



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

April 1, 2009  
Volume 13, Issue 07

**SUNDAY,  
APRIL 5,  
2009**

**PALM  
SUNDAY**

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**

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**



**EASTER  
SUNDAY  
9 & 11**

On Easter  
Sunday there  
will be two glorious  
services of celebration:  
9:00 & 11:00 AM.

Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs will be preaching and there will  
special prelude music by the Festival Brass and Jonas  
Nordwall, organist. The Chancel Choir will end the  
service with the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

On Easter Sunday there will be Sunday School for  
first grade and under at both services.



## EASTER EGG HUNT

Following each worship service  
there will be an Easter Egg Hunt  
in the Beckham Courtyard  
for children in the  
fourth grade and younger.  
In case of rain, they will  
be moved to  
the Fireside Room.



## memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

It feels more like Good Friday than Easter!

- ... The economy at its lowest—perhaps since the Great Depression—not only in the U.S. but globally.
- ... Joblessness is in double digits. That's more than a statistic. Each day I hear of our members and friends who have lost their jobs.
- ... Our region has been among the worst hit by the mortgage crises. Our Goose Hollow Family Shelter has been at capacity all season with displaced parents and children.
- ... While Oregon is no longer tops the list of states with hungry people, it's not because we've found a way to feed our people more—it's just gotten worse in another state.
- ... Health care costs are running away and fewer of our neighbors can afford insurance.
- ... The Iraq war seems to be winding down—but troop buildups in Afghanistan and rumbling in Pakistan portend prolonged military action.
- ... The Middle East teeters on the edge of renewed violence and destruction.
- ... Political unrest, genocide, famine and suffering infect much of Africa.
- ... Mexico is exploding with drug-related deaths.
- ... Crime and senseless killings fill our domestic headlines.

It feels more like Good Friday than Easter.

But it's precisely in a Good Friday world—amid the agony and despair of crucifixion—when all appeared lost, and the future hopeless—that God touched the world with resurrection hope. That's the good news at the very center of our faith and our life together.

What an amazing message for our 'Good Friday' world!

Won't you join us next week as we re-enact Christianity's most sacred week? Come and link your spirits with ours as we sing and celebrate? Please reach out with us as we strive to be "Easter People" sharing God's love in witness and service."

It starts this Sunday as our children lead us waving palms to celebrate again Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Then, on Thursday evening, we gather in the Sanctuary to remember Maundy Thursday's Last Supper with communion together. On Friday, we join other downtown congregations at St. James Lutheran for a noontime service reflecting on Jesus' last words. Then, at sundown, in our sanctuary, we'll experience the horror, loneliness of the first Good Friday with a service of darkness.

On Easter Sunday, the gloom turns to dazzling light. The Sanctuary will be awash in flowers and we'll celebrate with *two* Festival Worship Services complete with Jonas Nordwall at the Mary L. Collins Organ, the Festival Brass, and our Chancel Choir under the direction of Gary St. John.

Easter, however, will have little lasting meaning if it is only a time of good words and good music. Its *real* power is released when we become "Resurrection People" offering tangible signs of new hope and new possibilities to those struggling in desperate need in our community and around the world. People of faith have a proud tradition of rising to their compassionate best when all around seems to be at its worst. This is such a time.

Please share in a special "Easter Sunday Offering" to make sure that our ministries of outreach and service will not wane, but continue to be robust expressions of God's renewing grace. Your support is critical. A offering envelope is enclosed for your generous response.

Yes, it feels like Good Friday now—but Easter is coming!

See you in Church!

Arvin

## adults at first

sunday morning classes

### FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS:

#### God Has a Dream:

#### A Vision of Hope for Our Time

by Desmond Tutu

The class meets 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.

### NEW SHORT TERM CLASS ...

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 Moyers 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, Cyreena Boston, from Senator Merkley's office, will share the latest on what is happening at the federal level and share perspectives on current national legislation. Cyreena is a Field Representative for the Senator and is official staff liaison to communities in the Portland area.

## 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 READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Wednesday, April 15, at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. Sue Fisher will lead us in a discussion of *The Shack* by William P. Young. The author functioned by stuffing all the evil done to him and by him into a "shack", a place hidden so deeply that it seemed beyond God's healing reach. The answer found by Mack, the story's main character, may astound you and possibly transform you. Chair: Sue Fisher, 503/203-1445

### THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, April 15, at noon in Room 204. Ruth Green and Lila Palmiter will review books from the UMW Reading program. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be available. Chair: 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 Lovsvold of Lake Oswego UMC. Bring your Bibles. Retreat time: 10:00 to 3:00 PM. Registration: is at 9:30 AM. The cost of \$20 (\$12 for first time participants) includes a mid-morning snack and lunch. Contact Mary Covert, 503/652-6480, for a registration form.

### SPRING QUILT LUNCHEON

The Spring 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. Individual tickets will be available on Sunday in The Commons.

## this and that

crossroads umc

### CROSSROADS UMC OFFERS LAND

Our Conference's newest church building is Crossroads UMC in a growing community near Twin Falls Idaho. It was dedicated by Bishop Hoshibata just three weeks ago. The construction was financed with the anticipation of selling lots the congregation holds in a residential development nearby. The downturn in real estate has dampened the sales and they are 'casting their nets wider' to find buyers. Dr. Luchs has contact information for those interested in investing or building.

