



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

December 1, 2010
Volume 14, Issue 24

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

December 5
10:30 AM
The Second Sunday
of Advent

December 12
10:30 AM
The Third Sunday
of Advent



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

CELEBRATING ADVENT

SECOND Sunday OF Advent

December 5

Sacrament of Communion
World AIDS Sunday
You are invited to bring food for FISH



THIRD Sunday OF Advent

December 12

Worship - Cherubs sing
Our Sanctuary Choir performs
excerpts from
Bach's Christmas Oratorio with orchestra



FOURTH Sunday OF Advent

December 19

Worship - A Service of Lessons & Carols
juBELLation plays



Christmas Pops Concert
on Sunday, December 12, 2010
at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary
featuring the musicians of First Church
No Charge - Free-Will Offering

Christmas Eve Services

FAMILY SERVICE ... 5 PM

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES ... 7 & 9 PM

COMMUNION SERVICE ... 11 PM





memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

I don't know about you, but every "Black Friday" I despair. The reports of frantic shoppers pushing and shoving to grab a bargain; the determined techies camping for days in freezing weather to be first in the doors; the injudicious running up unmanageable credit card debt — the whole scene makes me wonder. Is this the way to remember the birth of Jesus—the one who warned against storing up "treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal..."? (Matthew 6:19b) Have we hopelessly degraded the celebration of our spiritual master into a sell-a-bration of our material desires? Are we motivated by the gift of grace—or the guilt of greed?

It doesn't have to be this way! A dedicated group of Christians out of Colorado who call themselves, "ALTERNATIVES for Simple Living" * have been urging people of faith to honor Christ by choosing to celebrate a "Simpler Christmas."

They argue:

- "A 'Simpler Christmas' leads to FREEDOM. A consumer Christmas leads to stress and debt. Simplicity leads to gratitude and generosity.
- "It leaves room for more JOY. It is such a joy to get the burden of stuff off our shoulders.
- "It builds RELATIONSHIPS. We are told thousands of times every day by commercial advertising that we will find meaning and happiness in life through stuff. Voluntary Simplicity says we will find happiness and meaning in life through relationships - with ourselves, with others, with the Earth, and with God.
- "It leads to a whole life of SIMPLICITY ...
- "It promotes JUSTICE. By using only our fair share of Earth resources, we leave them for others around the globe and to future generations. 'Live Simply that Other May Simply Live.'
- "It Cares for CREATION. A simple life is an Earth-friendly life." *

A "Simpler Christmas" involves decorating using homemade ornaments, low-energy decorative lighting, re-usable or recyclable products. It involves less emphasis on gifts we purchase and more emphasis on giving gifts we have made and "fair-trade" products from trades persons in lesser developed countries. It encourages us to give one another pledges of time together and offers to relieve our loved ones of tasks like washing the cars, cleaning the garage, etc. It proposes that we consider token tangible gifts, accompanied by contributions to ministries and charitable causes that build a better world.

Perhaps we can help your family find a simpler holiday! Each Sunday until Christmas you or your family can find "Simpler Christmas" gifts for you to give this season. **Alternative Christmas** is a project of our outreach committees who have identified ten of our *Advance* mission projects worthy of our support. They would welcome your contributions and respond with a card that you can give to some you wish to honor. 100% of you gift will go to the designated project—there are no overhead costs. 100% of the appreciation will come to you for your thoughtfulness.

But that's not all. Next Sunday you can purchase some classy note cards from Paul and Kathy Cosgrove. The proceeds support a mission project in Kenya. In addition, during Advent there will be a variety of 'fair-trade' craft gifts to round out your Christmas giving.

May you and your family have a simpler, merry Christmas!

See you in Church!

Arvin

*see <http://www.simpleliving.org>

**Thanks to Bill Mullette-Bauer, our Conference Director of Stewardship and Finance for reprinting this list.

adult sunday school classes



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. This class is currently studying the book, *The Authentic Letters of Paul*.

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.

