



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

February 17, 2010
Volume 14, Issue 04

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 AM
each Sunday
morning



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

CONNECT

again with God and your faith
A LENTEN SERMON SERIES



Sunday, February 21

CONNECT: Our Prayers
Psalm 62:5-9; Romans 8:26-27

Sunday, February 28

CONNECT: Our Presence
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Sunday, March 7

CONNECT: Our Gifts
2 Corinthians 9:10-15

Sunday, March 14

CONNECT: Our Service
James 2:14-17

Easter Sunday, April 4

Two festival worship services at 9 & 11 AM
CONNECTION: We are Witnesses
John 20:1-18

You are invited
to a special
Lenten Sermon
Series entitled:
"Connect Again
with God and Your
Faith." Lent is a
unique time to
connect with
God and renew
our faith.
Join us on Sunday
mornings at
10:30 AM ...
make the
connection!



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

I think I first heard it from Tony Campolo:

“If you don’t feel close to God—ask yourself who moved?”

Research confirms what pastors hear all the time: there is a deep yearning to CONNECT or re-connect with God. John Ed Mathison, captured that hunger when he wrote, “Psychologists tell us that most people in America are unsatisfied ... Something deep within us is still crying out for the real deal ... nothing will feel right until we get it.”*

It’s not new. Over the centuries countless searchers have known those pangs. Indeed, thousands of years before Christ a psalmist expressed it this way: “O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you!”**

The forty days of Lent have traditionally been a time of spiritual reflection and preparation for the most important festival of our faith—Easter. It is a time to develop what John Wesley called, ‘holy habits’ that can put you in touch with God, with your faith and with others.

Over the next few weeks our Sunday morning worship will focus on those “habits.” We’ll reflect on our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service—and on Easter—our witness. If those practices sound familiar, they should. They are at the center of our membership ritual—and we invite everyone to re-affirm our dedication to do those things each time we welcome new members.

Educators say that it takes at least a month of regular repetition—and activities that engage several senses—to enable a worthwhile practice to become a habit. So, during worship we’ll explore each theme through word, prayer and music. We’ll provide a scripture for your reflection and prayer during the week. After worship, in “The Commons” you can connect with opportunities to live out your faith in service.. At Wednesday’s Lenten Suppers we’ll hear from others their faith-story.

Each Sunday, we’ll offer a Psalm to spark your efforts to CONNECT. This week, in anticipation, let me encourage you to reflect on Psalm 63.

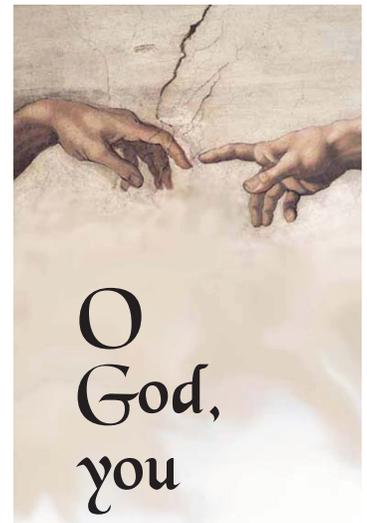
I invite you to make this Lent a time to embrace those spiritual practices that can enable you to CONNECT with God, with your faith, and with others.

See you in Church!

Arvin

* (from *Treasures of the Transformed Life*, P. 8 quoted by Harnish, James A, *reCONNECT: a workbook for personal and group study*, Hyde Park UMC, Tampa, FL, 2009, p. 11.)

** (Psalm 63:1)



O
God,
you
are my
God,
I seek
you,
my soul
thirsts
for you!

Psalm 63:1

adult sunday school classes

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

This class meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 110
This class is currently studying: *Eternal Life A New Vision* by John Spong

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

This class meets each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in Room 134
This class is open to all who seek 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 class is currently studying: *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life* by Marjorie Thompson.

LIVING THE QUESTIONS WITH MARTHA POWELL

Sundays, February 21, 28, and March 7, 2010
Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.

