



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

September 2, 2009  
Volume 13, Issue 17

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**LABOR DAY  
SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 6**

Worship at  
10:30 AM  
Sacrament of  
Holy Communion



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**

# WELCOME HOME SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13

*Join us on  
Sunday,  
September 13, 2009  
for Welcome Home  
Sunday. Following  
the 10:30 AM worship  
service, we'll have  
an "End of Summer  
Cookout" with hot  
dogs, baked beans,  
salads, etc. Come join  
the fun! Sunday School  
classes resume, as does  
the Chancel Choir  
and our entire Fall  
program.*





## memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Reforming our nation's health coverage system may be the defining issue of our time. It is certainly the most contentious!

Beyond the partisan acrimony and just plain deception that floods our airwaves lies a stark reality. Thousands of Americans with treatable illnesses are dying each year because they cannot afford to pay for medical care.\* Millions of our neighbors silently suffer, enduring illness because they lack insurance and have nowhere to turn. Tens of millions—employed and unemployed—are gambling with their lives—because they cannot afford to pay health insurance. A staggering number of bankruptcies in our country are caused—at least in part—by overwhelming unpaid medical expenses.

According to T.R. Reid, among the 23 richest nations the U.S. ranks last in the percentage of citizens who can access care. While the other 22 provide care through a variety of systems (public/regulated private/public-private partnerships) they all agree that a moral duty of a state is to provide for the health of its citizens.

The current issue of “Our Two Cents,” the e-newsletter of the Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Women crossed my desk the other day (Fall, 2009). In it Paula Sadler, their “Mission Coordinator for Social Action,” has a helpful article gleaned from material provided by the national Woman's Division. As usual, the UMW is on the cutting edge of things—health care is a denomination-wide emphasis for them for the next four years!

I thought you might like to see their list of “Myths” and “Reasons for Reform” and the web site with more info. It might help you—as it has me—separate some of the wheat from the chaff in the headlines.

### **Myths:**

- Reform will cause health care to be rationed.
- We can't afford reform.
- Reform would encourage euthanasia.
- Reform would threaten veterans' health care.
- Reform will hurt small businesses.
- Reform will threaten Medicare.
- Reform will force people to change insurance coverage or doctors.
- Reform will allow the government direct access to personal bank accounts.

### **Reasons for Reform:**

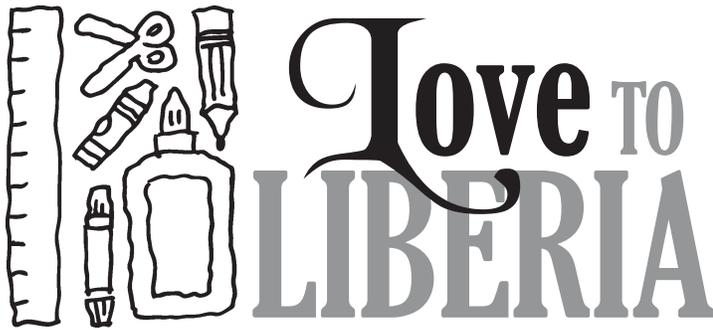
- Currently, insurance companies deny coverage for millions.
- Health insurance premiums are increasing and coverage provided is being reduced.
- There are significant roadblocks to care for women.
- The number of people without health insurance has increased to nearly 50 million.
- Small businesses are struggling to provide health insurance for their employees.
- Half of all personal bankruptcies are at least partially attributable to medical expenses.
- Access to care is diminishing as fewer employers provide health insurance.
- Trends in health care indicate a deteriorating situation.

(cf. <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/news/action-alerts/>)

Thanks, Paula-- See you in Church!

**Arvin**

\*National Academy of Sciences as quoted by T. R. Reid in an interview with Betty Ann Bowser broadcast on PBS's “News Hour with Jim Lehrer” August 28, 2009 and accessed at [www.pbs.org/newshour/](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/)



## LOVE TO LIBERIA

### Special Project Partners with Church School

Earlier this spring, your Global Missions Committee was pleased to announce a “special project” that reaches across land and sea, to Liberia. Oregon-Idaho UMCs have a long history of connecting with Liberia, sending mission teams, supplies and books, and welcoming the Methodist Bishop of Liberia to our Conference, on occasion. Our own Global Missions member Roland Clarke’s homeland is Liberia. As you may remember, Roland took several hundred eyeglasses donated by our congregation to Liberia. He has been our connecting link for First UMC to help meet some urgent needs there.

