



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

March 18, 2009
Volume 13, Issue 06

SUNDAY,
MARCH 22,
2009

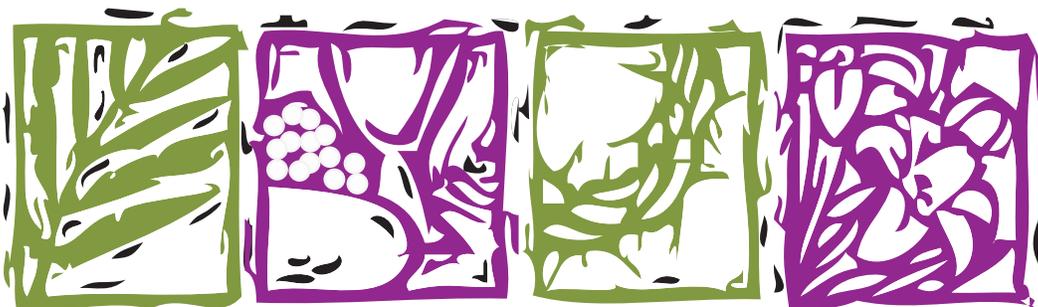
WORSHIP
AT 10:30 AM



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



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

April 5

Join us for
worship at
10:30 AM as
we celebrate
Christ's entry
into Jerusalem.
There will be
a Children's
Processional
and special
music by the
Chancel
Choir. Rev. Dr.
Arvin Luchs
will preach.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9

There will be
a Maundy
Thursday
Service at
7:00 PM in
the sanctuary.
Maundy
Thursday (or
Holy Thursday)
was the day in
which Christ
broke bread
in the upper
room.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 10

At noon
there will be
a community
Good Friday
Service at
St. James
Lutheran
Church,
1315 SW
Park Ave,
Portland, OR.

At 7:00 PM,
First Church
will have a
Good Friday
service in the
chapel.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12

On Easter Sunday
there will be
two glorious
services of
celebration:
9:00 & 11 AM.
Rejoice to the
strains of *Christ
the Lord Is Risen
Today!*

Following each
worship service
there will be an
Easter Egg
Hunt in the
Beckham Court-
yard (weather
permitting) for
children in the
first grade and
below.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Our worship is enhanced by visible symbols of our faith. Each week our chancel is magnificently adorned by floral arrangements facilitated by Marty Martin and his team, including Agnes Zach and Marti Lucas. We are grateful for both their artistry and their dedication. Many of the arrangements are placed in honor or memory of loved ones—their names in the bulletin each week.

Church seasons are marked by paraments in the appropriate liturgical color. Purple or blue is the color for Lent—though on Communion Sundays we use white to symbolize the sacrament. Dr. Greathouse and I coordinate our preaching stoles with the color of the season.

Some very special expressions of faith and love appear each Lent and change at Easter. A lovely series of hand-made banners are dedicated to the loving memory of Jamie Hendrickson who died on Valentines Day in 1986. Her mother, Mary Jane, assisted by Cheryl Younger designed them.

The blue side of each banner has a Lenten theme.

The Cross and Thorny Crown features a Latin cross entwined with a crown of thorns. To the earliest members of the church, this cross represented their faith in the person of Christ, his death for man, and the life and death of man in Christ. “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Gal.6:14

The Empty Cross is a modified form of the Portuguese cross, in a flowing design of four *Fleurs-de-Lis* (emblem of the Trinity). The cross with no figure of the Savior symbolizes his victory over death. Our Lord is the living Christ.

The Lamb with Halo traditionally called *Angus Dei*, signifies the sacrifice of Christ, “the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” (John 1:29)

The Chalice with Cross reminds us of the Last Supper and the cup of the new covenant we share in communion. (Luke 22:20)

At Good Friday the symbols disappear—the sanctuary is stripped of ornamentation — only a black shroud hangs on the cross—signifying the crucifixion.

But on Easter Sunday everything changes. The Chancel is festooned with flowers. Paraments change to white and the banners are turned revealing brilliant white backgrounds for Easter themes:

The Butterfly is a contemporary symbol of new life and resurrection. “...If anyone is in Christ, he (she) is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold the new has come!” (2 Cor. 5:17)

The Crown of Life represents God’s victory and sovereignty. Many Biblical references to our Lord as the King of Kings, King of Glory, King Eternal and various other royal titles authenticate the crown as an emblem of Easter and the Ascension. (cf. Ps. 24:10)

The Palm Branches remember the triumphant chorus proclaiming “Hosanna in the highest!” (Matt 2:9)

The Lily has long been regarded as a symbol of the resurrection and ascension of Christ—legend says they bloomed in the garden of the empty tomb.