We will continue this popular series, 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. The topics for these upcoming segments will include: A Kingdom without Walls, Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision, and Incarnation: Divinely Human. Martha Powell will lead us in the discussions.

haiti health kits

UPDATE ON HEALTH KITS FOR HAITI

Thank you to everyone who responded so generously to the call for Health Care Kits. In addition to the money raised for UMCOR's Emergency Disaster Relief Fund, you provided supplies for 362 complete kits (valued at \$4,344) and bulk supplies of soap, band-aids, and toothbrushes which are ready to send to the Salt Lake City warehouse. I know that many of you shared the health kit information with your neighbors and friends who then participated in this generous response, so please share this note of thanks with them. The SLC warehouse and the Sager Brown warehouse in Louisiana have already begun their shipment of supplies to Haiti. Our donations will restock their shelves and provide them with the ability to continue to meet the needs of the people of Haiti. There is an ongoing coordinated effort of the Metro Methodist churches to collectively ship or drive items to the warehouse so that we can be the most cost effective. As soon as the total metro response is known, we will share that information with you.

Thank you. Debby Fisher,
Health and Welfare Coordinator

BOOK SALE



The Church Library's Book Sale is February 21, 2010 in Collins Hall after church. The proceeds from the sale go toward acquiring new books for the library.

you're invited

FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION

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. The next orientations will be offered after the worship service on Sunday, February 28, 2010. 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

umw

All women are invited to attend the following activities. We strive to develop a supportive fellowship as we participate in mission with women, children, and youth at home and abroad. President, Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

THE PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, February 24, at 9:30 AM in Room 110. Chair: Melba Rizzo

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, February 24, at 11:30 AM in Room 204. Trudy Kayser, who has visited Viet Nam and Cambodia, will share her pictures and stories about life in those countries today. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Chair: Alyson Inouye

MARCH UMW GATHERING

The UMW Unit will gather Wednesday, March 3, in the Fireside Room at 10:00 AM, when the World Thank Offering will be received. Mary Covert will lead the Prayer and Self-Denial service. At 11:00 AM, speaker Monica Beemer, Executive Director of Sisters of the Road, will relate the story of this 30-year old café that works on the root causes of homelessness and poverty in our community. Anyone interested in the issues of homelessness and poverty in the Portland area are welcome to hear Ms. Beemer's report. Contact: Marilyn Outslay

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

On Friday, March 5, Church Women United will have a Human Right's Celebration, "Living the Challenge: Differently Enabled, Uniquely Called" at University Park UMC, 4775 North Lombard Street. Registration is at 9:30 AM. Baby items for the Insights Teen Parent Program are gladly accepted. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare

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 March 3, 2010.

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 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 ...

The family and friends of Johnson Doe. Johnson died on Friday, February 12, 2010 and his memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 2010 at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Joe Delaney, who recently had hip surgery ...
Heather Foster, a nurse with Medical Teams International in Haiti.
Heather is the daughter-in-law of Tom & Colleen Foster ...

WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

Bill Hill, Jay Stewart, and Melba Rizzo ...

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY ABROAD ...

Jared Bomberger, Daniel Bomberger, and Steven Johnson



please note

WORDS OF THANKS

I wish to express my gratitude to all our friends at First UMC for your phone calls, get well cards, well wishes, flowers, personal and pastoral visits during my hospitalization. I am very happy to be recuperating at home and receiving out-patient therapy. My wife and I are blessed to be part of this wonderful church. - *Robert Weber*

RECONCILING MINISTRIES

On Sunday, February 21, 2010 there will be a Reconciling Ministries Planning Meeting at noon in Room 202.

PLANTS READY TO ORDER!

The First UMC Youth will be selling bedding plants from Greenleaf Nursery again this year. Annuals, perennials, geraniums, organic vegetable starts and hanging baskets will all be available. Orders can be placed at the Plant Table in Collins Hall from February 14 through March 14, 2010. Plants will be delivered to Collins Hall and ready for pick-up on Sunday, April 18, 2010.

