



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

October 6, 2010
Volume 14, Issue 20

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 10, 2010
10:30 AM

October 17, 2010
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



DOWNTOWN
COMPASSION
CLINIC
2010



Can a dozen or more different Christian faith-groups come together under a single banner to help downtown Portland's most needy and vulnerable residents? That's just what happened on a rainy Saturday in September, when hundreds and hundreds of folks gathered to receive free medical care, eat a warm meal, receive a haircut or pick up some warm winter clothes.

"We believe there is more that unites us as Christians than divides us, and that by working together as church communities our witness and impact is magnified," says Milan Homola, executive director of Compassion Connect, the nonprofit organization behind these one-day regional events that serve the poor. More than two dozen members and friends of First United Methodist Church accepted the challenge and gave from their hearts at the first ever Downtown Compassion Clinic on September 18, 2010.

Most of us had no idea what church any of the three hundred or more volunteers at the Compassion Clinic represented. Denominational identity was not at the forefront, service was! The numbers of people served are indeed impressive. More than three hundred people received basic medical, dental, vision, or chiropractic care. More than six hundred immunizations were given, more than 125 haircuts were given, and more than 1200 meals were served.

An unlikely partner, the Internal Revenue Service, perhaps best demonstrates the spirit of generosity and giving that permeated the Downtown Compassion Clinic. Just prior to the event, the IRS contacted Debby Fisher, who served as Team Lead for the Social Services Fair at the event, and asked if the IRS could participate.

"Many of these people qualify for tax credits and most likely have a tax return waiting for them. If they sit down and it turns out they owe money, they can just get up and leave," said the IRS representative. As it turned out, the Free Tax Help table was busy all day long, and lots of people walked away knowing there would soon be a check in the mail.

The Downtown Compassion Clinic leaders are already talking about scheduling the event again in 2011. It made a difference!



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. — James 5:13-14, NRSV

Those who follow Christ are a “praying people!” We always have been. Witness the number of admonitions to prayer in the letters of Paul and the Epistles. Prayer not only opens our awareness of God’s presence—it is a means of expressing our deepest feelings—whether in joy and praise or anguish and concern.

At the same time, sharing prayers in the community of faith has also been controversial. There was tension even among the earliest believers when public prayers revealed more than appropriate—and verged on gossip.

Your pastors talk about this often. We hear discomfort from some who wonder if our invitations to public prayer violate another’s privacy (though we always have their permission!) At the same time, there are others who feel we would be a closer, more caring community if we shared more information about those in need of prayer.

So we asked Tom Foster to reflect on some guidelines that shape our practice of public prayers so that we might share with you.

ABOUT THE PRAYER CONCERNS

I’m sometimes asked how we handle requests for prayer in such a large congregation. Questions like:

“If I ask for prayer will everyone be told?”

“Can I ask for prayers without sharing the medical or personal reasons?”

“Can I ask for private prayers only?”

Each of the clergy regularly lift up names of members and friends in our personal, private prayers as an expression of pastoral concern and compassion. We do *not* share those names or needs with anyone but God unless those persons, or their immediate family, have requested or approved it.

Sometimes people are comfortable with prayer concerns that are shared only with other pastors or with staff members as necessary and advisable.

Many (but not all) ask for congregational prayers. In that case, I will include those names on the prayer list posted in the office window, share them during “Prayer Concerns” in worship, include them in the next Circuit Rider newsletter and offer the name to the United Methodist Women’s telephone Prayer Chain.

Occasionally people will ask to be included on the UMW Prayer Chain—but not publicly.

The other question often raised is, “How much detail should be shared?” We do not wish to violate privacy or intrusively share personal matters. If you wish, the nature of the illness — or the reasons for the prayer — can (and will) be kept private. However, if you explicitly request, we may share the nature of the concern. We will refrain publicly from any evaluation or prognosis.

Normally prayer concerns are included in public prayers on a week-by-week basis for no more than a month.

Tom W. Foster, Minister of Pastoral Care

See you in Church!

Arvin

adult sunday school class

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

This class meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in Room 110. The Changing Christianity Class offers the opportunity for wide-ranging conversations about religion and Christianity past, present, and future.

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.

COMICS AND CHRISTIANITY

October 3, 10, 17, 24 in the Fireside Room at 9:15 AM
This class will be taught by Doug Force

How do the subtle materials of our casual reading influence our day-to-day thoughts and actions? Does the "light" printed material we often peruse each morning reflect those things we most esteem in our lives and interactions? Was Christ the inspiration for the early cartoon the "Yellow Kid" by Richard Outcault, or is this seemingly sympathetic character just that? And what about Superman, Batman and Robin, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, or the rest? Why do these characters and the ideals they symbolize stay so long in our lives? Buy a comic book, bring your Bible (and maybe some popcorn), and join us for a four-week exploration of Christianity through the comics!

FIRST CHURCH READS: THE SUNFLOWER BY SIMON WIESENTHAL

October 31, November 7, 14, and 21
at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room

This is a revised and expanded edition of the book, first published in 1976. It opens with Wiesenthal's personal story of an experience as a prisoner in a concentration camp in World War II. He then asks what would you do if a dying Nazi soldier asks for your forgiveness. Some of the responses in the original edition are included, along with 32 new responses.

"In this important book fifty-three distinguished men and women respond to Wiesenthal's questions. They are theologians, political leaders, writers, jurists, psychiatrists, human rights activists, Holocaust survivors, and victims of attempted genocide in Bosnia, Cambodia, China, and Tibet. Often surprising and always thought-provoking, *The Sunflower* will challenge you to define your beliefs about justice, compassion, and human responsibility."

