



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

November 11, 2009
Volume 13, Issue 21

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 15**
Sunday Worship at
10:30 AM

All-Church
Conference in the
Chapel, following
worship



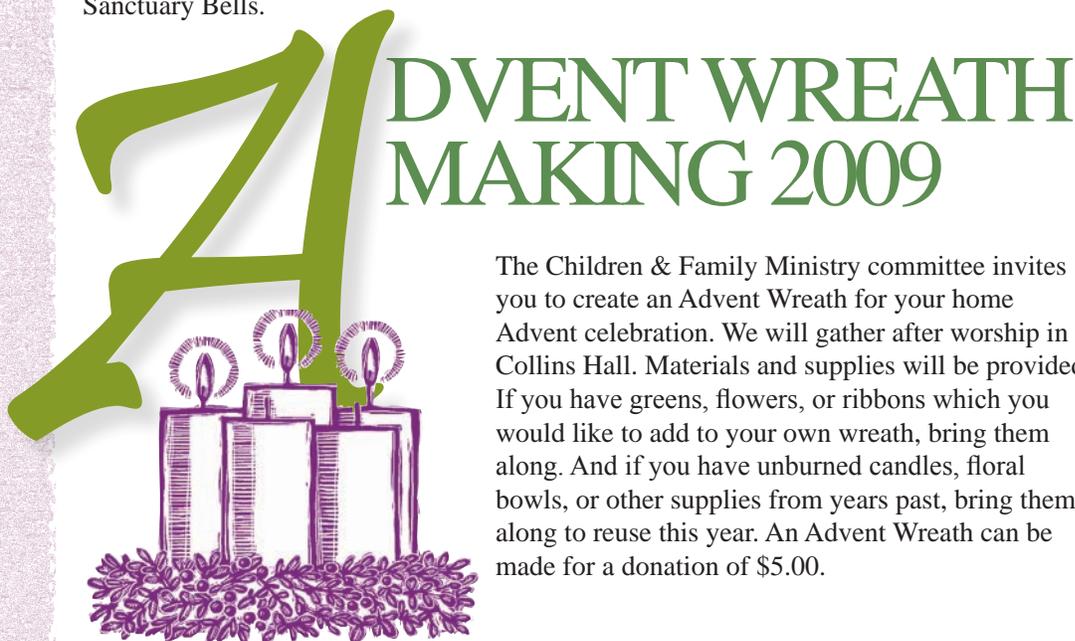
As a Reconciling
Congregation,
members of
First United
Methodist Church
have pledged to
welcome and support
all who want to worship
with us, regardless of
race, gender, class or
sexual orientation.

LIVING A VIBRANT FAITH

BELIEVING THINKING ACTING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Come families of all shapes and sizes to a cozy and bright Advent Celebration on Sunday, November 29 in Collins Hall, following worship. Be you one, or many, come gather in community with our great church family. Collins Hall will be busy with energy. Have a chili lunch, create an Advent Wreath, and enjoy the beautiful sounds of Christmas with the Sanctuary Bells.



DVENT WREATH MAKING 2009

The Children & Family Ministry committee invites you to create an Advent Wreath for your home Advent celebration. We will gather after worship in Collins Hall. Materials and supplies will be provided. If you have greens, flowers, or ribbons which you would like to add to your own wreath, bring them along. And if you have unburned candles, floral bowls, or other supplies from years past, bring them along to reuse this year. An Advent Wreath can be made for a donation of \$5.00.

ALL-CHURCH CHILI FEED

Join First Church Youth, following the worship service, for our Annual Chili Feed lunch. The youth will be cooking and stirring up culinary delights for you and your family. There will be traditional chili, vegetarian chili, corn bread, and dessert. Each meal is \$5.00 or you can feed the whole family for \$15.00. Come warm body and soul with great food and the company.





an announcement

from Bishop Robert Hoshibata

The following announcement was released by Bishop Robert Hoshibata on behalf of the joint defense teams from the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference and First United Methodist Church, Portland, Oregon. It was read on Sunday, November 8, 2009 simultaneously at First UMC, Corvallis, First UMC, Portland, and Epworth UMC, Portland

The lawsuit filed against First United Methodist Church of Portland, Oregon, The Metropolitan District Church Extension Society, and the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church for damages for sexual abuse of a minor by a clergy person in the 1960s has been dismissed following a negotiated settlement acceptable to all parties. We are pleased that we were able to reach an acceptable agreement through mediation rather than trial.

The complaint regarding the abuse was first received by the Annual Conference in December, 2007. Upon learning of the allegations, church officials immediately initiated a formal inquiry into the matter following procedures outlined in church law. The clergy person involved, Chet Earls, confirmed the abuse and, at the request of the Bishop, surrendered the credentials of his ministerial office. He is no longer a clergyman.