SPRING PROGRAM GUIDE

MARCH - JUNE

2010

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**

things are
BLOOMING⁹
GREAT.



**THIS SPRING AT
FIRST CHURCH**

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 Community Outreach & Volunteer Services

Jeri Shumate
503/228-3195 ext. 220
jshumate@fumcpdx.org

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

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

Facilities Manager

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

Bookkeeper

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

HOLY WEEK

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



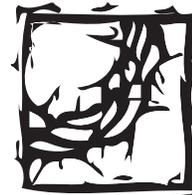
Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday Service
at 10:30 AM and
Children's Processional



Thursday, April 1

Maundy Thursday Service
at 7:00 PM in
the sanctuary



Friday, April 2

Good Friday Service
at noon at the
First Christian Church
1430 SW Broadway

Good Friday Service
at 7:00 PM in the Chapel



Sunday, April 4

Easter Services at
9:00 and 11:00 AM
in the sanctuary



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

SPECIAL SUNDAYS

SPECIAL SUNDAYS AT FIRST CHURCH

March 14	One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
March 28	Palm Sunday
April 4	Easter
April 11	Yom HaShoah (the "Day of Remembrance")
April 18	Confirmation Sunday/Native American Ministries Offering
April 25	Earth Day Sunday
May 9	Mother's Day/Festival of the Christian Home & Children's Musical
May 23	Pentecost Sunday/Heritage Sunday/Youth Sunday
May 30	Peace with Justice Offering/Memorial Day Sunday
June 7	Volunteer Recognition Sunday
June 10-13	Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference (Salem, OR)
June 13	Last day of Sunday School/ Laity Sunday
June 20	Father's Day / Portland Pride Parade

GROUPS

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 6:00 - 9:00 PM to hang out, have dinner and a good time. Call Megan Humphreys-Loving at 503/228-3195 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 10:00 AM. Contact: Terry Connell

BRIDGE GROUP

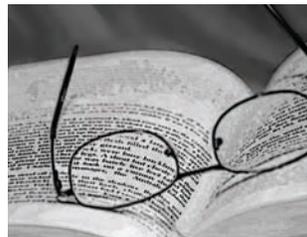
Meets on Tuesdays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Contact: Dee Poujade

T.A.G. (THE ADULT GANG)

This group is for adults of any age who enjoy having fun through 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



LIBRARY



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.

JUST FOR YOU

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 **Sundays: February 28, April 25, May 23, 2010**. 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 Hall 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. Come to Collins Hall to enjoy fine art created by members of the First Church community as well as local artists.



“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 human ... stories express the inexpressible.”

Writing as a Sacred Path by Jill Jepsen

LENTEN SUPPERS 2010

finding yourself in a community of stories

FOCUS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Baptism: Into the Community

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Confirmation:
The Journey Begins

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Connecting with God:
Worship, Communion, and Prayer

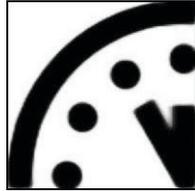
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

Service: Making a Difference
in the World

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

Making the Journey through
the Tough Times:
Never Walking Alone

SCHEDULE



5:30 PM

Eating Together

6:20 PM

Singing Together

6:30 PM

Telling Stories Together

6:45 PM

Talking Together

7:30 PM

Praying Together

FAMILY TRACK

FAMILY WORSHIP

Families come in all shapes or sizes. You are invited to gather together to worship and create family prayers and memories. Join Megan Humphreys-Loving in Room 202 at 6:30 PM, following the Lenten Supper.

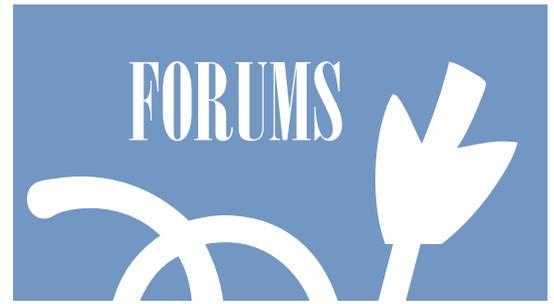


**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 3**

Family Prayer

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 17**

Family Stories



First Church Forums are held on Sundays after worship in the Fireside Room. A light lunch and child care are provided. Upcoming forums include the following:

FEBRUARY 28

ALZHEIMER'S: KNOW THE TEN SIGNS, EARLY DETECTION MATTERS

In this workshop, attendees will gain an understanding of the difference between age-related memory loss and Alzheimer's, and what to do if they or someone they know has signs of the disease.