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 UMW READING GROUP

The UMW Book Group will meet on Thursday, December 16, 2010 at 10:00 AM at the home of Sue Fisher. The book for discussion will be *Amish Christmas* by Cynthia Keller, followed by a luncheon. Chair: Sue Fisher. 503/203-1445.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 11:30 AM at the home of Trudy Kayser. There will be a luncheon and a cookie exchange. Please bring HUGS for our shelter guests (Hats, Underwear, Gloves/mittens, Sox). For information or transportation, please call Trudy Kayser at 503-292-7528.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The December meeting of Circle of Friends will be a Christmas party. Please contact Trudy Kayser at 503/292-7528 for the meeting place and time.

please take note

ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our annual Church Conference will be Sunday, December 5, 2010 at noon in the Chapel. We will consider administrative business, set compensation for the pastors, and consider a proposal for adopting and retaining church policies, as referred by the Parish Conference. Copies are available in the church office. Our Assistant to the Bishop has assigned The Rev. Lisa Jean Hoefner to lead our Church Conference.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY EVENT

In recognition of the 62nd anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Association-USA Oregon Division (UNA-USA) is celebrating with a special Human Rights Day event on Sunday, December 5, 2010 from 3:00 to 4:30 PM, at Portland's First UMC, in Collins Hall. The keynote speaker will be, Jeri Williams, Neighborhood Program Coordinator for Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement, will speak about the rise of human trafficking in Oregon.

CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS BAKERS

Your Lay Leaders and Parish Conference invite you to a Coffee and Dessert Reception following the Christmas Pops Concert on December 19, 2010 at 3:00 PM. We are hoping you will want to share a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies (cake or candy or pie or ???) and maybe even the recipe? We will have the room decorated and have special gifts for our younger members. You may bring your Christmas treats to the Collins Hall kitchen on Sunday, December 19, before or after worship. Questions? Call Debby Fisher at 503/645-4802.

CALL FOR FIRST CHURCH ARTISTS

The Creative Spirits Art Committee is looking for First Church artists who would like to show their work in Collins Hall. The exhibit will run through January and February 2011. It will be hung at 9:00 AM Saturday morning January 8, 2011 and pictures can be removed after coffee hour on February 27. Pictures must be framed. The number accepted will depend on the number of artists and available space. Contact committee member Larry Sawyer at 503-771-1616 or e-mail him at larry_sawyer@comcast.net.



JOY to the WORLD

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS



This year we invite you to participate in offering “Joy to the World” by giving a financial gift to one or more United Methodist Church “Advances.” The Global Missions, Planet Church and Church and Society Committees, Youth and United Methodist Women have each chosen two Advance Projects from a catalogue of hundreds of ministry possibilities.

- ★ Agro-Ecological Farming 100% of each gift reaches its intended mission or ministry and is used to alleviate suffering and offer hope in the name of Christ. More information is available at www.advancinghope.org.
- ★ Santa Etelvina, a Methodist Church in Manaus, Brazil
- ★ Youth Empowerment Project Order forms are available in the church office or in the Commons in Collins Hall after worship.
- ★ Sawtelle Memorial Girls School On the Sundays in December you may purchase gifts from vendors in Collins Hall who are actively participating in justice, peacemaking and educational settings.
- ★ Strengthening Sustainable Communities Watch for more information on each vendor in the weekly bulletins.
- ★ Support for Migrants at the Border **December 5**
Banyan Tree
(formerly Ten Thousand Villages)
- ★ Muxungue Secondary School **December 12**
Los Amigos de Los Romeritos
Alternative Rights of Passage Gift Cards
- ★ Safeguarding Women’s Health **December 19**
Lutherans for Justice in the Holy Land
- ★ Mar Elias Peace Study Center **December 5, 12 and 19**
The United Methodist Women
and Christmas Cookies
- ★ Home of Hope Orphanages

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On Sunday, December 5, 2010 at 11:45 AM in the sanctuary we will have a Christmas Pageant rehearsal with costumes and blocking. This will be our first run through of the pageant. Lunch included!

On Saturday, December 18, 2010 from 10:00 AM to noon in the sanctuary, we will have a dress rehearsal of the pageant with sound system and music.

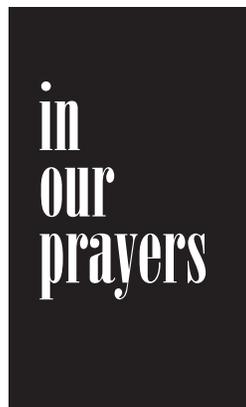
The pageant will be performed on December 24, 2010 at 5:00 PM in the sanctuary as a part of our Family Christmas Eve Service.

PARENTS’ DAY OUT

We would like to offer you, Parent, the luxury of the Pre-Christmas Saturdays in December. “How can that be?” you say. The First UMC nursery crew has scheduled Parents’ Day Out dates for Saturdays: December 4, 11 and 18.

Bring your children and their lunches to the nursery for some all ages fun from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There will be opportunities for crafts, music, reading, napping, and movie watching while you relax, clean your bathroom, or spend some time Christmas shopping.