Thanks to all who enhance our worship life so dramatically through the symbols that surround us.

See you in Church!

Arvin

(p.s. thanks to the late Jan Crumbley who helped produce so many of our liturgical banners. I have incorporated her reflections on the Lent/Easter banners in this column.)

adults at first

sunday morning classes

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Free of Charge:

Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace

by Miroslav Volf

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



CHANGING CHRISTIANITY:

Christianity and American Democracy

by Hugh Hecklo

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

ANAM CARA BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Join us on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15
AM in the Fireside Room for a discussion of John
O'Donohue's book, *Anam Cara*. This discussion group
will run through April 5, 2009. Bring a copy of the
book to the study.

youth

a fund raiser

A FIRST CHURCH YOUTH PLANT SALE

The First UMC youth will have order forms available
at the Commons in Collins Hall for flats of annuals
and perennials, veggie samplers, flower baskets and
individual geraniums. Orders will be accepted now
through March 22, 2009. All plants delivered on April
18 and 19, 2009. These beautiful plants come from
New Leaf Greenhouses in Canby and will be ready for
living in the great outdoors.

Proceeds from the plant sale will be used for camp
scholarships to United Methodist Summer Camps and
towards a Mission Trip to Campbell Farms in SW
Washington this summer.

fellowship

the parker group

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, April 4, 2009
at 12:30 PM in Room 202 for a potluck luncheon and
program. Bring a dish to share. Our speaker will be
Dr. Earl Riddle. For more information, contact Evelyn
Casey at 503/775-9356.

umw

united methodist women

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

All women are invited to participate in the activities listed below.
We strive to develop a supportive fellowship as we promote concern
for women, children, and youth at home and abroad.

President, Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

THE PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, March 25, at 9:30 AM in
Room 110. Chair: Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet Wednesday, March 25, at the home
of Hazelee Stevenson, 6965 N. Knowles Ave., Portland. Come, tell
us about your favorite book. Meet at the church at 11:30 AM to
share rides. Chair: Ruth Green, 503/698-8420

APRIL UNIT GATHERING

The Unit Gathering will meet Wednesday, April 1, at 10:00 AM in
the Fireside Room. Social Justice issues quickly become human
issues as daily we see the scarring of people in the land we call
"Holy." Where is the promise for peace? At 11:00 AM, following
the business meeting, the Rev. Constance A. Hammond, who has
traveled many times to the Middle East, will bring a message of
hope, along with fascinating stories drawn from her conversations
with Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Hammond is presently serving
at All Saints Episcopal in SE Portland, and is also an adjunct
professor at Marylhurst University. Everyone is invited. Both men
and women are welcome. Contact: Betty Cobb, 503/659-0340.
Bring a sandwich for the noon luncheon in Room 202. Dessert and
beverage will be provided.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United will hold its Spring Forum on Friday,
April 3, at 10:00 AM at Wilshire United Methodist Church, 3917
NE Shaver St., Portland. Emma Lou Lundgrun will speak on Native
American issues. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773

METRO DISTRICT RETREAT

The Metro District One Day Spiritual Growth Retreat will be
held April 17 or 18 at the Alton Collins Retreat Center, 32867 SE
Highway 211, Eagle Creek. The theme, *Be-Attitudes In Challenging
Times*, will be led by the Rev. Peg Lofsvold of Lake Oswego UMC.
Bring your Bibles. Retreat time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Registration:
9:30 AM. The cost of \$20 (\$12 for first time participants) includes a
mid-morning snack and lunch.

UMW QUILT LUNCHEON

The UMW Quilt Luncheon will be held Friday, April 24, in Collins
Hall. The popular Cover to Cover Quilters will feature *Three Cups
of Tea*, the story of one man's mission to promote peace...one school
at a time. Contact Ruth Green, 503/598-8420, if you wish to reserve
a table.

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 April 1, 2009.

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 ...

Robert & Joanne Weiss, in the death of their son, David, who died on March 3, 2009. A memorial service will be held Friday, March 27 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary ...

Lisa Kaliban, her brother *Shawn Smith* and his wife *Amy*, in the death of their mother, *Rozane Smith* ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Bill & Betsy Haden, Betsy was placed under hospice care last week ...

Jim Lawlor, one of our Goose Hollow Family Shelter Mangers, is still in ICU recovery ...

Vi Haley, the mother of *Patty Meyers*, is hospitalized in Iowa ...

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

Moima & Johnson Doe, *Carol Howard*, and *Phil Hodapp* ...

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

Karl Alger, *Jared Bomberger*, *Daniel Bomberger*, *Ian Kalgren*, *Steven Johnson*, and *Michael Panck*

giving thanks

to the church family

FROM THE SCHUBERGS

The family of Mary Schuberg Pennicooke thanks the First Church members for their loving kindness and prayers during her illness. The staff's caring support was especially helpful to her and to all of us during this difficult time.