The book are on sale in the Commons in Collins Hall.

electives for enrichment

FROM JESUS TO CHRIST THE FIRST CHRISTIANS

Electives for Enrichment are
Monday morning classes held in the
Fireside Room from
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM,
October 4, 11, 18, 25, 2010

In this series of four videos, the story of the Jesus' life and the first three hundred years of Christianity are explored. This series includes reflections by leading New Testament scholars, many amazing artistic scenes, and information that helps us understand the struggles and conflicts of the earliest Christians. How is it that they interpreted the message of Jesus in the context of their environment and religious upbringing? How did the political scene affect their faith development? How did they come to understand that the man Jesus was the Christ? These and other questions will be addressed in this series.

There is no cost for this series.
Refreshments will be served.



LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRST CHURCH

AN 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! Meet others who are interested in becoming a part of First Church. The next orientation will be **Sunday, October 17, 2010**. Child care is available. For information or to register, contact the church office at 503/228-3195. 503/228-3195 or pluckman@fumcpdx.org.

fifty-five alive a driving class for senior adults

55 ALIVE

The next 55-Alive Driving Course will be offered:
Wednesday and Thursday, October 13 & 14, 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.

take a hike



A HIKE AT TYRON CREEK STATE PARK

Welcome the fall colors with an all ages hike at Tryon Creek State Park. You and your family are invited to join me Megan Humphries-Loving and one of our resident outdoor pros, Bob Wilson, for an easy level hike/walk in Tryon Creek State Park.

Bob has planned for about two miles of hike around in the park. The paths are not easily stroller or wheelchair accessible, but the terrain will not be strenuous. We will plan to be out for about two hours at the most. If you and your family want to explore the park some more after the guided hike, feel free!

We will meet in the parking lot at Tryon Creek State Park at 10:00 AM. Carpooling to the park is highly recommended. Bring a water bottle, and wear close-toed shoes.

Email Megan at mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org to let her know if we should look for you. See you under the trees!

*a supportive
fellowship
impacting our
world*



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, Marion Hollenberg. 503/640-3270.

UMW BOOK GROUP

The UMW Book Group will meet October 20, 2010 at 10:00 AM in the Church Library. The group will review *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett. This book chronicles the lives of black domestic servants in the South during the early 1960s. Chair: Sue Fisher.

THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at noon in Room 204. Kay Ward will do a personification of Helen Springer, one of the earliest missionaries to Africa as presented in the Study Mission in the Age of Global Ministry. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at noon in Room 204. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Contact Mary Covert at 503/652-6480.

THE PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, October 27 at 9:30 AM in Room 110.

in our prayers

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The family and friends of Marilyn Roush, Marilyn died on Saturday, October 2, 2010. The date and time of the service have not yet been set.

global missions upcoming forums

Plan now to come to the first in an exciting series of Fall Forums, to be presented by your Global Missions Committee.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17: RECENT MISSION TRIPS

On Sunday, October 17, at 12:00 PM in the Fireside Room, you'll find out how simply reaching out to our neighbors around the globe makes a big difference.

Hear amazing stories from our First Church Volunteer in Mission Team, who laid bricks and mortar in Manaus, Brazil, and worked with children on the Amazon.

Feel the enthusiasm of our youth team who traveled to Eugene to work on a variety of interesting mission projects.

Learn about upcoming mission opportunities, including:

- Primetimers in Jamaica in January
- Costa Rica in March
- UMCOR Depots in Louisiana and Utah

These opportunities plus many more all featuring education, travel, and working side by side with people in other places. The mantra we hear from those who have participated with people in other places is "We received much more than we gave!"

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14: PALESTINE/ISRAEL

On Sunday, November 14 there will be a full report on Palestine/Israel by our Covenant Missionary, Janet Lahr-Lewis.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12: KENYA

On Sunday, December 12, you won't want to miss an update on projects in Kenya, to be presented by Paul & Kathleen Cosgrove, who are a part of an Oregon-Idaho Mission Team.

Each of these forums will feature a light lunch. Mark these dates on your calendar now!

blessing of the animals



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Join us for our Second Annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 24 at 4:00 PM in Beckham Courtyard. In this service we will celebrate the animal companions in our lives and invite them into our church setting to receive a special blessing. Treats for our animal companions will be provided. There will be a time of remembrance of those of our animal friends who have died this past year.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD

bucket brigade

OUR BUCKET GOAL IS:



People of all ages, join with First Church Outreach Ministries to collect and assemble items for flood relief clean up buckets. The United Methodist Committee on Relief's station in Salt Lake City has had a serious decline in their inventory due to the floods across the US and the world. These buckets will help flood victims begin the long and hard process of getting their lives back together following a natural disaster.

We need the following items:

- ▶ five-gallon buckets
- ▶ scouring pads and sponges
- ▶ scrub brushes and cleaning towels
- ▶ liquid laundry detergent
- ▶ household cleaner
- ▶ clothes pins and clothes lines
- ▶ dust masks

We will assemble the buckets on Saturday, October 23, 2010 in Room 202 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Come when you can to lend a hand. Contact Megan Humphreys-Loving at mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org or Jeri Shumate jshumate@fumcpdx.org to RSVP or if you have questions.

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 October 20, 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.

for our kids ...

A SAFE SPACE
HALLOWEEN PARTY



SAFE SPACE HALLOWEEN PARTY: OCTOBER 31

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.

**YOUTH
EACH WEEK**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUNDAYS**

October: 10, 17, 24

November: 7, 14, 21

December: 5, 12, 19

**HIGH SCHOOL
THURSDAYS**

October: 14, 21, 28

November: 4, 11, 18

December: 2, 9, 16



**PLANNING
THE PARTY**

First Church youth will once again prepare a Safe Space Halloween Party for Kids! Meet for set up on Sunday, October 31, 2010 at 4:00 PM in Room 202