



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

November 11, 2008  
Volume 12, Issue 23

**November 9-16**

Food Stamp  
Challenge

**November 16**

Spirit Break - 5:00 PM  
Chapel

**November 23**

Family Advent Wreath  
Making and Chili Feed

Shelter Open House

**December 7**

All-Church Conference  
5:00 PM - Chapel

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**

### Wellness at First Church A COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Sunday, November 16, 2008 - 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
Portland First United Methodist Church



#### ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

Alzheimer's Disease and Caregiver Support  
to Backpack Safety and Pet First Aid

#### SEMINARS EVERY 30 MINUTES

The Aging Eye to Dental Health for Kids to  
Relationship Enhancement

#### HEALTH SCREENINGS

Blood Pressure, Body mass,  
Developmental-Birth to Age 5, Hearing,  
Posture, Vision

#### FLU SHOTS

\$30 – covered by most insurance plans. Visit  
[www.getaflushot.com](http://www.getaflushot.com) for details

#### FIRST CHURCH TAKES THE FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE: NOVEMBER 9-16, 2008

Join other First Church members in taking the Food Stamp  
Challenge by attempting to live for one week on the average  
food stamp benefit – approximately \$1 per person, per meal.  
Participation is intended to be an enlightening act of prayerful  
solidarity with those for whom the “Challenge” is a daily reality.  
A resource packet is available during Commons after church  
with more information on the Food Stamp Program, tips and  
strategies for taking the Food Stamp Challenge, and  
reflections to guide you through your week. At the end  
of your week, you're invited to the Fireside Room on Sunday,  
November 16, 2008 at 6:00 PM for a closing potluck. Bring your  
favorite economical dish from your week on the budget as we  
discuss our frustrations, successes, and lessons from the challenge.



Questions? Direct them to Adam Ortman at [aortman@fumcpdx.org](mailto:aortman@fumcpdx.org) or 502/228.3195 ext. 220.



## memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

*“The world is getting smaller ... our neighborhoods are getting bigger.”*

It’s a lesson we’re learning from the current financial crisis.

I’m not an economist, but I understand this complex phenomenon is not an “American crisis” but a global one. No longer do the Stock Exchange, investment banks, Congress and the Fed wield the decisive weapons that can counter meltdown of the markets or put the lid on inflationary spirals. As both Pennsylvania Avenue and Wall Street are discovering, any substantial ‘fix’ for money woes calls for collaborative international strategies.

The roots of this new reality apparently go back decades when America shifted from being a world producer to a consumer-nation and wracked up massive world trade debts. It’s been shaped by regional trade agreements as well as de-regulation in the marketplace. It’s impacted by the strength and influence of international financial markets and the growing power of multinational corporations who owe fealty only to stockholders not nations.

How small is our world when the pensions of retired teachers in Kenosha, Wisconsin are imperiled by the fortunes of a faltering bank in Ireland? Duhigg, Charles, Dougherty, Carter, “The Reckoning: From Midwest to M.T.A., Pain From Global Gamble” *The New York Times*, November 2, 2008.

How big has our neighborhood become when the Ford F-150 pickup with the “Buy America” bumper sticker is actually assembled with parts manufactured in at least 45 countries? Quoted in “The Globalization of Economic Life” in Cobb, Jr., John B, ed., *Progressive Christians Speak: A Different Voice on Faith and Politics*, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, KY, 2000, 2003, p. 215.

It’s a lesson we’re learning in church.

Last week United Methodism’s Judicial Council (our ‘Supreme Court’) set a legislative road map for structural changes to reflect the global church we’ve become. The walls between denominations seem to be crumbling as historic communions forge agreements to share communion, recognize clergy orders, even merge. Ecumenical efforts are moving beyond Christian communions to embrace inter-faith partnerships that include Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu and other traditions. The terms: “conservative,” “liberal,” “orthodox,” “evangelical,” and “progressive,” are losing meaning as people from different faith-camps discover values in one another’s ideas and align instead around environmental concerns, poverty and human need.

How small is our world when a Portland peace-action group gathers and is led by a Buddhist priest, a Muslim Imam, a Jewish Rabbi, a Roman Catholic priest and a Protestant pastor?

How big is our neighborhood when an evangelical seminary student in Portland, using the power of the internet, aligns congregations the entire spectrum of Christendom to devote the season of Advent to develop safe water supplies for the thirsty in Africa and Asia? visit [www.adventconspiracy.org](http://www.adventconspiracy.org) to find out about the “Advent Conspiracy” effort.

It’s a lesson we should have learned from Christ!

It’s the gist of a memorable exchange Luke recounted between Jesus and a lawyer who asked Jesus to define “neighbor.” Christ responded with the story of a Samaritan—a hated alien—who showed compassion to a wounded man. We know the story as “The Good Samaritan.” (see Luke 10:25-37).

Jesus was saying that our world should be small enough that ethnic divisions, national boundaries and prejudice make no difference.

And our neighborhoods should be big enough that we will show compassion for anyone, anywhere who had need. Are we ready to learn that?