Bob, Marilyn, Maggie and John Schuberg

EASTER WEEK GREETERS NEEDED

Congregants with a smile to share and a handshake to lend are needed in celebration of Holy Week and Easter Sunday services. Sign up sheets for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and both Easter Sunday services are located outside the office windows. Please take a moment to add your name to the list so we can extend First UMC members and guests a hearty welcome in this season of praise and rebirth. Please call Brenda Carpenter at 503/282-5488 or Nancy Bartow at 503/297-1255 with questions. Thank you!

PORTLAND'S FIRST CHURCH

Established 1848

Address

1838 SW Jefferson
Portland, OR 97201

Phone

503/228-3195

Fax

503/273-8711

E-Mail

office@fumcpdx.org

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**

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

SPRING 2009

MARCH - JUNE



HOLY WEEK 2009

Sunday, April 5

Palm Sunday Service at 10:30 AM

Thursday, April 9

Maundy Thursday Service
at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary

Friday, April 10

Good Friday Service at
7:00 PM in the chapel

Sunday, April 12

Easter Services at
9:00 and 11:00 AM

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



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

We gather at First Church every Sunday at 10:30AM to worship as a community.

FIRST CHURCH: WHERE THE JOURNEY CONTINUES ...

We are a pilgrim people, connected to one another through our common faith journey. In this program guide, you will find a variety of opportunities to support you in your journey and deepen your faith. We encourage your participation in the community called "First Church." May our faith as a congregation be enriched in the coming months as we explore, participate, and engage in vital worship, supportive learning, and community service.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS AND OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER ...

March 22	One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
April 5	Palm Sunday
April 12	Easter
April 26	Youth Sunday/Confirmation Sunday Native American Ministries Offering
May 10	Mother's Day/Festival of the Christian Home
May 24	Heritage Sunday
May 31	Pentecost Sunday
June 7	Volunteer Sunday/Peace with Justice Offering
June 10-14	Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference (Salem, OR)
June 14	Last day of Sunday School
June 14	Laity Sunday & Portland Pride Parade
June 21	Father's Day

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor

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

Minister of Discipleship

Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse
503/228-3195 ext. 224
lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org

Minister of Pastoral Care

Rev. Tom Foster
503/228-3195 ext. 233
tfoster@fumcpdx.org

Director of Goose Hollow Family Shelter

Brandi Tuck
503/228-3195 ext. 215
aheart@fumcpdx.org

Director of Community Outreach

Adam Ortman
503/228-3195 ext. 220
aortman@fumcpdx.org

Director of Children & Family Ministries

Megan Humphreys-Loving
503/228-3195 ext. 227
mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org

Director of Youth Ministries

Paul Adams
503/228-3195 ext. 229
padams@fumcpdx.org

Artistic Director of Music & Organist

Jonas Nordwall
503/228-3195 ext. 218
jnordwall@fumcpdx.org

Executive Director of Music

Kelly Qualls
503/228-3195 ext. 235
kqualls@fumcpdx.org

Church Administrator

Christine Bostick
503/228-3195 ext. 222
cbostick@fumcpdx.org

Administrative Assistant

David Jenkins
503/228-3195 ext. 221
djenkins@fumcpdx.org

Facilities Manager

Dwight Dragoo
503/228-3195 ext. 205
ddragoo@fumcpdx.org

Bookkeeper

Shirley Blalock
503/228-3195 ext. 223
sblalock@fumcpdx.org

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

Food and Friends is a great opportunity for parents to get to know one another. We gather once a month on a Saturday night, from 7-9 PM to hang out, eat, and have a good time. Call Megan Humphreys-Loving at 503/228-3195 to RSVP or if you have questions.

R+FRIENDS

For those interested in the First Church Reconciling Program, this group goes out for lunch monthly following the worship service. Meet after worship in the Commons. Contact: Dan Strickland or Dan Woodward

METHODIST HIKERS

This group takes monthly hikes on Saturday mornings. Contact: Jim Teisher

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 8:00 AM 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. Contact: Dee Poujade

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
April 4: Progressive Dinner
May 9: Cinco de Mayo Celebration



THE FIRST CHURCH LIBRARY

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 9:15 AM, and for about a half hour after church. The library is located in the 100 wing of the church or stop by the Commons in Collins Hall after church to see our display.



ESPECIALLY FOR NEWCOMERS

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 ... and meet others who are interested in becoming a part of First Church as well. These one-time orientations will be offered after the worship service on: **Sunday, April 26** and **Sunday, June 7, 2009**. 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.