Last winter, through Alternative Christmas giving, we were able to build a well, bringing safe water to a community. Next, we assisted in building senior housing, which serves grandparents who care for their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren.

Now, to help our children become more aware of mission, we are creating a student-to-student relationship between our Church School and the school in the community of Ganta, Liberia. Throughout the summer our children have been encouraged to gather school supplies. On “Welcome Home Sunday,” September 13, the children will bring the pencils, pens, notebooks, rulers, calculators and Bibles to the altar, where they will be blessed on their way to Ganta. Roland has made arrangements for the supplies to be sent without cost. Throughout the year our children will exchange letters and share ideas with their African counterparts.

You, too, can participate in this project by picking up a few back-to-school items: pencils, notebooks, Bibles, etc. that can make all the difference for a child eager to learn. Bring these items on September 13, and we’ll add them to those the children have collected. Check the narthex bulletin board for more information.

*Colleen Foster, for Global Missions Committee*

**UMW** united  
methodist women

All women are invited to participate in the following activities. 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

### SEPTEMBER UNIT GATHERING

The September Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, September 9, in the Fireside Room at 10:00 AM. After our monthly business meeting, join us for “Back to School with UMW.” Plan to enroll now in UMW 101 to learn more about our history and programs. Come prepared for an Open Book quiz. Displays about the room will provide the answers. Team work is encouraged. Sample question: What does GBGM mean? Come for fun and interactive games. Lunch will be served at noon in Room 202. The staff is invited. Contact: Trudy Kayser, 503/292-7528.

### THE READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet Wednesday, September 16, at 10:00 AM in the church library. A discussion of the book, *Inner Simplicity*, by Elaine St. James will be led by Lila Palmiter. This easy read book will help you regain peace in your life as it nourishes your soul. Chair: Sue Fisher, 503/203-1445

### THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, September 16, at noon in Room 204. Clare Humphrey will share “Living and Working in a Foreign Culture.” Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773.

### METRO DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

Save Saturday, September 19, for the Metro District Annual Meeting at Wilshire UMC. Registration is at 8:30 AM. Eva Johnson will speak on *Native Americans, Past and Present*. A pot luck lunch will follow

---

## ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES OF OREGON BENEFIT BANQUET

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will have a benefit banquet October 13, 2009 at the Hilton Hotel to honor the many individuals, community organizations and congregations who work for reconciliation, peace and justice in Oregon. Our own Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse is currently the president of EMO. Over 400 community and faith leaders will be in attendance to recognize EMO’s achievements. There will also be a silent auction and cocktails at 5:30 PM before the 7:00 PM dinner. We hope to have at least two tables of First UMC members attend this event. The cost of this dinner is \$60 per person. Make your check payable to First UMC and send to church office, attention: Shirley Blalock. If you have questions, you call Cal or Pat Brockman at 502/292-6270.

### 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 September 16, 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 CELEBRATION FOR ...

*Justin & Christa Braska, on the birth of their son,  
Davis Kirkegaard Brask, born August 27, 2009.*

### PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Virginia Townend, who in rehab following a stroke ...  
Nancy Bartow, who is recovering from pneumonia ...  
Carla Oesterle, recovering from foot surgery ...*

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

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



## a note of thanks and gratitude

### FROM MARILYN RINGQUIST

Thank you so much for your prayers and other expressions of caring. It has meant so much to me! Special thanks to the United Methodist Women and to Tom Foster who has been so faithful in checking up with me. God bless you all.

*Marilyn Ringquist*

---

---

### STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

A Stephen Minister is a caring Christian lay person, trained to walk with a person during a time of need. A Stephen Minister's goal is to listen and understand with a Christ-grounded, objective, non-judgmental heart, giving the hurting person an open, yet confidential, environment in which to examine and wrestle with the problems. Stephen Ministers are ever mindful the God alone is the source of healing. A new class to train Stephen Ministers will begin on September 22, 2009.

