



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

March 31, 2010
Volume 14, Issue 07

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

APRIL 11

At 10:30 AM
we will join
hands with the
Jewish community
in Portland to
remember
Yom HaShoah—
“The Day of
Remembrance.”



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

LIVING A VIBRANT FAITH

BELIEVING THINKING ACTING



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

EASTER SUNDAY 9 & 11

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

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

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



EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Egg Hunts will take place in the
Fireside Room ten minutes after the end of
both the 9:00 and 11:00 AM worship services.
Children of all ages are invited to participate.
Bring your Easter basket, collect eggs, and
turn them in for a fun Easter treat bag!

an announcement

A letter from Metro District Superintendent,
Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson



Rev. Peggy Luckman

March 28, 2010

Dear Members and Friends of First United Methodist Church of Portland:

This letter is to announce the intention of Bishop Robert Hoshibata of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to appoint the Rev. Peggy Luckman as your Minister of Discipleship effective July 1, 2010.

Rev. Luckman is currently pastor of Tillamook United Methodist Church on the Oregon coast where she has served the last six years. She is an ordained elder in full connection in our conference. Other churches she has served are Northminster Presbyterian Church and Clarkes United Methodist Church.

Peggy Luckman grew up Presbyterian in Illinois. After graduating from Hastings College in Nebraska with a Bachelor of Music Education, she taught music and also was an organist and choir director. Answering a call to ministry, she graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1982.

Rev. Luckman is no stranger to Portland, as she was manager for the Youth and Family Services Programs at Neighborhood House (one of the Multnomah County Family Centers) from 1996-1998. There she oversaw the Youth and Family Service Programs and the Child Development Center. Peggy also served on the board of the Good Samaritan Food Bank of North Portland.

While a pastor in Tillamook, Rev. Luckman helped the church organize the Grub Club, a USDA Summer Food Service Program. She also led the development of an Indoor Play Park for Tillamook. She has been involved in the Tillamook Ecumenical Community, Faith in Action and Habit for Humanity.

Peggy is currently an officer for the Methodist Federation for Social Action. She is committed to welcome and involve all people in the life of the church. She has the skills to facilitate strong lay leadership and to help inspire people to grow and develop as disciples of Jesus Christ. She is looking forward to being part of the staff team at First United Methodist Church.

Peggy is married to Ed Luckman, a retired consultant for Ashland Chemical Company. He has been very active in the Lay Ministry Program of the United Methodist Church, and has served on the Western District Church Extension Society. He has been one of the key leaders in the Grub Club program which has served over 24,000 summer lunches to children in Tillamook.

I want to express my gratitude and that of the bishop and cabinet to Dr. Lowell Greathouse for his faithful service as one of your pastors at First UMC for the last five years. I know you will want to take the opportunity over the next few months to express your appreciation for your ministry together. Many thanks also to Dr. Arvin Luchs and the Staff Parish Relations Committee for their work in the consultation process. You are all in my prayers during this time of transition.

Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson
Metropolitan District Superintendent

Yom HaShoah

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2010

an invitation to a unique worship experience ...

Yom HaShoah is the world-wide day of remembrance of those who died in the Holocaust in Nazi Germany—and a time to say “Never again!” In cooperation with our Jewish neighbors, we’ll share a unique worship experience. Emily Georges Gottfried will join our Chancel Choir as cantor. Holocaust survivor, Miriam Greenstein will share her experience. We’ll offer both letters and an offering for those suffering in Darfur. Following worship, you are invited to visit the Holocaust Memorial in Washington Park. Please be sure to be part of this significant day!

ADULT sunday school classes

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Changing Christianity meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 110

This class is beginning a study of: *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Believe* by Greg Epstein (This class will not meet on Easter Sunday.)

FELLOWSHIP OF SEEKERS

Fellowship of Seekers 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. (This class will not meet on Easter Sunday.)

fellowship opportunity

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 12:30 PM in Room 202 for a potluck luncheon and program. Bring a dish to share. Our speaker will be Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse. For more information contact Evelyn Casey at 503/775-9356.

forum @ first church

FORUM: PROFILES IN SERVICE

Our Profiles In Service Forums have become a meaningful way of connecting with members and friends of First Church. On Sunday, April 18, 2010, join us for this forum at noon in the Fireside Room. A light lunch and child care will be provided.

This forum features three people who ... *Serve Afar, Serve Nearby, Serve at Home:*

Mark Morford is an environmental attorney with Stoel Rives and the Scoutmaster for Troop 1, chartered by First Church. Mark is a volunteer rescuer for Portland Mountain Rescue and a board member for Africa Bridge. He and his family independently support a public primary school in Tanzania, where they currently are renovating 15 classrooms.