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 join us after the worship service for the Commons in Collins and sign up for an activity, get information on a current issue, check out a book ... or just have coffee with a friend. Follow the signs from the sanctuary.

NURSERY CARE

Nursery care is available on Sunday mornings in room 211 from 9:00 AM through the worship service each week. It is available for infants through two years of age.

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.

THE CREATIVE SPIRIT GALLERY

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. The spring schedule is as follows:

- March *The Human Equation*
Artists: Chris Stubbs, Shirley Moore, Molly Reeves
- April *First UMC Photographers:*
Kaylene Kirchem, Adam Hertlein, Gene Balcomb
- May *United Methodist Women:*
Annual Quilt Show

THE LENTEN SUPPER SERIES

CELTIC WISDOM
AND THE
JOURNEY
OF THE
PASSIONATE HEART



Lent is a time of self-reflection and renewal.

At First Church, we gather in community each

Wednesday night during Lent to probe and explore the meaning of our faith. We are combining the theme "Celtic Wisdom and the Journey of the Passionate Heart" for our Lenten Supper Series with the "First Church Reads" selection of *Anam Cara* by John O'Donohue.

Join us for dinner from 5:30 to 6:30 PM, a presentation from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, and a book group discussion from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. Once again Chef Michael Copeland is coordinating the meals. A program for children ages 5 through fifth grade takes place from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, and child care is available as well.

March 25: Rev. Barbara Schultz **Growth and Beauty: Poetry in Motion**

Rev. Barbara Schultz is an ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church in the area of Spiritual Direction. This passion goes back over 20 years to a deep interest in transpersonal Psychology. Her reading and training is eclectic and includes a practice in Centering Prayer, leading Labyrinth Retreats and facilitating various retreats and ongoing groups. Barbara is passionately engaged in her own inner journey and continues to harvest the riches of this work.

April 1: Rev. Marshall Wattman-Turner **Do Not be Afraid: Aging Well**

Rev. Marshall Wattman-Turner is a native Oregonian, who has served as a pastor of United Methodist Churches for twenty-four years. He has completed training in the Sacred Art of Dying and the Anam Cara Apprenticeship through the Center for the Sacred Art of Living in Bend, OR. He is currently a Chaplain Resident in Clinical Pastoral Education at Providence Portland Medical Center. He is endorsed as a chaplain by the United Methodist Church, and is a member of the Association for Death Education and Counseling. Last summer, Marshall enjoyed the "trip of a lifetime" on a week-long pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona with leaders of the Anam Chara community in Scotland.

FORUMS



First Church Forums take place in the Fireside Room from 12-1:30PM. Child care is available.

SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2009 **THE RECONCILING MOVEMENT** **IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Leif Terdall will offer historical perspective on our own decision to become a reconciling congregation in 1993. Deborah Maria from the Oregon-Idaho Reconciling Ministries Network will discuss that group's work in our region and provide an update from 2008 General Conference. Mary Jo Glison, a proud parent of a gay son, will share with us her congregation's journey of faith following her son's public disclosure and offer insights into what we can learn from that experience to improve our own outreach to the LGBT community.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009 **EARTH DAY FORUM: THE ENERGY** **CHALLENGE - CHOICES AND** **CONSEQUENCES**

The importance of energy to our society cannot be over estimated, but it has become such an integral part of daily life that often goes unnoticed. With President Obama's focus on green energy, what choices do we face? What can we do at the local level to reduce our carbon footprint? What role does a church play in all of this? Chuck Klang will explore this important topic in a special Earth Day forum.

PROFILES IN SERVICE: **LIVING OUR FAITH** **SUNDAYS, MAY 17 AND JUNE 28**

Become inspired by members of First Church who are living their faith and their passions in vibrant ways – by serving vulnerable populations in the community, excelling at music, or educating the next generation. Prepare to be surprised by your fellow church members.



ANAM CARA BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Join us on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room for a discussion of John O'Donohue's book, *Anam Cara*. This discussion group will run from Sunday, March 8 through April 5, 2009. Bring a copy of the book to the study.



**ADULTS
AT FIRST
CHURCH**

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
BIBLE STUDY**

**WEDNESDAYS,
APRIL 22 - MAY 27:
THE PARABLES OF
JESUS**

This six-part series will explore a variety of parables that are attributed to Jesus. These parables remain central to our understanding of his life and teachings. Join us as we explore the historical meaning of these stories and their relationship to our lives today. We will examine both familiar parables, such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, as well as parables that are less frequently studied, but still relevant to our understanding of faith.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Christianity and American Democracy by Hugh Hecklo

This class meets each Sunday and focuses on how Christianity has changed, is changing, will change, and how we can be a part of that change.