## the edge

thoughts  
for the journey



holy week  
at first church

### Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

During Lent, we are called to be pilgrims. In her book *Walk in a Relaxed Manner*, Joyce Rupp defines what the pilgrim's journey is all about:

“As a pilgrim, life gets simpler and the mind becomes clearer. The heart loses its hold on what is left behind and resonates more and more with the beauty of what is. Something secret and enticing keeps inviting the pilgrim to stay on the path, to go up another hill, to turn the next corner. In the rhythm of physical walking, the spirit gathers its own rhythm of adventure and harmony. Body and spirit befriend one another and, in doing so, are united in a new sense of oneness with something greater.”

(*Walk in a Relaxed Manner*, page 41)

As Lent continues to unfold, may it become this kind of pilgrimage for you.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Our Maundy Thursday service will be, April 9, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. We will remember Jesus' gathering with his disciples in the Upper Room, share communion, and remember his betrayal. The Chancel Choir will sing a special anthem as a part of the service.

### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

On Friday, April 10, 2009, 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 in the chapel, we will remember Christ's Passion as depicted in the Gospel of Matthew, and the service will close with the ancient practice of whispering the Lord's Prayer in unison.

earth day  
at first church



### EARTH DAY FORUM

Join us for a special worship service on Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 10:30 AM, focused on Earth Day. Then, come to the Earth Day Forum in the Fireside Room following the worship service.

The Earth Day Forum will focus on: *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, watch choices do we face? What can we do at the local level to reduce our carbon footprint? What role does a church have in all of this? Chuck Klang will explore this important topic in this special Earth Day forum.

where in



the world



### GOING BEYOND OURSELVES

How does our congregation share its resources with others? How do we commit our time and energy beyond our own congregation? If you'd like to learn the answer to these questions, pick up a copy of "Where in the World is First Church?: A Quick Look at Our Involvement in the Community and the World in 2008." Copies are available in the narthex and in the Commons in Collins Hall. It's a great way to learn about our church's commitment to the larger world.

# CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2009

## world missions

our support



Gordon & Teca  
Greathouse in Brazil



Clara Biswas  
in Cambodia



Janet Lahr-Lewis  
in Palestine



Liberian Senior  
Adult Ministry

### FROM THE GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Great human needs, in all parts of our world, continue to touch our hearts.

Your Global Missions Committee at First UMC carefully considers these needs, and, through your gifts, responds. Our General Board of Global Missions' well-structured method of outreach keeps us in contact with all mission work, and creates channels for selected mission giving as well. Through our Covenant Missionary program, we provide both financial support and spiritual presence in distant places. At the last Leadership Council meeting, the following three Covenant Relationships were affirmed: We will continue our church's support for Gordon & Teca Greathouse in Brazil, and Clara Biswas in Cambodia.

In addition, we are excited to announce two new commitments: to Janet Lahr Lewis, serving in Palestine, who will become our third Covenant Missionary. We will also support a Special Mission Project in which we will aid in the support of a senior ministry in Liberia. Watch upcoming issues of the *Circuit Rider*, which will highlight our covenants and our special Liberia project.

## leadership restructuring

an update

### TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS LEADERSHIP RESTRUCTURING

Last June the Church Conference elected First UMC members Cheryl Bittle, Barbara Delaney, Janice Gratton and Dick Sagara to work with pastors Arvin Luchs and Lowell Greathouse to "recommend modifications in First UMC's leadership structure to promote program and program integration." The group was also charged to recommend structural changes in the current Leadership Council (in place since 1999) so as to increase the quality and shared commitments to our shared ministries.

After several meetings over the course of the fall and winter, the Task Force has completed its charge. The recommendations are based on a set of Values and Principles that are the characteristics upon which the members of the leadership will function. Interviews and discussion resulted in a model that has promise to promote communication between the operational and the ministry functions of our church. It is also hoped that this will allow for passionate leadership across interests and greater shared visioning and opportunities for service. The Task Force looked for mechanisms that would encourage shared decision-making and shared problem-solving while still allowing creativity as First UMC ministries serve Christ's community.

In place of the current Leadership Council, the Task Force recommends establishing two bodies that will meet jointly four times a year. The operations and policy-setting body will be called the Parish Conference and will consist of thirteen voting members, five of whom will be At-Large, representing the a balance inclusive of age, gender, tenure at First UMC with a sense of the larger vision of the needs and mission of First UMC. The ministries of the church will meet together for planning and resource development and they will be called the Ministry Conference. The Ministry Conference membership will be inclusive of all ministries of First UMC, with a goal of shared planning and problem solving.

Clearly there will be a need for a "roll out" period which the Task Force is suggesting would be the 2009-2010 Church year with an evaluation of the recommendations in June of 2010.

There will be a forum after worship on Sunday, May 3, 2009 in the Fireside Room from noon to 1:00 PM. Members of the Task Force will present the recommendations. Copies will be available in the church office. The establishment of this leadership restructure will be voted on at the June Church Conference by the entire congregation.

### 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 15, 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 THANKSGIVING FOR ...

*The birth of Aodan Richard, to Margaret Walton. The proud grandparents are Rick and Elizabeth Walton.*

### PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Arden & Jaden Bryce and their daughter Debbie ...*

*Mary Vance, who is undergoing tests ...*

*Rene Pino ...*

*Jim Lawlor, who has been transferred to Good Sam's Rehab Unit ...*

### CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

*Betsy Flanagan, Phil Hodapp and Carol Howard*

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

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

## ecumenical ministries

40th Annual Collins Lecture

## ARCHBISHOP TUTU



"Transformative Power  
of Reconciliation  
in Society"

Monday, May 4, 2009, at 6:30 PM

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

Tickets \$20.00

Visit [www.TicketMaster.com](http://www.TicketMaster.com) or call 866/448-7849.  
Or purchase tickets directly at the Chiles Center  
box office (N. Willamette Blvd. and Portsmouth  
11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday