



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

October 20, 2010
Volume 14, Issue 21

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 24, 2010
10:30 AM

Blessing of the
Animals at 4:00 PM
in Beckham
Courtyard

October 31, 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

THE 2011 FINANCIAL CAMPAIGN Supporting the Blessed Community

*And what does the Lord require of you?
act justly, love mercy
to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8

NOW THE *challenge* IS YOURS!

BOO!



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.



memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

For over twenty years the U.S. Army's recruiting slogan was "Be All That You Can Be!" If the church had such a slogan, I think it would declare: "Be all God Calls You to Be!"

For nearly a year the leaders of our congregation have been seeking to discern God's call to our church. Or, to say it another way: "What is our congregation's mission?" We reflected on scripture and invited committees as well as members during a Sunday morning worship to share concerns that could shape our future. More than 500 responses raised dozens of ideas.

After prayer, study and deliberation, the Parish and Ministry Conferences agreed that the strongest call was to "strengthen our *connections*:" to God, one another, our community and the world. The mission teams that form the Ministry Conference have set about planning specific ways to respond in action.

What is needed are the resources to make it happen: people engaged in ministry together—the financial means to support our mission.

Your Finance Committee has a solid plan to support Christ's work through First Church next year. Echoing the words of the prophet, Micah, it challenges us to:

"Do Justice" (ministries of advocacy and community outreach)	\$246,500
"Love Goodness" (ministries of compassion and charity)	\$282,500
"Walk Modestly with God" (ministries of nurture, community building, worship)	\$575,000

The total (\$1,104,000) represents a very modest increase — less than two-tenths of a percent more than this year's financial plan.

I'm delighted that Sonja Connor and Ralph Bolliger have agreed to chair the effort to invite each of us to support this congregation in mission together. Already a cadre of members have responded with increased pledges over last year. In addition, they have created a special fund to challenge the rest of us to increase our support.

In the next few weeks we will receive letters inviting each of us to join hands in mission. This year each dollar of new pledges—or increases in your pledge from this year—will be matched by the special "Challenge Fund." Your commitment to mission can have double the impact!

What an exciting opportunity to make certain First Church is all God calls us to be in 2011!

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 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 this 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.

animal blessing

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.



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.

THE PLANNING TEAM

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

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at noon for a visit to the Chinese Gardens. Contact Mary Covert at 503/652-6480.

NOVEMBER UNIT MEETING

The UMW Unit Gathering will be Wednesday, November 3, 2010 in the Fireside Room at 10:00 AM. We will view the Emmy award winning video: *Made in L.A.*, the story of three immigrant women working in Los Angeles sweatshops who embark on a three year odyssey to win basic labor protection from trendy clothier, Forever 21 -- “Compelling, humorous, deeply human.” It makes us wonder, “Who made the shirts we’re wearing?”

Following the video discussion we will have our Pledge Service led by Mary Covert. Bring a sandwich; dessert and beverage will be provided. Contact: Marion Hollenberg: 503/640-3270.

global missions upcoming forum

NOVEMBER 14 GLOBAL MISSIONS FORUM WITH MISSIONARY JANET LAHR-LEWIS

You are invited to a Global Missions Forum on Sunday, November 14, 2010 at noon in the Fireside Room. The forum will feature our Covenant Missionary, Janet Lahr-Lewis. A Mideast type meal will be served. The meal will be subsidized by donations, and a free-will offering taken for Janet's work, and mission itineration funding. The forum will conclude by 2:00 PM.

"A Light Shining in the Mideast" describes the tireless work of Janet Lahr-Lewis in the fragmented lands of the Palestinians and Israelis. Amidst the fear and suffering, Janet pursues her call, to do her part in bringing peace, reconciliation and healing to people living in uncertainty and darkness.

As a missionary for the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, Janet is appointed as a liaison between ecumenical groups and Israel and Palestine. She is the primary contact for VIM (Volunteer in Mission) teams and other visitors who wish to make contact with local Christians in the area. Her focus is upon advocacy and activism. Some of her work includes informing visitors of the realities of the situation, organizing conferences, developing media campaigns, and planning worship experiences.

She will update us on the current happenings, giving us the inside story of the difficulties our Christian brothers and sisters are experiencing in the Holy Land. We anticipate a large gathering, with the participation of Sabeel members, and of people from other churches and organizations. You are urged to attend, to meet Janet, ask questions and be informed. This is a great opportunity, a real highlight of the season. All are invited and welcome.

in our prayers

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The family and friends of Myron Pogue, Myron died on October 12, 2010. His memorial service was held Friday, October 15, 2010 in Salem, Oregon.
David Perkins, in the death of his uncle in California ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Anne Kayser, who is recovering from surgery ...
April Hauenstein, who is recovering from knee surgery...
Nancy Bartow, who is recovering from pneumonia ...
Thelma McGill, who is under hospice care and resting comfortably ...

please take note

PING PONG ANYONE?



PING PONG FELLOWSHIP

Intergenerational ping-pong will begin this fall on Thursday, October 21, 2010 in the gym from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. We will meet every Thursday. We have three tables available and will work with anyone who wants to refresh their game or learn for the first time. If you have questions call Kay Ward at 971/255-1430.

PERU: ANCIENT LAND OF MYSTERIES

Take a trip of a lifetime and see one of the new Seven Wonders of the World: Machu Picchu! Join First Church members and friends next August and experience a rainbow of sights, sounds and colors: *Peru, Ancient Land of Mysteries*. An optional extension will take you to the Peruvian Amazon. The tour is sponsored by the Travel Committee at First UMC, Portland, and escorted by Cheryl Luce. Come and learn more in a travel presentation, and Cheryl will share photos from her previous tour to Peru, at noon on October 24, 2010 in the Fireside Room. For more information contact Cheryl Luce at 503/380-8604 or by email at cheryl.luce@gmail.com.

ALL YOUTH LAST SUNDAY LUNCH: SUPER DOG

On Sunday, October 31, 2010 we will have a fun and spooky trip downtown to Super Dog for lunch. We will meet outside Room 202 at 12:30 PM and take the MAX downtown. Bring \$10 for your meal and MAX ticket. We will be back at the church by 2:00 PM.

You have the option to stay the afternoon to get a head start on decorating for the Halloween Party. Otherwise, we will see you again at 4:00 PM for party set up.

ALICE STEPHENS ART EXHIBIT

Alice Wanke Stephens, a local artist and First Church member, will have an art exhibit at the US Bank Stadium Branch from November 4, 2010 to January 31, 2011. The exhibit, *Northwest Landscapes and Beyond*, will be part of a First Thursday event on November 4, 2010 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Parking is free.

THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, November 6, 2010 at 12:30 PM in Room 202 for a potluck luncheon and program. Bring a dish to share. Our speaker will be Rev. Peggy Luckman. For more information contact Melba Rizzo at 503/635-6716.

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 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.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD

People of all ages, have joined with First Church Outreach Ministries to collect 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 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.

thank you ...

FROM SALLY YATES

I would like to thank Edie Jensen for the immense help both physical and emotional that she provided me over the past few months. I would also like to thank Terry Connell, Scott Gratton and Jeff Fujimoto who facilitated the movement of my belongings and Virginia Bender and Jennifer Jensen for the storage space. Many blessings.

Sally Yates

PROJECT SUDAN EMERGENCY

Thanks to all who attended the presentation by United Methodist missionary/photojournalist Paul Jeffrey on Sept. 30, 2010. Paul showed pictures and provided information about the situation in Sudan and the upcoming vote in 2011 permitting the south to form an independent country. Few expect this split to be free of conflict. Because of your generosity, we have sent a check for \$500 to Project #184385N Sudan Emergency which is used to provide food relief, medical assistance, clothing, blankets and shelter. We are in mission with the people of Sudan.

United Methodist Women