Dave Rullman is a Master Gardener. As a member of the Shovel & Rake Gang at First Church, you’ve seen the effects of his work every time you visit. Now come and learn what motivates him and some tips for how you can serve others by being in the garden.

Anne Kayser makes her home a place of service. She tutors several students, some of whom have developmental disabilities. She offers respite to a few families in crisis by taking their teenagers into her home, sometimes just for a night, and twice for a whole month. Anne and her family have also hosted ten foreign exchange students and teachers. Anne volunteers in the community, too, but finds particular reward from those home-based activities.

LOOKING AHEAD ... THE 2010 CROP WALK

The CROP Hunger Walk in the Portland area will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 15, 2010 starting from Sellwood Riverfront Park. It will cover 2.5 miles along the Willamette River.

What a wonderful way to celebrate spring, and to meet other dedicated people, in a beautiful setting.

Walk in solidarity with those who have no means to carry wood, food, babies, or to harvest crops, except by walking.

You’re not a walker? You can be a sponsor for those who can walk! Sign up as a walker or a sponsor, at a “CROP Hunger Walk” table in The Commons, on upcoming Sundays.

the edge

thoughts for the journey

REV. LOWELL GREATHOUSE

Easter is a time filled with sacred illumination related to the nature of God's love. In order to understand its full meaning, we must see with our hearts rather than through our eyes. This is not an easy thing to do.

One of the books I picked up at the Parliament of the World's Religions is entitled *One Earth, One Sky, One Humankind* written by Anand Krishna. In it, he addresses the issue of what it means to be "illuminated." Here's what he says: "Knowledge can be acquired from books. Skills can be developed through training. Intellect sharpened through the multi-process of learning, observing, experiencing, and experimenting. Illumination, however, cannot be obtained through any of the above means or methods. Illumination must be 'sought for' from one who is illumined. Here, the seeker seeks illumination from its very source—the Light Divine. It is the 'awakening of the true intelligence within' that is being sought for. This cannot be obtained through the conventional means we are familiar with. But where is this source of illumination we are talking about? It is everywhere, inside as well as outside us. To realize this is to embark upon the journey of illumination. This is the secret of the path, known only to those who tread it." (*One Earth, One Sky, One Humankind*, p. 60)

Fortunately, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who lived a fully illuminated life. Through his journey, especially during this time of Holy Week, we are guided down the path that leads to illumination and in the process, learn what it means to be a people of "the Way."



bread for the world

an offering of letters

A TIME TO CHANGE HISTORY FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE

Child hunger is a significant problem in the United States. Over 35 million Americans face a daily struggle against hunger, which is particularly devastating for nearly 17 million children. Even short-term episodes of hunger can cause lasting damage to a child's development, especially in the early years.

President Obama and others have set the goal of ending childhood hunger in the U.S. by 2015. As people of faith, we can help turn this goal into a reality. Strengthening child nutrition programs will help achieve this goal. Although food assistance to hungry people is vital, it is not enough. Struggling parents need enough financial resources to meet their basic needs—including nutritional food for their children.

That's why this year Bread for the World's Offering of Letters will ask Congress to protect and strengthen a few key tax credits that can make a big difference for low-income people. Several tax policies will be debated as tax cuts enacted earlier this decade and tax credits passed in the 2009 Recovery Act are all due to expire at the end of 2010. The needs of low-income families and hungry children cannot be lost in the debate about which policies to renew or change.

Join members and friends of First UMC on April 18 or 25, 2010 in the Commons in Collins Hall to write a short letter to Congress urging reenactment of childhood nutrition programs and tax credits for low-income people. As stewards of God's abundant creation, we are called to address the underlying causes of hunger and poverty in our country.

EARTH DAY

In Music and Song

2010



On Thursday, April 23, from 7:30 to 9:00 PM there will be an Earth Day celebration: Earth Day in Music and Song at the First Unitarian Church, SW 12th and Salmon, Portland. The featured artist will be Michael Allen Harrison along with additional instrumental and vocal offerings including choirs led by David York.

On the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, we invite you to set aside this special time to celebrate our remarkable planet. Although damaged by excess development, Earth continues to nourish and sustain us in myriad ways. To honor the array of feelings invoked by Earth, we will take time to express gratitude, concern, joy, and hope for our planet.

Refreshments and conversation will follow in the Channing Room of First Unitarian.