MARCH 21

THE CHARTER OF COMPASSION

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Come learn about this intriguing document being signed by religious leaders around the globe, and explore what it means for your own faith journey.

APRIL 18

PROFILES IN SERVICE

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

BOOK GROUPS AT FIRST CHURCH

There are four ongoing book groups at First Church, which meet monthly. If you are interested in being a part of one of them, please contact the church office at 503/228-3195.

The Allcomer's Book Group,
open to men and women of all ages

The Young Women's Book Group,
for women in their 20s and 30s

The Men's Book Group,
for First Church men

The UMW Book Group
meets each month in the church library.

SUNDAY
APRIL 11



YOM HASHOAH THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, April 11th marks this year's recognition of Yom HaShoah--the "Day of Remembrance" among Jewish people worldwide. It is a day when people around the world pause to remember those who died in the Holocaust and renew the resolve to never let such a tragedy happen again. In that horrible time more than 11 million people died including more than six million Jews, persons of other ethnic traditions, those suffering from mental or developmental disabilities, gays and lesbians and dissenting Christians. In our worship together that Sunday we will partner with brothers and sisters in Portland's Jewish Community to read names, to remember, and to express our commitment to a world free of hate and genocide. Please be sure to set aside that date on your calendar to join the voices declaring, "Never Again!"

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

This class meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 110

This class focuses on how Christianity has changed, is changing, will change, and how we can be a part of that change. The class is currently studying *Eternal Life: A New Vision* by John Spong.

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

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

The class is open to all who seek 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. They are currently studying *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life* by Marjorie Thompson.

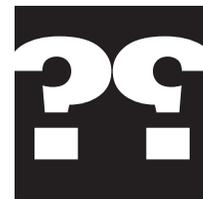
FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE SERIES

This adult class series will explore various public issues and themes through the lens of our faith life. Each session will meet in the Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.

Living the Questions with Martha Powell Sundays, February 21, 28, and March 7, 2010

Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.

We will continue this popular series, 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. The topics for these upcoming segments will include: *A Kingdom without Walls*, *Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision*, and *Incarnation: Divinely Human*. Martha Powell will lead us in the discussions.



The PBS Series on Jerusalem with Chuck Klang Sundays, March 14, 21, and 28, 2010

Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.

For over 40 centuries untold numbers of Jews, Christians and Muslims have come to Jerusalem to look for God, while billions more have worshiped from afar. *Jerusalem: Center of the World*, a two-hour epic event by Emmy Award-winning producer/director Andrew Goldberg and Oregon Public Television, is the first documentary of this scope to delve into the historical facts and religious beliefs that have led so many thousands to live and die for this city. Host Ray Suarez of *The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer*, together with an outstanding roster of scholars, explores the founding of the city and the birth and convergence of the world's three major monotheistic religions. He lends voice to the key events in the city's history as described in the Hebrew and Christian Bibles, the Talmud, the Hagaddah, the Koran, and the Hadith.



Non-Violent Communication Sundays, April 11, 18, and 25, 2010

Fireside Room from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.

The childhood taunt, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me," is patently mistaken. Words have power to hurt and to heal. Come explore what it means to communicate in non-violent ways.





OUTREACH MINISTRIES

AT FIRST CHURCH

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, 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 Jeri Shumate, Director of Community Outreach & Volunteer Services at 503/228-3195 ext. 220 or jshumate@fumcpdx.org.

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.

FIRST CHURCH NIGHT AT GOOSE HOLLOW SHELTER

Wednesdays: February 24, March 24, April 21

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 welcome!