Sexual abuse of a minor is a serious violation of the sacred trust of a clergyperson's ordination. The United Methodist Church does not tolerate sexual misconduct of any kind. We are committed to making our churches places where all persons are safe. In the decades since these incidents occurred, the churches of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference have implemented a number of policies and procedures to safeguard those who come into all of our churches. The churches of our conference work to be sensitive and supportive of victims of the many types of abuse that can occur in our churches as well as in the community.

If you have been sexually abused by Chet Earls or any other clergyperson, please contact any District Superintendent or Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata.

Contact Information:

- Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata (503) 226-1530 or 1-(800) 593-7539, ext. 39
- The Rev. John Watts, (541) 389-1047, Central District Superintendent
- The Rev. Robert Flaherty, (208) 385-0598, Eastern District Superintendent
- The Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson, (503) 249-1851, Metropolitan District Superintendent
- The Rev. Donna Pritchard, (541) 689-3725, Southern District Superintendent
- The Rev. Dr. Kate Connolly, (503) 581-3969, Western District Superintendent

adult sunday classes

umw

united
methodist women

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. (This class is currently combining with *Living the Questions* and will resume on Sunday, November 29, 2009.)

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.

Living the Questions

Sundays, through November 22 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room

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

Christmas Music

On Sunday, November 29, 2009 Chuck Klang will play selections from his collection of Christmas CDs in the Fireside Room from 9:15 - 10:15 AM. This will include music from the Renaissance on up to contemporary works. Many lesser known, but beautiful works, will be played. Special Christmas treats will be provided.

bible study
wednesday nights



PRAYING THE PSALMS

Rev. Lowell Greathouse is leading a Bible study 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.

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. Come explore the Psalms and as a way to deepen our own spiritual formation process and open ourselves to the various meanings of prayer.

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

THE UMW BOOK GROUP

The UMW Book Group will meet Wednesday, November 18, at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. *The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford tells the story of a young man coming of age during WW II. It looks at the best and worst of human relationships and reminds us that there is always room – and time -- for forgiveness and redemption. Chair, Sue Fisher, 503/203-1445, will lead the discussion.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, November 18, at 11:30 AM in Room 134. Cheryl Bittle, instructor for the Native American Study at the Oregon and Idaho Schools of Christian Mission this past summer, will share information about Native American issues. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Chair: Alyson Inouye, 503/224-9103.

THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, November 18, at noon in Room 204. Sue Fisher will review Mary Ann Shaffer's book, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, a story of how a small English island, one of the Channel Islands, coped with five years of German occupation during World War II. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292. 1773.

THE PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Team will NOT meet in November.

JOYOUS CHRISTMAS MUSIC

The United Methodist Women invite all, men and women, to join them on Wednesday, December 2, at 11:00 AM in our sanctuary for a joyous Christmas. Jonas and Christopher Nordwall will be featured at two organs. four hands + four feet + seven keyboards = JOYOUS CHRISTMAS MUSIC. If you plan to stay for the luncheon that follows, you will need to register at the UMW table in Collins Hall after morning worship on either November 22 or November 29. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Luncheon Co-chairs: Trudy Kayser and Melba Rizzo.

DOWNTOWN COMPASSION CLINIC

Come to the Compassion Clinic informational meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at First Baptist Church, 909 SW 11th Avenue in Portland. The Downtown Compassion Clinic will be a one-day event in our community for those who need free, basic medical and dental services, a warm meal, and a friendly smile. Hundreds of volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Churches in the downtown area are planning to put on a Compassion Clinic in late spring of 2010, and First Church would like to be a part of this effort. To find out more, please plan to come to the November 17th meeting. Let Debby Fisher at 503/645-4802 or mfisher2@msn.com or Jeri Shumate at 503/228-3195 x220 or jshumate@fumcpdx.org know of your interest.



CREATIVE SPIRIT EXHIBITIONS

Come visit the new art exhibit in the Commons in Collins Hall after worship on Sundays. Three local artists, Christine Helton, Liz Walker, and Melody Cleary have their works on display during November and December of 2009.



Also, all First United Methodist Church artists are invited to show their work in the January 2010 All-Church Art Show. Paintings will be hung at 10:00 AM. Saturday, January 9, 2010 for two months. Bring one or two paintings to be hung, as there is room. Two dimensional art only. For more information call Sandy Wood at 503/203.1359 or e-mail to spwood@comcast.net.

PARENT'S DAY OUT

We would like to offer First Church parents the luxury of pre-Christmas Saturdays in December. The First UMC nursery crew has scheduled Parent's Day Out dates for Saturdays December 5, 12, and 19, 2009.



Bring your children ten and under and their lunches to the nursery from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There will be opportunities for crafts, music, reading, napping, and movie watching while you relax, clean the bathroom, or spend some time Christmas shopping. The cost is a \$5.00 per child. Sign up now as space is limited. You can sign up in the nursery on Sundays, or contact Megan Humphreys-Loving at 503/228-3195 ext. 227 or mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org.