Sponsors include: Center for Earth Leadership and First Unitarian Church

united methodist women

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

SPRING QUILT LUNCHEON

Don't miss the Spring Quilt Luncheon on Friday, April 23, 2010 in Collins Hall. While enjoying a delicious lunch, you can admire the colorful quilts highlighting our beautiful city of Portland. Tickets at \$20 will be available in The Commons after the service on April 11. This year there will be reserved seating. Remember to get that ticket for your friend. Make checks payable to United Methodist Women. All proceeds go to UMW mission projects. All are invited to this gala event.

APRIL UNIT GATHERING

On Wednesday, April 7, the UNIT will gather in the Fireside Room at 10:00 AM for the monthly business meeting. The 11:00 AM program, Stories from the Circle of Life, led by Cheryl Bittle, will explore the Native American faith journey and how cultural beliefs were integrated into daily life. After viewing the DVD we will discuss past historical issues and how those same issues confront Native American communities today. The luncheon, served at noon in Room 202, will feature "Three Sisters Soup," plus a special dessert provided by Christine Bostick. Contact: Trudy Kayser. An Officers' Planning Meeting will follow the luncheon in Room 110.

THE SEWING GROUP

The Sewing Group will meet Wednesday, April 7 at 1:00 PM in Room 202. We are now making receiving blankets for Haiti. We are in need of a donated sewing machine in good working order. Call Marion Hollenberg, chair, at 503/640-3270 for further information.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

On Friday, April 9, Church Women United will have their Spring Forum at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 NE Hancock Street, Portland. Attorney, Althea Rogers, will speak on Identity Theft. Registration is at 9:30 AM. For more information contact: Betty-Lou Hare.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

Don't forget to send your \$25 to Mary Covert for the Spiritual Growth Retreat on April 24, 2010. Registration forms and directions to the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center will be available at the UMW table at the Commons in Collins Hall after worship.

MISSIONARIES TO SPEAK IN MAY

Circle Wednesday, May 5, 2010 on your calendar now, and plan to come for supper in Collins Hall at 5:30 PM. This is your opportunity to talk with our Covenant Missionaries, Gordon & Teca Greathouse. They will be in our area to share the latest developments in their church building programs, and Shade & Fresh Water projects throughout Brazil. Our very own First Church VIM team, led by Lowell Greathouse, is poised to visit this great country in June and participate in building a church in Manaus, a city of over 2 million which is located on the Amazon. This is a great time for you to learn more about Brazil, which has been home to the Greathouse missionary team since 1978. First Church has been partners in mission with this team for many, many years. We will provide a hearty black bean soup and ask you to bring a salad, side, or dessert.



The United Methodist Women's

Quilt LUNCHEON

Friday, April 23, 2010

PORTLANDIA

discover Portland through
the art of quilt making



mark your
calendar now!

Publication Deadlines

Articles for The Circuit Rider are due no later than 10:00 AM on the Thursday before publication the following Wednesday. The next Circuit Rider will be published on April 14, 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 Bill Hill, Bill passed away on Sunday, April 21, 2010. A service was held at First Church on Tuesday, March 30, 2010.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Sally Yates, who is struggling with mobility limitations ...
Michael McManus, who is under treatment at St. Vincent Hospital.
Michael is the son of Jim McManus ...*

WE CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR ...

Michele Ingram, The Rev. Bob Ross, and Jay Stewart ...

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

Jared Bomberger, Daniel Bomberger



In our
thoughts
& prayers



HE IS RISEN, INDEED!

It is said that John Milton, one of the greatest poets in the English language, set out to write two companion poems on the birth and death of Christ. The first, his *Ode to the Morning of Christ's Nativity*, can be found in most of his collected works. The other, *Ode to the Passion*, was started when he was just 22 years old but never completed. Before his death Milton admitted, "This subject the author finds to be above the years he had ..." *

The meaning of the Cross and Resurrection is always incomplete. It's up to you and me to add our chapter to God's ongoing story. Here are two things that can make a difference for us all.

Please join us this Sunday in the Sanctuary to celebrate God's gift of new life at one of two glorious **Easter Festival Worship Services**—one at **9:00 AM** and repeated at **11:00 AM**. It features our amazing Chancel Choir, the Festival Brass, and Jonas Nordwall at the Mary L. Collins Organ. We'll hear again the story of that first Easter morning and share a message of joy and hope! There will be child care, a special children's message, and energetic Easter Egg Hunts for the young ones! Bring your friends and neighbors!

And be sure to add your support to our 'extra mile' **Easter Offering**. In these days of economic uncertainty, when so many public services are waning, our neighbors are looking to the church for support and encouragement. Now, more than ever, your generosity is vital to ensure that everyone will find the presence and power of the resurrection in our faithful service and love. A special offering envelope is enclosed.

See you in Church!

Arvin

*remembered by Harnish James A., Hyde Park UMC, Tampa, Florida.