MFSA SPRING EVENT - MARCH 6

Methodist Federation for Social Action will have is Spring Event on March 6, 2010 in Collins Hall. The theme will be abolishing the death penalty in Oregon. AbaGayle is the featured speaker and will be speaking about forgiveness and her perspective on the death penalty. Also speaking will be Naseem Rakah, best selling author of *The Crying Tree*. Rev. Lowell Greathouse will lead us in worship. The event will begin with registration and coffee at 8:30 AM and conclude with worship at 2:30 PM. The registration fee of \$30 includes lunch and is due by February 26, 2010. The fee for MFSA members is \$25 and for students and low-income, \$10. Contact Marilyn Outslay for more information.

METRO DISTRICT DAY OF SERVICE: SATURDAY, MARCH 13

Everyone helps out on Christmas and Thanksgiving. But who does acts of mercy the other 363 days of the year? Join United Methodists across the area for our first District Wide Day of Service as we experience firsthand the means of grace, first with on-site worship then with acts of mercy at such locations as SnowCap, Hopewell House Hospice, and Hedges Creek Marsh. More information is available on the District website or in the Commons on Sunday morning.

UPDATE FROM BRAZIL WITH GORDON & TECA GREATHOUSE WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

The Greathouses have been United Methodist missionaries in Brazil since 1978 and First Church has had a Covenant Relationship with them for many years. Join Gordon and Teca on Wednesday, May 5 at 6:30 PM for a potluck dinner hosted by the First Church Global Missions Committee, followed by a program on what is happening in Brazil. In addition, First Church will be sending a Volunteers in Mission team to work in Manaus, Brazil from June 5-17, 2010. Watch for upcoming details about this group's presentation when they return home.

CROP HUNGER WALK:

COMMUNITIES RESPONDING TO OVERCOME HUNGER: SATURDAY, MAY 15

As a CROP Hunger Walker or sponsor, you can help Church World Service reach out to families in Chad, Darfur, Haiti, Bosnia, Iraq, and Indonesia to help them fight poverty. Look for details on becoming a Hunger Walker or donor in The Commons in Collins Hall.

OREGON FOOD BANK:

PACKING FOOD AT THE WAREHOUSE: SATURDAY, MAY 15

Join a team of First Church volunteers for a fun and energetic morning of service at the Oregon Food Bank. These supplies are distributed to hundreds of food pantries across Oregon.

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.

LEARNING FOR SENIORS



55 ALIVE

The next 55-Alive Driving Course will be offered: Wednesdays and Thursdays,

March 17 & 18, 2010

June 23 & 24, 2010

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.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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, 2010. Contact the church office 503/228-3195 for more information.

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:

MONDAY, APRIL 19

Bob's Red Mill

A guided tour of the manufacturing facility at Bob's Red Mill World Headquarters and Bob's Red Mill Whole Grain Store. We will visit the plant first followed by a tour of the store. We will end with lunch at the in-store bakery and deli. Meet at First Methodist Church for car-pooling, starting our travels from the Church at 9:30 AM. We return in early afternoon. The tour is free of charge; you pay for your own lunch. Registration is necessary with a deadline of April 1, 2010.

TUESDAY, MAY 4

Play Reading – Musical Treat at the Old Church followed by Gourmet Lunch at the Oregon Culinary Institute:

This is an original revue performed by some of Portland's finest. We will meet at First Methodist Church at 9:00 AM for carpooling to the event; some may want to walk [1422 SW 11th Ave- Portland]. Early arrival is wise as it is open seating. Coffee, tea and cookies are served at 10:00 AM; the show begins at 10:30 AM. Immediately following the performance we will make our way to the Oregon Culinary Institute with lunch beginning at noon. Cost is \$22.00 person, including refreshments, the performance and gourmet lunch (gratuity covered). Space is limited: registration deadline is April 15, 2010.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

Willamette Jetboat Excursion

Explore Portland's historic bridges, skyline and scenic waterfront by jetboat. USCG licensed pilots take you through a narrated adventure and 'splash' only possible with a jetboat. Meet at First United Methodist Church at 10:00 AM for carpooling and travel to the OMSI Cafe where we will eat a light lunch. If you want to skip lunch then meet the group at the boat dock. The dock is adjacent to OMSI and we board at 11:45 AM. The tour goes from noon – 2:00 PM. Cost is \$35.00 per person. You are responsible for the cost of your own lunch. Registration deadline is June 10, 2010.