For more details, please contact one of the Stephen Leaders:

Joan Jozwiak	503/848-6509
Mary Jane Hendrickson	503/639-7775
Marge Terdal	503/244-5714

# 2009

# first church FALL PROGRAM GUIDE

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER



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

# W

## ORSHIP AT FIRST

*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord ..."*

Worship is at the center of our community life and is the heart of the First Church experience. Join us each week at 10:30AM for a meaningful experience that includes uplifting music and thoughtful messages. Communion is served the first Sunday of each month.



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 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  
btuck@fumcpdx.org

## Director of Children & Family Ministries

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

## Interim Director of Youth Faith Development & Nurture

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

## Bookkeeper

Shirley Blalock  
503/228-3195 ext. 225  
sblalock@fumcpdx.org

## Facilities Manager

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

## Church Office Hours

The First Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:45 AM to 4:45 PM and closed from 12:00 to 1:00 PM for lunch.



# GROUPS

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

## 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: 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 10:00 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 a variety of fellowship activities. The group meets every other month.  
Contact: Jeanne Teisher



# 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 until a half hour after church. Check us out! The library is located in the 100 wing of the church. You can also stop by the Commons in Collins Hall after church to see our display.

# HOSPITALITY & CARING

## THE COMMONS AM

Come to Collins Hall on Sundays from 8:45 to 10:15 AM for Coffee, juice, snacks, and conversation. It's a great way to start the morning!

## THE COMMONS IN COLLINS HALL

The Commons in Collins Hall will begin Sunday, September 13, 2009. After each worship service, join us in the Commons in Collins. It is an opportunity to sign up for an activity ... get information on a current issues ... check out a book ... or just have coffee with a friend. Follow the signs from the sanctuary over to Collins Hall.

## 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: October 11 and November 1, 2009. For information or to register to be a part of one of these sessions, contact the church office at 503/228-3195. A light luncheon is served and child care is available.

## 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, 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.

## 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. Shows rotate every other month. The fall schedule is as follows:

September/October	First Church Photographers
October/ November	All First Church Artists



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

## PRAYER CHAIN

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

## STEPHEN MINISTRIES

The Stephen Ministry program at First Church 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.



## A BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009

Join us for a blessing of animals on Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 4:00 PM. Many churches will be having animal blessing services on this day, which is also St. Francis of Assisi's traditional "feast day." In this service we will celebrate the animal companions in our lives and invite them into our church setting to receive a special blessing. More details will follow.

# OUTREACH & SERVICE



## 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 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 volunteer at the shelter. Feel free to bring your family or friends with you to make it a really enjoyable evening. Explore the ways to fully participate in the life and community of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter by visiting our webpage at [www.goosehollowfamilyshelter.org](http://www.goosehollowfamilyshelter.org). Or contact Brandi Tuck, Director of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter at 503/228-3195 x215 or [btuck@fumcpdx.org](mailto:btuck@fumcpdx.org)

Pre-opening events and activities include:  
October Auction at the Multnomah Athletic Club - October 18, 2009 - (5:00 to 8:00 PM)

October Volunteer Orientations  
October 20 & 22, 2009 - (7:00 to 8:30 PM)

October Shelter Pre-Opening Work Day  
October 24 - (8:00 AM to noon)

Shelter Open House on November 8, 2009  
after the worship service

November 11 and December 9  
First Church Nights at the Shelter

First United Methodist Church has a long history and a vital presence in the wider community, both in terms of outreach and volunteer service. Inspired by the social witness of Jesus, which calls us to a life of compassion and service, First Church is a faith community engaged in the world. While we focus on issues related to hunger, housing and poverty, environmental stewardship, health care, and peace, church members are involved a wide variety of other concerns as well. Outreach Ministries at First UMC include: Church and Society for Social Justice, Global Missions, and Planet Church. In addition, we have active task forces that address various projects. For more information, contact Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship at 503/228-3195 x224 or [lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org](mailto:lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org).

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT THE OREGON FOOD BANK

Saturday, September 19, 2009  
and/or Saturday, November 21, 2009

Sign up in the Commons to be a part of the First Church work team at the Oregon Food Bank on Saturday, September 19 and/or Saturday, November 21, 2009 from 9:00 AM to noon. For more information, contact Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 x224 or at [lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org](mailto:lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org).

## FORUMS AT FIRST

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

September 20, 2009

### PROFILES IN SERVICE

Come hear the stories of First Church people living out their faith in the community and world.