When: Sundays from 9:00 to 10:15 AM Where: Room 202

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace by Miroslav Volf

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. Following a time of fellowship, lively discussions are led by different class members each week.

When: Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15 AM Where: Room 134

FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE SERIES

When 9:15 to 10:15 AM Where: The Fireside Room

March 15 - April 5

Anam Cara Book Group

Join us for these sessions in which we will discuss the First Church Reads book *Anam Cara* by John O'Donohue. Bring your book!

April 19 - May 3

OUR CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS

April 19 **Economic Analysis: Problems & Opportunities**

John Coppett will discuss the current economic crisis. The severe globalized economic downturn is traceable to a condition commonly called a "bubble". This session will identify the series of financial bubbles occurring in our economy. What conditions foster bubble formation? Are bubbles inevitable? Does globalization affect bubble formation and magnify the Big Picture? What's happening right now?

April 26 **The Economy and You: Issues in Housing, Investments, and Employment**

A panel will be sharing their insights into these areas and what it means to you today. Pamela Anderson will address issues related to housing, Tomie Schmidt will address issues related to investments, and Chuck Klang will speak about employment.

May 3 **What's Happening in Washington?**

In this session, we hope to have a representative from one of our congressional offices join us to discuss the latest activity taking place in Washington, DC.

May 31 - June 28

STREAM OF LIVING WATER: WHAT DOES ECUMENISM LOOK LIKE IN 2009?

May 31 **What Are the Streams of the Christian Faith? (Part I)**

June 7 **What Are the Streams of the Christian Faith? (Part II)**

June 21 **Welcome to an Interfaith World: Informing Our Own Faith Journey**

June 28 **Ecumenism & Interfaith Realities: Developing a Faith In the 21st Century**

We live in an age that challenges our faith in many new and different ways. The faith landscape continues to change: Evangelicals are increasingly engaged in community service and the environmental movement. There are more and more dialogues taking place between the world religions. Christian denominations are continuing to explore ways to find a sense of Christian unity and common purpose. The "emerging church," which isn't weighed down by prior historical and theological debates, is trying to find its role in the larger religious landscape. Yet violence still mars interactions between faith traditions and misunderstandings are still a part of inter-faith communication. Today represents a time of new opportunity and continuing challenge. What are the threads that connect us to one another as people of faith in this new age of information, connection, and globalism? Join us for this unique exploration.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

A JOURNEY OF SERVICE

The Outreach Ministries at First United Methodist Church are 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, the environment, and social justice and peace. Outreach Ministries at First UMC include groups that are focused to work on Church and Society for Social Justice, Global Missions, Planet Church, and Hunger Ministry. For more information, contact Adam Ortman, Director of Community Outreach at 503/228-3195 ext. 220 or aortman@fumcpdx.org.



FARMERS TABLE COMING SOON!

Once again, beautiful flower bouquets and freshly picked produce will be available in Collins Hall just as soon as the fresh lettuce, snow peas and lovely spring vegetables are ready to harvest. This will be our third year welcoming Hmong farmer, Yua Lo, and her family to our Farmers Table in Collins Hall. This year Yua has a larger acreage to farm and will be able to bring even more freshly harvested, locally grown produce and flowers.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MARCH 21 8:30 – 4:30 PM

Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East has served low-income, hard-working families for over 25 years. Can you hammer a nail, steady a ladder, or carry a board? Then come lend a hand to this important new build in Gresham.

FIRST CHURCH NIGHT AT THE SHELTER APRIL 18, 2009

First Church Nights at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter are a great opportunity for First Church members to support homeless families with children while fellowshiping with members of the church. Volunteers of all ages are encouraged to attend!

SHELTER CLEAN UP DAY MAY 2, 9:00 AM – NOON

A morning of fun and hard work, help the Goose Hollow Family Shelter close out the winter season and prepare for the next by helping to clean the facilities.

GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BANQUET MAY 12, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, COLLINS HALL

Mark your calendars for the shelter's annual Volunteer Appreciation event.

OREGON FOOD BANK WORK DAY JUNE 6, 8:45 AM – NOON

Join us for a fun and energetic morning of service at the Oregon Food Bank, as we pack food to be shipped out to hundreds of local food pantries.

Carpooling available. Contact Adam Ortman at 503/228-3195 or at aortman@fumcpdx.org

FIRST SUNDAY IS FISH SUNDAY

On the first Sunday of each month, First UMC 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 program to be distributed to those in need of emergency food. Help make a difference in the lives of those who are hungry.

LET'S MAKE CHANGE

Let's Make Change involves collecting change on the third Sunday of each month for a specific community project supported by First Church. Look for the basket at the back of the sanctuary every third Sunday and contribute your change to a good cause.