MUSIC MINISTRIES

AT FIRST CHURCH

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

The Chancel Choir sings for Sunday morning worship services. Directed by Gary St. John, the Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in the Sanctuary from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. All are welcome to sing in this volunteer choir.

The Chancel Choir will sing *The Seven Last Words of Christ* by Theodore Dubois on Sunday, March 28 during the worship service.

The Sanctuary Bell Choir, directed by Nancy Hascall, rehearses on Wednesday evenings in Room 202 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Experience ringing hand bells is necessary for this to be an enjoyable experience. This group will play for worship on: April 11 ... May 16 ... June 20

They plan to attend AGEHR Area 10 Handbell Conference in Forest Grove on June 25-27, 2010

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Cherub Choir, directed by Jen Graver, is for children from ages three through Second Grade. This choir meets on Sunday mornings in Room 206 from 9:30 – 10:15 AM.

They are singing for worship on:
March 14 ... April 25 ... May 16 ... June 13 (tentative)

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 – 10:15 AM. They are singing for worship on:
April 18 ... May 9 (Children's Musical) ... June 13 (tentative)

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 – 9:30 AM.

The Genesis Ringers, directed by Karin McDonough, is for beginning bell players. They rehearse on Thursday evenings in Room 202 at 6:00 PM.

juBELLation, also directed by Karin McDonough, is the premiere youth handbell choir. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings in Room 202 from 7:30 – 9:00 PM. They will play for worship on:
March 14 ... May 23 (Youth Sunday)

For more information about participating in the music program at First Church, contact Kelly Qualls at 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 join with women in United Methodist congregations around the world in organizing for mission. We strive to develop a supportive fellowship as we participate with women, children, and youth in nearly 300 international programs, in 103 national programs, as well as several local programs.

Our Unit President is Melba Rizzo, 503/635-6716

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Ruth Circle, Third Wednesdays

Noon, in Room 204

Chair: Betty-Lou Hare

March 17: Goose Hollow Family Shelter
Report with Brandi Tuck

April 21: *My Stroke of Insight*
A book review by Kay Ward

May 19: A Piano Recital
in the home of Marion Hollenberg

Circle of Friends, Last Wednesday each Month

11:30 AM, in Room 204

Chair: Alyson Inouye

March 24: Book Sharing
at the home of Hazelee Stevenson

April 21: Baby Shower for FISH
in Room 134

May 26: A Trip to the Chinese Garden

Book Group, Third Wednesdays

10:00 AM, in the Church Library

Chair: Sue Fisher

METRO DISTRICT ONE DAY SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

The Metro District One Day Spiritual Growth Retreat will be held April 24, 2010 at the Alton Collins Retreat Center, 32867 SE Highway 211, Eagle Creek.



UMW UNIT GATHERINGS

UMW Unit Gatherings are the first Wednesday of each month. The meeting is at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room for a business meeting followed by a program at 11:00 AM. There is a brown bag lunch at noon in Room 202.

Upcoming Unit Gatherings include:

Wednesday, March 3, 2010: Social Action Month

Monica Beemer, Executive Director of Sisters of the Road, will be our guest speaker.

Wednesday, April 7, 2010: Giving Our Heart Away:

Native American Survival

Cheryl Bittle will be our guest speaker.

Wednesday, May 5, 2010: Reports from the UMW Assembly

Women who attended the UMW Assembly in St. Louis, MO will share highlights from that gathering of United Methodist Women from around the world.