October 4, 2009

### THE PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

The Parliament of World's Religions will meet Melbourne, Australia, December 2-9, 2009. This forum will feature Helen Spector, member of the Parliament's Board of Trustees.

October 11, 2009

### FIRST CHURCH TRAVEL ADVENTURE: ALASKA 2010

Cheryl Luce will share exciting travel opportunities in Alaska for 2010.

November 8, 2009

### CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Lynn Magnuson, Church World Service Regional Director, will facilitate this informative forum.

November 22, 2009

### PROFILES IN SERVICE

Come hear the stories of First Church people living out their faith in the community and world.

# CHILDREN & FAMILIES

# YOUTH

## **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. Nursery care is often available following church during forums or special events. If your family would like extended care on Sundays for these post-church events, please check in with the nursery attendants when you arrive that morning. Our nursery attendants are trained in CPR and First Aid. Michelle Green, Wendy Lee, and Andrea Miller have many years of experience working with children and are happy to talk with you about your child's care while in the nursery at First UMC.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School at First UMC is a wonderful experience for children of all ages to learn about our church, world and God. We encourage all to participate and offer classes during worship for children ages 4 through fifth grade. Children attend worship with their families and leave for Sunday School following the "Children's Time." Children can be picked up after worship from class.

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILY SPECIAL FALL ACTIVITIES**

### **Sunday, September 13- Welcome Home Sunday**

Welcome Home Sunday is the first day back to regular Sunday school programs. Sunday school classes will meet, and following worship and class, there will be a big party for all to partake! We will have activities, food and fellowship as all people gather together to start another year of Sunday School!

### **Acolyte Training- Sunday September 20**

Acolytes are an important part of our worship service and we depend on the children of the church to carry on this tradition. Our acolyte organizer, Shawn Dwornicki, has provided us with many years of organizing the weekly acolytes. She will be in the Fourth Grade classroom on Sunday, September 20 to train the newest crop of First Church acolytes.

### **THIRD GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY: OCTOBER 11**

Third graders will be presented with their Bibles in during worship on Sunday, October 11, 2009. Third graders are using a curriculum that introduces them to the wonderful stories and characters of the Bible.

### **SAFE SPACE HALLOWEEN PARTY: OCTOBER 25**

Parents and kids are invited to attend the Safe Space Halloween Party! We will have games, crafts, and activities for kids of all ages. This will not be a scary or spooky time, rather a wonderful opportunity to show off costumes and eat candy! Join us in room 202 at 5:00 PM.

### **WREATH-MAKING AND CHILI FEED NOVEMBER 29**

The Children and Family Ministry Committee is happy to host again this year the Family Wreath-making Party on Sunday, November 29, 2009. We will provide all the materials for you to come with your family and make your own Advent Wreath. Following worship, join us in Collins Hall to create your wreath, and then stay to enjoy some delicious chili prepared by the youth!

First United Methodist Youth seeks to include those from sixth grade to twelfth grade. Though there are plenty of combined group activities our Middle School Program includes everyone in the grades 6 through 8 and the High School Program is for youth in grades 9 through 12.

## **SUNDAY MORNINGS**

Middle School Sunday School,  
Room 130 ... begins at 9:30 AM

High School Sunday School,  
Youth Room .... begins at 9:30 AM

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

## **THURSDAY EVENINGS WITH THE YOUTH SQUAD**

### **Youth Kickoff Event:**

### **Thursday September 17**

Come and join the FUMY for a FUN Planning Session! The Senior High group will gather from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. We will break for pizza and then the Junior High will meet from 7:30 - 8:30 PM. We will be collaborating our crazy ideas and planning to make the fun happen.

### **Youth Squad's Back-to-School Lock-In: September 18**

The Youth Squad Lock-In begins at 8:00 PM on Friday, September 18 and conclude at 9:00 AM on Saturday, September 19. Food, fun, and flashlights will be provided!

### **Safe Space Halloween Party for Children: Sunday, October 25**

Our fabulous family friendly Halloween tradition continues. Youth will plan games, activities, and costumes all for the kids and families of First UMC. Youth should arrive at 4:00 PM for set up, and kids and families will arrive at 5:00 PM

### **Chili Feed: November 29**

Chili event of the year! Youth will prepare and serve chili as a fund raiser for FUMY programs. A Prep Party on Saturday, November 28, will include shopping for beans, corn bread and brownies. On Sunday, November 29, the youth will be on hand for stirring and kitchen merriment, as we serve the lovely people of First Church.