April Earth Day: EMO: Oregon Interfaith Power and Light
May Witness for Peace

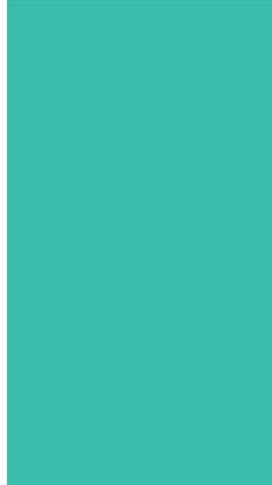
LEARNING



55 ALIVE

The next 55-Alive Driving Course will be offered: Wednesday and Thursday, June 17 and 18, 2009.

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 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$12.00 for AARP members with cards and \$14.00 for non-members. Make checks payable to: AARP. To register, call the church office at 503/228-3195.



LOCAL TRAVEL

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

TUESDAY, MAY 5:

PLAY READING-MUSICAL TREAT AT THE OLD CHURCH AND GOURMET LUNCH AT THE OREGON CULINARY INSTITUTE.

Cost: \$21.00 per person, including the refreshments, performance, and a gourmet lunch (with tip). Space is limited. Sign up deadline is April 5, 2009.

THURSDAY JUNE 18:

HISTORIC WILLAMETTE FALLS CRUISE AND ON-BOARD LUNCH:

Cost is \$48.00 adults/ \$43.00 seniors/ \$24.00 children. Sign up deadline is May 15, 2009.

WEDNESDAY JULY 15:

CHURCHES OF DIFFERENT CULTURES

Costs are limited to lunch and a suggested donation of \$7.00 to be passed on to the various churches visited. Registration deadline is June 15.

AUGUST: 27-30:

OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Registration deadline is June 15, 2009 and requires a \$100.00 per person deposit. Final payment is due July 15, 2009.

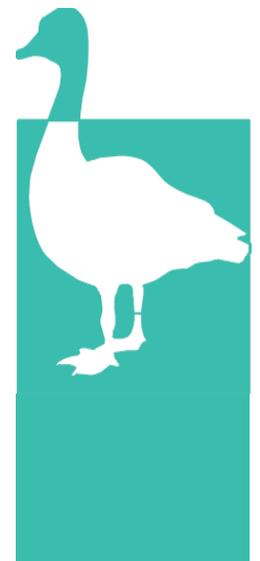
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Church & Society Committee at First Church continues to make it possible for two individuals to have an internship experience, working under the direction of a trained professional. Past interns have worked in the areas of housing, emergency food distribution, youth programs, health clinics, and other service-oriented settings. Interns receive a grant for their work. Applications are due by May 15, 2009. Contact the church office 503/228-3195 for more information.

GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY 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 runs through April 30th.

Explore the ways to fully participate in the life and community of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter by visiting their webpage at www.goosehollowfamilyshelter.org. Or contact Brandi Tuck, Director of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter at 503/228-3195 x215 or btuck@fumcpdx.org



GOOSE
HOLLOW
FAMILY
SHELTER

MUSIC MINISTRIES



A JOURNEY OF JOY

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir sings for Sunday morning worship services and is directed by Gary St. John. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in the Chapel from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. All are welcome to sing in this volunteer choir. The Chancel Choir is singing *The Lord Nelson Mass* by Haydn with Columbia Symphony at their concerts the evening of March 20 and afternoon of March 22.

The Sanctuary Bell Choir

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

April 19 ... June 14

They will attend "Aspiring to Bronze," a massed ringing event on April 17-18, 2009 that ends with a free concert at 7:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hillsboro. On May 1-2, they will travel to the Siskiyou Summit Handbell Festival in Ashland. They will play at Epworth UMC on May 31 for worship.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Cherub Choir

The Cherub Choir, directed by Jennifer Graver, is for children from ages 3 through second grade. This choir meets on Sunday mornings in Room 206 from 9:30 to 10:15 AM.

They are singing for worship on: March 22 ... April 19 ... May 31 ... June 14

The Soundseekers Choir

The Soundseekers Choir, directed by Ronnee Edwards, is for children in grades 3 – 5. This choir rehearses on Sunday mornings in Room 136 from 9:30 to 10:15.

They are singing for worship on: April 26 ... May 10 (Musical) ... June 14

The Veritas Choir

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

The Genesis Ringers

The Genesis Ringers, directed by Karin McDonough, is for beginning bell players. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings in Room 130 at 6:30 PM.

juBELLation

juBELLation, also directed by Karin McDonough, is the premiere youth handbell choir. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings in Room 130 at 7:30 PM. They will play for worship on:

April 26 ... May 31 ... June 14



godspell

On Sunday, May 10, 2009 Soundseekers and the Veritas Choir will present excerpts from the musical: *Godspell!* This upbeat, contemporary musical features such treats as *Day by Day* and *All Good Gifts*. You won't want to miss this special musical treat!