The United Methodist Women's NINTH ANNUAL



Quilt LUNCHEON

Friday, April 23, 2010

PORTLANDIA

discover Portland through
the art of quilt making

The UMW Quilt Luncheon will be held Friday, April 23, in Collins Hall. The doors will open at 11:30 AM for quilt viewing. Lunch will be served at noon. This year's theme is Portlandia. Chair: Trudy Kayser



NURSERY CARE

Nursery care is available from 9:15 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 the foundation of our Christian Education program at First Church. We offer classes for children from Preschool to Fifth Grade. Sunday School teachers are volunteers who have been trained in our Safe Sanctuaries policies. Our volunteer teachers make it possible to offer a separate class for each grade level.

On Sundays, children attend worship with their families and then leave for Sunday School after the Children's Message. Children may be picked up from their classrooms after worship.

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 second grade. The Soundseekers Choir is open for children in third 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 to hang out, eat, and have a good time. The church nursery open for your kids and then you can join up with the adults. We meet on Saturdays at 6:00 PM.

Saturday, March 13,

BOWLING AT GRAND CENTRAL

Saturday, April 24,

PARENTS CHOICE (to be determined)

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

SUMMER CAMPS



SUMMER CAMPS

We are so blessed in the Oregon-Idaho Conference to have an amazing outdoor ministries program. There are camps that run year-round for all ages and interests. Check out all the cool camps at the camping website:

www.GoCamping.org

If you are a third through fifth grader looking for an awesome camp this summer, Megan Humphreys-Loving will be the dean at the MidSummer Challenge camp at Camp Magruder, July 18-23, 2010.

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

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL

On Sunday, March 28, 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 AM. Kids will be given palms and line up for the procession. Wear your purple clothes!



EASTER EGG HUNT

On Sunday, April 4, 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 Room. 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 2, 2010 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



The youth program at First Church is dynamic and ever changing. Currently in the process of developing a Youth Council, teens from grade 6 to 12 are involved in mission, ministry and fun!

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Youth Sunday school is an important part of Sunday mornings! We gather at 9:30 and meet until 10:15 AM, convening for worship. Middle School youth gather in Room 209 (near the nursery). High School youth meet in the Youth Room (in the basement below the sanctuary).

Youth are encouraged to attend worship with family or friends.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS-FISH SUNDAYS

The middle school and high school youth groups both volunteer to help load donated food in to cars on the first Sunday of the month. Join us in the narthex at 11:35 AM to help out with this important volunteer opportunity.

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 GROUP SCHEDULE

High School Youth group meets weekly at 6:00 PM on Thursdays in the Youth Room.

Middle School youth group meets one or two Sundays a month for special activities.

Sunday, February 21 - Downtown Adventure!

12:00 PM - Meet outside Room 202

We will go to Rocco's Pizza downtown for lunch. Then we will spend some time exploring around in Powell's Books. Bring \$10 for your lunch and your Tri-met pass if you have one!

Pick up at 2:30 PM in the church parking lot.

Thursday, March 25 - Spring Break Movie Night

Meet in the Youth Room at 5:00 PM for dinner and a movie. Bring a friend!

Confirmation Sunday - April 18, 2010

Youth Sunday - May 23, 2010



YOUTH SQUAD BEACH RETREAT

The youth group is headed back to the beach for relaxation, planning for youth Sunday, and lots of fun in the sand. We will leave from Portland at 4:30 PM on Friday, May 14 and return to the church parking lot on Sunday, May 16 at 2:30 PM. The cost is \$50 per person. This cost covers gas, five meals, and a trip to Tillamook Cheese Factory.



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 a crisis arises. They are there when you are dealing with a death, prolonged illness, or other challenges. 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.

JUNE 20, 2010 PORTLAND PRIDE PARADE

Be a part of the First Church contingent that will be marching in this year's Pride Parade on Sunday, June 20, 2010. 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.



GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER

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. The Shelter season runs through May 31st.

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.

Brandi Tuck,
Director of the Goose Hollow Family Shelter at 503/915-8306 or brandi@pdxfhs.org

Allie Brucculeri,
Communications/Volunteer Coordinator at 503/915-8307 or allie@pdxfhs.org