# ADULT CLASSES ON SUNDAY

ongoing ...

short-term ...

## ONGOING SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES

### Changing Christianity

*How to Win a Cosmic War, God,  
Globalization, and the End of the War on  
Terror* by Reza Aslan

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

This class focuses on how Christianity has changed, is changing, will change, and how we can be a part of that change. The class will begin by looking at Reza Aslan's book *How to Win a Cosmic War, God, Globalization, and the End of the War on Terror*.

### Fellowship of Seekers

*The Book of Job*

This class meets each Sunday  
from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in Room 134

This class 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. This fall the class will study the *Book of Job* with guidance by David Hester's, *Job*, published in the Interpretation Bible Series.



## SHORT-TERM SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES

### Faith and Public Life

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.

### Peace Church Dialogues

September 13, 20, and 27

This class will be facilitated by Marilyn Outslay, chair of the First UMC Peace Church Task Force.

September 13: A Historical Overview

A brief review of historical peace churches in other denominations and a discussion of what peace church means to you.

September 20: A Review of the Work of the Task Force

A review of work of the task force thus far on social principles and a resolution; discussion of peace church vs. peace covenant church.

September 27: Feedback

A review of first draft of statement developed recently by the task force and an opportunity for your feedback.

### C.S. Lewis' The Four Loves

Sundays, October 4, 11, 18, and 25

In his book, *The Four Loves*, C. S. Lewis describes the four basic kinds of human love—affection, friendship, erotic, and charity, or the love of God. He explores the possibilities and challenges of the love between parents and children; the love of men for other men and women for women; the love of men and women for each other; and the love of God that enriches all love. He also explores questions about sex, possessiveness, jealousy, pride, false sentimentality, good and bad manners in loving, and the need for more laughter between lovers. Lewis discusses risks associated with love, but recommends taking them since “hell is the only place outside heaven where we can be safe from the dangers of love.” During our first meeting, we will review Aristotle's argument about ethics and the practice of the virtues as well as summarize the arguments made by Lewis. In subsequent classes we will explore your questions, impressions, and conclusions about *The Four Loves*. This class will be taught by Gene Gregory.

### Living the Questions

Sundays, November 1, 8, 15, and 22

In these sessions, we will be using DVD materials that feature leading religious scholars, including Marcus Borg, John Cobb, Minerva Carcano, Matthew Fox, Meagan McKenna, Helen Prejean, John Dominic Corssan, John Spong, and others. We will discuss various questions and concerns related to progressive Christianity and “what's next for Christianity.” The themes of these sessions will be: An Invitation to Journey, Taking the Bible Seriously, Challenges Facing Progressive Christians, and Restoring Relationships. This class will be facilitated by Martha Powell and Rev. Lowell Greathouse.

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

This fall, Rev. Lowell Greathouse will offer two mid-week Bible studies on Wednesday nights at 6:00 PM in the Church Library. For more information you can contact him at 503/228-3195 ext. 224 or [lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org](mailto:lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org).

## **LIVING THE LORD'S PRAYER**

September 23 - October 21, 2009

In these sessions, we will explore the fifty plus words attributed to Jesus in "The Lord's Prayer" according to the Gospel of Matthew (6:9-13). What does Jesus teach us about God and life through this prayer? How can we use them to deepen our own relationship with God and with each other? What do these simple petitions tell us about the nature of the spiritual life?

## **PRAYING THE PSALMS**

October 28, 2009 - January 27, 2010

Over the years, the Psalms have been used for devotional reading, as an expression of a range of human emotions and yearnings, and as a window into God's nature. In these sessions, we will explore the Psalms and utilize them as a way to deepen our own spiritual formation process and open ourselves to the various meanings of prayer. The biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann has said, "... the Psalms are helpful because they are a genuinely dialogical literature that expresses both sides of the conversation of faith ....(They) are not only addressed to God, they are a voice of the gospel, God's good word addressed to God's faithful people." Join us on this journey into the soul of the beloved community.