The cost is a reasonable donation of \$5/child. Sign up now as space is limited. You can sign up in the nursery on Sundays, or contact Megan Humphreys-Loving at 503/228-3195 ext. 227 or mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org



PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR ...

Amanda Wilson Varner & Matt Varner, on the birth of Alexander Jordan Varner, born November 28, 2010 ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Olive Luchs, the mother of Rev. Arvin Luchs, who is in St. Vincent’s Hospital ...
Janet Bennett, who is at West Hills Rehab, following knee surgery ...
Virginia Anderson, who is scheduled for medical tests ...*

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

Nancy Beth Davis, Michelle Green, Karen Smith, and Jay Stewart ...

forum

THE COSGROVES ON KENYA



MISSIONS FORUM

On December 12, 2010, please join us after church for a presentation by Paul and Kathleen Cosgrove about their July 2010 VIM mission to rural Kenya. Some may remember that the Cosgrove's talked to us in 2008 about their first VIM trip to work at the Maua Methodist Hospital and in nearby rural schools, during which the team started an Alternative Rites of passage program for young teenage girl, to address the extraordinary high level of female circumcision (FGM) in that part of Kenya. Over 100 girls attended the first week long program in 2008, and at least 150 girls are expected to attend the program. Come and learn how ideas can transform into solutions that are improving the lives of young Kenyan women!

check it out

THE CHURCH LIBRARY



HOLIDAY READING

In *The First Christmas*, two of today's top Jesus scholars, Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, join forces to show how history has biased our reading of the nativity story as it appears in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. They peel away the sentimentalism that has built up over the last two thousand years around this most well known of all stories to reveal the truth of what the gospels actually say.

Newberry Medalist and minister's wife Katherine Paterson retells the life of Jesus in her book, *The Light of the World*. She uses simple, beautiful language for all ages, making the story new again through her generosity and compassion.

looking ahead

THIS AND THAT

FOOD & FRIENDS

Food & Friends has rescheduled and will meet on December 11, 2010 at the Widmer Brewing Co. on N. Interstate at 6:00 PM and be done by 9:00 PM. Parents and friends alike are invited to join in the Food and Friends.

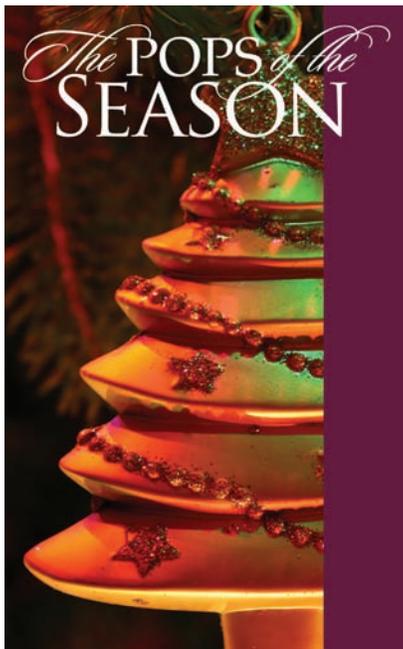
Please call or email Megan to RSVP: Mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195. Child care is available.

YOUNG SINGLES

If you are looking for a place for good conversation, new friendships, spiritual stimulation and good times together, think about joining our young singles group. We are excited to have this program coming together. Watch the upcoming issues of the Circuit Rider for information on the date, time and place! Contact Peggy Luckman at 503/228-3195 or e-mail her at: pluckman@fumcpdx.org for more information.

A SHELTER BIRTHDAY PARTY

Watch for details on a birthday celebration for the Goose Hollow Family Shelter to happen in January! You won't want to miss it!



POPS OF THE SEASON CONCERT

On Sunday, December 19, 2010, at 3:00 PM, please join us in Portland's First UMC sanctuary, as organist Jonas Nordwall and friends present an outstanding concert of holiday pop favorites. There is no charge, a free-will offering will be taken. A reception, hosted by First Church lay leadership will follow the concert.

Fun-Filled Tunes from the Pipe Organ

A Choral Spectacular

The Sanctuary Bell Choir

Invite your friends and family

Presented by
Portland's First United Methodist Church
Friends of Music.



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 December 15, 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.

Supporting the Blessed Community

as of November 29, 2010

Commitments to the 2011 Mission of Our Church

HOUSE-HOLDS ASKED	HOUSE-HOLDS RESPONDING	% OF HOUSE-HOLDS RESPONDING	RESOURCES COMMITTED TO MISSION	RESOURCES NEEDED FOR MISSION	% OF RESOURCES COMMITTED
636	214	33.7%	\$609,779	\$910,000	67.01%