with respect and care. Through word, music and example the Rev. John Pitney, who has devoted his life to concern for our planet, will show new ways to practice our beliefs.

Wednesday, May 7, 2008: God's Mission, God's Song

Another School of Christian Mission Study, will be led by our resident musician/study leader Colleen Foster. Bring your favorite hymn selections, learn about composers and their hymn. Singing, rhythm instruments, and meaningful music will make this a memorable May event. The World Thank Offering will be received. All are welcome.

Wednesday, June 4, 2008: The Unchained Melody

The annual “picnic” and installation of new leaders/officers. We’ll enjoy entertainment, a review of the highlights of our 2007-2008 year, and our community. Men and children are welcome, also.

LOOKING AHEAD AT first church

February 3	Reconciling Sunday
February 10	Scouting Sunday
March 2	One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday
March 9	Confirmation Sunday
March 16-23	Holy Week
April 6	Native American Awareness Sunday
April 13	Youth Sunday
April 13-19	Volunteers in Mission Team to Sager Brown
April 20	Organ Dedication and Concert
May 18	Peace with Justice Sunday
June 1	Volunteer Recognition
June 8	Last day for Sunday School and AM choirs
June 15	Pride Parade
June 18-22	Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference
June 22	Laity Sunday