# NEW READING GROUPS

First Church has a number of newly forming book groups that will be meeting on a monthly basis in the Church Library:

## **Allcomer's Book Group**

Convening meeting, Monday, September 21, 2009 at 7:00 PM

## **Young Women's Book Group**

Next meeting, Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 7:00 PM

## **Men's Book Group**

Convening meeting, Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 7:00 PM

## **UMW Reading Group**

The United Methodist Women's Reading Group is an existing, on-going group. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 10:00 AM in the church library.

For more information on these book groups, contact Rev. Lowell Greathouse at 503/228-3195 or [lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org](mailto:lgreathouse@fumcpdx.org).

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

United Methodist Women is a community of women whose purpose is to know God, to develop a creative supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. We meet in large Unit Gatherings and in smaller Circle meetings. All women (and men) are welcome to attend UMW meetings and gatherings. The Unit Gatherings are the first Wednesdays of each month at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room.

## **SEPTEMBER UNIT GATHERING**

The Unit Gathering of the UMW will meet Wednesday, September 9, (after Labor Day) in the Fireside Room at 10:00 AM. After our monthly business meeting, join us for "Back to School with UMW and You." Plan to enroll now in UMW 101 to learn more about our history and programs. Come for fun and interactive games. Lunch will be served at noon in Room 202. The staff is invited. For further information, contact Trudy Kayser at 503/292-7528.

## **THE RUTH CIRCLE**

Ruth Circle meets the third Wednesday at noon in Room 204.

## **CIRCLE OF FRIENDS**

Circle of Friends meets the last Wednesday of the month at 11:30 AM in Room 204. Check the *Circuit Rider* for specific program topics.

## **THE READING GROUP**

See above for details ...

# MUSIC AT FIRST

*The music program at Portland's First United Methodist Church endeavors to provide musical excellence in all areas of church music.*

## MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

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

September 11 and 12 – Chancel Choir Retreat  
December 6 – Chancel Choir sings for Willamette View Manor Vespers

**The Sanctuary Bell Choir**, directed by Nancy Hascall, rehearses on Wednesday evenings in Room 202 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Music reading ability is necessary for this to be an enjoyable experience. The first rehearsal is on September 9, 2009.

This group will play for worship:  
October 11 - prelude and November 29 - offertory

## MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**The Cherub Choir**, directed by Jen Graver and Nancy Fortner, is for children from ages 3 through First or Second Grade. They meet on Sunday mornings in Room 206 from 9:30 – 10:15 AM.

They are singing on:  
October 11 ... November 15 ... December 13 ... December 24 - The Family Service

**The Sound Seekers Choir**, directed by Ronnee Edwards, is for children in grades 2 or 3 through 5. They rehearse on Sunday mornings in Room 136 from 9:30 – 10:15 AM.

They are singing on:  
October 18 ... November 22 ... December 24 - The Family Service

**The Veritas Choir**, also directed by Ronnee Edwards, is for Sixth Grade through Senior High School students. They rehearse on Sunday mornings in Room 133 from 9:00 – 9:30. They are singing on: November 8 ... December 20 & 24

**The Genesis Ringers**, directed by Karin McDonough, is for beginning handbell players ages 9 through adults. They rehearse on Thursday evenings in Room 202 at 6:00 PM.

**juBELLation**, also directed by Karin McDonough, is the youth handbell choir. They rehearse on Thursday evenings in Room 202 at 7:30. The first rehearsal will be on Thursday, September 17.

They will play on:  
October 25 - offertory ... December 13 - offertory  
A skills workshop is scheduled for September 27 in Hillsboro.

For more information about participating in the music program at First Church, contact Kelly Qualls at 503/228-3195 x 235 or [kqualls@fumcpdx.org](mailto:kqualls@fumcpdx.org). The Music Ministry area on our website can be found at [www.fumcpdx.org](http://www.fumcpdx.org).

# SPECIAL SUNDAYS



## September 13

Welcome Home Sunday and  
End of Summer Cookout

## September 27

Teacher Recognition and  
Christian Education Offering

## October 4

World Communion Sunday

## October 11

Third Grade Bible Sunday

## October 25

Consecration Sunday

## November 1

All Saints Sunday

## November 15

All-Church Conference

## November 29

First Sunday of Advent  
United Methodist Student Day  
and Offering  
Advent Wreath Making & Chili Feed

## The First Sunday of Each Month Is

FISH Sunday Food Drive

## The Third Sunday of Each Month Is

Let's Make Change,  
giving loose pocket change  
for caring ministries.