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.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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.

All women are invited to participate in the activities listed here. We strive to develop a supportive fellowship as we promote concern for women, children, and youth at home and abroad.

President, Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

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

METRO DISTRICT ONE DAY SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

The Metro District One Day Spiritual Growth Retreat will be held April 17 or 18 at the Alton Collins Retreat Center, 32867 SE Highway 211, Eagle Creek. The theme, *Be-Attitudes In Challenging Times*, will be led by the Rev. Peg Lofsvold of Lake Oswego UMC. Bring you Bibles. Retreat time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Registration: 9:30 AM. The cost of \$20 (\$12 for first time participants) includes a mid-morning snack and lunch.

UMW QUILT LUNCHEON

The UMW Quilt Luncheon will be held Friday, April 24, in Collins Hall. The doors will open at 11:30 AM for quilt viewing. Lunch will be served at noon. The popular Cover to Cover Quilters will feature *Three Cups of Tea*, the story of one man’s mission to promote peace ... one school at a time. Contact Ruth Green at 503/698-8420, if you wish to reserve a table.

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, April 1, 2009: Advocate for Peace

Learn to advocate for social justice for Palestinians and also listen to the concerns of Israel. Our guest will be Rev. Constance A. Hammond. She supports grass-roots efforts for peace and has traveled to the Middle East many times. Her recently published book, *Shalom/Salaam/Peace*, focuses on the history, theology and scriptural rationale for what is happening in Israel/Palestine today.

Wednesday, May 6, 2009: I Believe In Jesus

This study was written by Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño. She is the spiritual leader of Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Wednesday, June 3, 2009: Annual Picnic and Installation

The annual “picnic” and installation of new leaders/officers. We’ll enjoy entertainment, a review of the highlights of our 2008-2009 year, and our community. All are welcome.

The United Methodist Women’s Quilt Luncheon

**THREE
CUPS OF TEA**

Friday, April 24, 2009



THE OREGON SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

The Oregon School of Christian Mission will be held July 16-19, 2009 at George Fox University, Newberg. Three studies are available:

- 1). Food and Faith
- 2). Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival
- 3). The Sudan.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES



COMING EVENTS

Children & Family Ministries at First Church focus on creating a variety of learning and fellowship for the whole family ... from Sunday School to Children's Church ... from Family Camp to special outings. 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.*

NURSERY CARE

Nursery care is available from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM each Sunday. The nursery is available for infants through two-year-olds during Sunday worship. Our professional staff members have completed a background check and Infant/Child CPR and First Aid training. 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is available during worship for grades pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade. Children attend worship with their families and leave for Sunday School after the "Children's Time." Children can be picked up after worship from class.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church occurs on the first Sunday of the month for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. This special service for children meets in the Chapel. Children's Church gives kids the opportunity to participate in a service catered to their interests and attention spans. Using music, movement, storytelling, and scripture, kids are encouraged to worship in their own special ways.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Children's Choirs meet from 9:30-10:15 AM each Sunday morning. The Cherub choir is for children ages three through first grade. The Soundseekers Choir is open for children in second through fifth grade. See the Music page for more information.

FOOD AND FRIENDS FOR PARENTS

Food and Friends is a great opportunity for parents to get to know one another. We gather once a month on a Saturday night, from 7-9 PM to hang out, eat, and have a good time.

In **APRIL** we will be having dinner at the Deschutes Brewery in Downtown Portland.

In **MAY** we will reprise our Karaoke party!

Call Megan Humphreys-Loving at 503/228-3195 to RSVP or if you have questions.

SUMMER CAMPS

Are you thinking about summer camp? There are plenty of camping opportunities for every type of camper!

On March 22, 2009 there will be a table during the Commons in Collins Hall with information about summer camp opportunities. You can also visit the camping website at: GoCamping.org

If you are a third through fifth grader looking for a fun camp, this summer Megan Humphreys-Loving will be the dean at the MidSummer Challenge camp at Camp Magruder, July 19-24, 2009. Come for a week of swimming, playing, swinging, dancing, archery, and more!

Scholarships are available for camps this summer. Talk to Megan Humphreys-Loving for more information about applications and possibilities.

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday Processional April 5
Children and youth are invited to be a part of this yearly tradition. Observing the story of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem, children will proudly process down the aisle waving their palms. Please gather in front of the chapel at 10:20. Kids will be given palms and line up for the procession. Wear your purple clothes!