See you in Church.  
*Arvin*

## adults at first

sunday morning classes

### CHANGING CHRISTIANITY:

#### The Bible: A Biography

by Karen Armstrong

The class meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 202.

### FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS:

#### The Haunt of Grace: Responses to the Mystery of God's Presence

by Theodore Loder

Lively discussions are led by a different class member each Sunday at 9:15 AM in Room 134.

### FAITH AND 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.

November 2, 9, 16, 23

#### Questioning the Death Penalty

This four-part series will include a presentation from Oregonians Against the Death Penalty as well as DVD sessions featuring Sr. Helen Prejean, a leading authority and outspoken critic of state-sponsored execution. Known for her two books *Dead Man Walking* and *The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions*, Sr. Helen's presentations will serve as a stimulus for the discussions in this four-part series.

## all-church conference

rescheduled

First UMC's annual Church Conference, originally scheduled for Sunday, November 9, 2008 has been rescheduled for Sunday, December 7 at 5:00 PM in the Chapel.

At that time we will be presenting annual reports of our ministries and setting pastoral salaries for 2009. Please note this change on your calendars. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## umw

united methodist women

President, Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

### HATS OFF TO YOU TEA

High Noon Tea, Hats Off to You, will be held Saturday, November 22, at noon in Collins Hall. Remember our great sharing at the Apron Tea last year?

Bedeck yourself in a bonnet, or it could be a baseball cap, a gardening hat, a helmet, or even a bridal veil. Does your hat have a story to tell? Women, men, youth, all are invited. This Saturday event is just for fun. Tickets are \$15, elementary age children, \$5. All proceeds go to mission giving.

Tickets will be available in the Commons in Collins Hall on Sunday.

### HEALTH FORUM

UMW will be promoting the use of chlorine-free paper products at the Health Forum on November 16 in the Commons. Chlorine-bleaching produces a toxin (Dioxin) that is harmful to the environment and to human health.

### THE READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Wednesday, November 19, at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. A discussion of Thomas Friedman's book, *Hot, Flat, and Crowded*, will be led by Sue Fisher. The world is getting hot, flat, and crowded. Friedman thinks America can solve its own problems by taking the lead in solving the world's problems. Come, join our group. Chair: Sue Fisher, 503/203-1445

### CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Circle of Friends will meet November 19 at 11:30 AM in the Fireside Room. Linda Anderson will tell of her Primetimers cultural trip to Macedonia, which included visits to various Methodist churches. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Ruth Green, 503/698. 8420

### THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, November 19, at noon in Room 204. First Church is beginning a journey to learn how we might create a more peaceful world. Join us in this journey as we hear Susan Drommond share a Buddhist perspective on peace. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Visitors are welcome. Call Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773, to save a chair for you.

### PLANNING TEAM

The November 26 meeting of the UMW Planning Team meeting has been cancelled.



**HATS OFF  
TO YOU TEA  
NOVEMBER 22,  
2008**

**Lowell Greathouse,  
Minister of Discipleship**

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, I'd like to share the following story that has to do with the nature of giving. Years ago, when our oldest daughter Lindsey was about five years old, a neighbor friend of hers came over to our house to play.

Susan was working at the sewing machine. And as she was sewing, the neighbor child, who was also about five years old, said: "What are you doing?" To which, Susan replied: "I'm making a dress for Lindsey." The little girl seemed a bit puzzled by the response, and then asked: "Why are you making something that you can buy in the store?"

On one level, it is a very logical question to ask. I mean why would someone spend time making something that you could simply buy instead? But on another level, this question misses the entire nature of what giving is all about. Gift giving can be very personal and relational in nature. It can reflect a special bond between the giver and the receiver. It can become a gift that is cherished over time, because it is one of a kind.

Since this event happened nearly 20 years ago, our society has continued to move further and further away from the personal touch in our gift-giving, as "gift cards" and consumption continue to pry into the personal, relationship quality of giving to one another. This year, as we move toward Thanksgiving and Christmas, perhaps we might reflect on our own gift-giving habits to see how to make them something more than just "more stuff."

**GRIEF/LOSS SUPPORT GROUP**

Coping with Grief and Loss during the Holidays: Taking Care of Yourself. First United Methodist and Samaritan Counseling are offering an eight week grief support group to be held in the First Church Library on Sundays from 1:00 to 2:30 PM beginning on November 23, 2008. The group will be facilitated by Lynn McDowell, MS, NCC, LPC. The group's purpose is to provide a safe and supportive atmosphere for those who are experiencing grief after the loss of someone or something significant that is exacerbated during the holiday season. The cost is \$10.00 per session, or \$50.00 for all eight sessions. Some scholarships are available. Please call Lynn McDowell at 503/281-3318 X53 to register or to get further information.

**HOLIDAY STRESS SURVIVAL SESSION**

How long has it been since you felt at peace and worry free during the holidays? Imagine if this year less of your energy went toward holiday stresses and more went to what really matters—being thankful for your blessings and spending positive time with your family and friends? Join Samaritan Counseling Center therapist Mike Boyd from 9:00 to 10:15 AM on Sunday, December 7, 2008 in the Fireside Room for a time of education and support in how to cope with stress during the holidays. Learn stress reducing tips. Discover how to take care of yourself in new and important ways. Explore ideas for strengthening your relationships, managing your time, and even staying within your budget (both financially and calorically!)