FIRST SUNDAY IS FISH SUNDAY

During this time of the year, please remember to bring non-perishable food items and place them in the designated FISH barrels located in the narthex. Our next Fish Sunday is Sunday, December 6, 2009. These donations will go to Portland's FISH Emergency Services program to be distributed to members of our community in need of emergency food. Help make a difference in the lives of those who are hungry.



LET'S MAKE CHANGE

Please bring your spare change and drop it in the basket at the back of the sanctuary on November 15 and December 20, 2009. In November, our change will go to the NE Emergency Food Program, which is run by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and in December, it will go to Operation Night Watch, which is a program that provides services for the homeless in Portland.



SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 9:00 AM to noon at First Church, the Metro District will present *Nuts and Bolts Training* for church leaders. There will be a variety of workshops and Bishop Hoshibata will be preaching at the gathering worship service.



the edge

thoughts
for the journey

Lowell Greathouse, Minister of Discipleship

Lots of individuals in the congregation give me wonderful books to read. A couple weeks ago, I received four different books in my box at church. They included: *Systems Sensitive Leadership* by Michael Amour and Don Browning, *And Grandma Said...* *Iroquois Teachings* by Tom Porter, *Writing as a Sacred Path* by Jill Jepson, and *Business and the Speed of Thought* by Bill Gates. The breadth and range of this reading is remarkable and a joy to encounter. I love to read, and each book I read conveys a different story and understanding of the world. In *Writing as a Sacred Path*, Jill Jepson reminds us why stories are so powerful in our lives: "Stories sculpt meaning; they shape how we think about the world; they provide the framework for understanding our place in the Universe. Stories determine what we cherish, despise, or ignore. They define, in fact, what it is to be a human. According to a story, when Martha Graham was once asked to explain what one of her dances meant, she said, 'If I could say it, I wouldn't have to dance it.' Stories function the same way: They express the inexpressible." (*Writing as a Sacred Path*, page 11)

a forum @ first

profiles in service



PROFILES IN SERVICE

Join us on Sunday, November 22, 2009 for Profiles in Service, after worship in the Fireside Room. A light lunch will be provided. Come hear the stories of First Church people living out their faith in the community and world. This forum will feature: Bob Wilson and Yvonne Williams.



travel @ first

the grotto

THE GROTTTO

On Monday, December 7, 2009 First United Methodist Church will carpool at 2:00 PM to the Grotto for a guided 90 minute tour of the Plaza level and Upper Level of these magnificent grounds. At 4:00 PM we go off grounds and have a light supper to return at 5:00 PM for the special Christmas *Festival of Lights*. Cost is \$12.00 per person to include elevator fee and admission to the Festival. Supper is at your own expense. Registration deadline is November 15, 2009. To register contact the church office at 503/228-3195 or office@fumcpdx.org.

The Grotto offers a spectacular natural gallery in the woods with beautifully sculpted statues and shrines nestled among towering firs and flower-lined pathways and is a Christmas time favorite.

THE LION KING



GROUP TICKETS TO THE LION KING

Would you like to see the Broadway production of Disney's **The Lion King**? Limited Tickets available! Please join the theater party in June 2010! We will be attending Disney's **The Lion King** on Saturday, June 19th matinee at 2:00 PM at the Keller Auditorium. Only four tickets are left for the orchestra level at \$78.50/each. Wonderful first balcony seats still available for \$73.50/each. Please make your reservations by **November 25, 2009**. Contact Megan Humphreys-Loving to indicate your interest, and how many tickets you would like. Contact Megan at 503-228-3195 ext.227 or at mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org.

CALLING ALL SHEEP, ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES!

If you are interested in participating in the Family Christmas Eve service on December 24 at 5:00 PM, please gather with us in the Chapel for an informational meeting following worship, on Sunday, November 15, 2009. We are looking for children ages three and up to play important parts such as shepherds or lowering cattle. If you are unable to attend the meeting today, please contact Megan to express your interest. Questions? Megan: 503-228-3195 ext. 227 mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org

THE NATIVITY



Publication Deadlines

Articles for The Circuit Rider are due no later than 10:00 AM on the Thursday before publication the following Wednesday. The next Circuit Rider will be published on November 25, 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 ...

Martin & Holly Martin, upon the birth of a grandson, Carter Michael Arthur Martin, born October 30, 2009 to Shawn and Amber Martin.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Bob Crumpacker, who is recovering from back surgery ...
Ted Hoch, who is recovering from a shoulder injury sustained in a fall ...
Bill & Joan Hill, Bill is seriously ill ...
Marilyn Ringquist, who continues to suffer with an infection on her back ...

WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

Albert Laney and Jay Stewart ...

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

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

items of interest

please note

ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE

Each year at First Church we have an annual All-Church Conference in order to review the mission and ministry of the church. Please plan to come to our annual Fall Church Conference meeting with District Superintendent Bonnie Parr Philipson on Sunday, November 15, 2009 in the Chapel, following worship.