EASTER EGG HUNT

On Sunday, April 12, during the 9:00 and 11:00 AM worship services there will be an activity time following the children's message for first grade and under. An Easter Egg hunt will be in Beckham Court, weather permitting, following each service. If it is rainy, we will be in the Fireside lounge. Children in fourth grade and under are invited to participate.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

There will be a Sunday School Open House on Sunday, May 3, 2009 from 11:45 AM to 12:45 PM. All are welcome and invited to browse through Sunday school rooms to observe projects, look at curriculum, and meet current Sunday school volunteers. If you have ever wondered what happens during Sunday school, come and take a look! Refreshments will be provided in each room

YOUTH MINISTRIES AT FIRST CHURCH

Be a part of the youth program at First Church. Our Middle School Program includes everyone in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades, the high school program is for 9th through 12th grades. In addition to the youth, we have many opportunities for adult volunteers.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

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

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

YOUTH SQUAD LUNCH

On the last Sunday of every month, Youth Squad goes out to lunch at a local restaurant. The cost is \$10 per person, adults are invited to go along with us. The next scheduled lunches are: Sunday, March 29 at Greek Cusina (404 SW Washington) Sunday, April 26 at Navarre (10 NE 28th).

YOUTH PARENT MEETING

Our next Youth Parent Meeting is on Sunday, April 5, 2009 after church in the Youth Room.

YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAM

The Veritas Choir, including all youth from Middle School and High School, rehearses from 9:00 to 9:30 in room 133.

The juBELLation handbell choir rehearse on Wednesday evenings in Room 130 at 7:30 PM.

YOUTH SQUAD MEETINGS

Middle School Youth Squad meets in the Youth Room immediately after worship until 12:30 PM on most Sundays.

High School Youth Squad meets on Wednesday nights from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Dinner is supplied by volunteer parents from 7:00 to 7:30 PM. We encourage youth to stay on for other Wednesday night programs after dinner, like Boy Scout Troop No. 1 or the youth bell choir

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Copies of the current Youth Squad newsletter can be downloaded from the youth page on the church website and the full (and frequently updated) calendar for the youth can be seen online anytime at <http://ical.me.com/pumasalad/Youth%20Squad>

**Youth Sunday & Confirmation Sunday
April 26, 2009**



YOUTH SQUAD BEACH RETREAT

Youth Squad is going to the beach on May 15, 16 and 17, 2009. We'll be leaving from the church parking lot around 4:30 PM on Friday and coming back around 1:00 PM on Sunday. Cost is \$65 apiece.

MISSION TRIP

Youth Squad is going to The Campbell Farm near Yakima, Washington from August 2-7, 2009, for this summer's mission trip. Each day will bring different types of mission work in the Yakima valley. Whether it's at the soup kitchen at the Union Gospel Mission, sorting food at the Yakima Valley Food Bank, painting peoples houses or simply working on the farm, it promises to be a rewarding trip for our youth. The total cost is \$280, a \$75 deposit is required to hold your spot.

PASTORAL CARE



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 home bound members.

PRAYER CHAIN

In cooperation with the United Methodist Women, we also have a Prayer Chain for members and friends of the church.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

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 other situation arises. To receive the services of a Stephen Minister, contact Tom Foster through the church office.

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



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.

First Church has been a Reconciling Congregation since 1993. The Reconciling Ministry Team creates a variety of opportunities to demonstrate our commitment as a Reconciling Congregation. Upcoming events include the following:

MARCH 22, 2009 QUARTERLY RECONCILING LUNCHEON SERIES

Join us at noon in the Fireside Room on Sunday, March 22 as we look at: *The Reconciling Movement in the United Methodist Church.*

APRIL 19, 2009 R+ FRIENDS GO TO LUNCH

Meet at 12:15 in Collins Hall as we head off to a local restaurant for lunch together.

MAY 2009 QUARTERLY RECONCILING LUNCHEON SERIES

Join us at noon in the Fireside Room in May (date to be announced) as we look at: *All Means All – The Welcoming Church Movement in Our Community.*

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Tara Wilkins, of the Community of Welcoming Congregations.

JUNE 14, 2009 PORTLAND PRIDE PARADE

Be a part of the First Church contingent that will be marching in this year's Pride Parade on Sunday, June 14, 2009. We'll meet at church at 10:15 AM and take the MAX to the parade route.

CONTACT

Our Reconciling Ministry Coordinators are Dan Strickland and Dan Woodward. For more information contact the church at 503/228-3195.



First United Methodist Church is a co-sponsor of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's 40th Annual Collins Lecture, featuring ...

ARCHBISHOP TUTU

“Transformative Power
of Reconciliation
in Society”



Monday, May 4, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.

The Chiles Center, University of Portland
5000 N. Willamette Blvd., Portland, Oregon

Tickets \$20, available at www.TicketMaster.com
or the Chiles Center box office.