**STEPHEN MINISTERS: THE "AFTER" PEOPLE**

Stephen Ministers are there *after*...

- ... the divorce papers have been served and the bottom falls out of your life
- ... the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away – and the house is suddenly empty.
- ... you arrive home following the funeral service and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in.
- ... the doctors have said, "There's nothing more we can do."

Stephen Ministers are the "After people." We are ready to come alongside you and provide comfort and support for as long "after" as we are needed. For information about requesting a Stephen Minister please contact Rev. Tom Foster at 503/228-3195.

goose hollow family shelter  
First Church at the Shelter

**FIRST CHURCH AT THE SHELTER**

Interested in volunteering at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, but nervous about your first time? Would you like a chance to meet other members of First Church you wouldn't normally get to know? Beginning this November, First Church members who are also long-time volunteers at the shelter will host "First Church at the Shelter" nights. These are nights for new First Church volunteers to come and learn the ropes at the shelter while volunteering together. You can sign up to be a part of one of these nights by visiting Brandi in the Commons or by contacting Adam at aortman@fumcpdx.org.

# advent activity

wreath making



## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 - FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL WREATH MAKING

A new spin on an old favorite: On Sunday November 23, 2008, we will gather with our friends and families for a chili lunch and advent wreath creation. Materials will be provided for making advent wreathes and advent projects. Chili supper: \$4.00 each/ \$10.00 family. Advent Craft Donation: \$2.00



# A PEACE CHURCH



## a forum November 30, 2008

Join us in the Fireside Room after worship on Sunday, November 30, 2008 from noon to 1:30 PM as we begin our exploration of what it would mean for First Church to become a "peace church." At this forum,

we will hear representatives from the Mennonite Church, the Church of the Brethren, the Society of Friends/Quakers, and Metanoia Peace Community (a United Methodist church) discuss various aspects of their peace traditions. This will be a special opportunity for us to consider how the Christian practice of peace has been a part of the Christian experience over the years. There will be a light lunch, and child care will be available.

## church staff

bruce hendrickson

### HENDRICKSON TO RETIRE

Bruce Hendrickson, who for more than eight years has been First Church Maintenance Manager, will retire at the end of this calendar year.

Sunday, November 9, 2008 will be a time to express our gratitude. During worship we'll recognize Bruce's leadership and offer prayers of thanks. Then following worship we'll share in a reception in his honor in Collins Hall.

Cards and other expressions of appreciation may be sent to the church office clearly marked "For Bruce." We will present them at the reception.

## please take note ...

items of interest

### SPIRIT BREAK

A brass quartet will play a mix of blues, rag, and classical music for Spirit Break on Sunday, November 16 at 5:00 PM in the chapel. Jim Ruyle will interview the musicians to bring out the spiritual possibilities in the music. Children will be invited to a close-up tour of the instruments. Refreshments and conversation after, or join a group at the Goose Hollow Inn for supper. Child care is available. Questions, call Jim Ruyle at 503/223-8838.

### CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING

A Christmas Flower Arranging class will be offered December 7, 2008 in Room 204 from 11:45 to 1:00 PM. Join Marty Martin, FUMC's florist extraordinaire in this fun afternoon of holiday flower arranging! This class will focus on holiday arrangements for your table or mantel. Please bring a sack lunch, any greenery from your yard and \$5.00 as a donation towards flowers. Marty and crew will provide red/white flowers, and containers suitable for table arrangements as well as fun tips and tricks for making your arrangement unique. Please RSVP to the church office, 503/228-3195 by December 1, 2008.

2009 giving campaign  
things are **LOOKING UP**



AMT-TO-DATE	GOAL	ACTUAL
As of 11.03.08		
Est. of Giving:	360	272
Pledged:	\$893,000	\$685,556

### 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 November 19, 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

## at first

a recognition

### PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

*The Graver Family*, Bev's father, Leon, died in Kansas ...

*Nancy Erfele*, whose father, Wayne "Cork" Erfle, died on October 16, 2008...

### PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Carol Howard*, who is undergoing chemo treatment ...

*Marilyn Ringquist*, who is recovering after pace-maker surgery ...

*Chet Thomas*, who is recovering from surgery. (Chet is Nancy Nordwall's brother) ...

*Norm Freed*, who is recovering following a hip replacement ...

### CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

*Charlotte Cridland, Joan Hill, Ann Lindgren, Nell McManus, Sadame Tsunenaga,*

*Mary Pennicook, Linda Talluto, Joanne Weiss, and Michael Whipple*

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

Jared Bomberger, Daniel Bomberger, Margaret Walton, Craig Kubala,  
Mike LeClair (grandson of Dee Poujade)

### BOB BOERTIEN

Congratulations to Bob Boertien. *The Upper Room* devotional magazine selected a meditation he has written to be published in their January-February, 2009 issue.

*Upper Rooms* (in both regular and large print) and other devotional material are available each month on the table across from the church office.