



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

December 15, 2010
Volume 14, Issue 25

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

December 19
10:30 AM
The Fourth Sunday
of Advent

December 26
10:30 AM
Christmas Sunday



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

FOURTH
Sunday OF Advent
December 19

Worship - A Service of Lessons & Carols
juBELLation plays



Christmas Pops Concert
on Sunday, December 19, 2010
at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary
featuring the musicians of First Church
No Charge - Free-Will Offering



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2010

FAMILY SERVICE ... 5 PM

Join the First Church children for this special service with music from our children's choir and a presentation of the nativity story.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES ... 7 & 9 PM

Experience the wonder of Christ among us in the glow of our candlelit sanctuary with music from the Chancel Choir and a message of hope.

COMMUNION SERVICES ... 11 PM

Bring in Christmas day with an intimate communion service in the chapel ... celebrating the Word which has become flesh and dwells among us.





memo

Rev. Dr. Arvin R. Luchs

Prolific Broadway songwriter, Jerry Herman, gave us so many memorable show tunes—including a Christmas song from *Mame*:

“We need a little Christmas,
Right this very minute,
Candles in the windows
Carols at the spinet...
Yes, we need a little Christmas now.” *

Herman is right!

In this world of darkness and suffering—we need the “Light of the World.”
In our world wracked by terrorism and war—we need the “Prince of Peace.”
In this partisan and polarized society—we need one who brings “goodwill for all.”
In a world where so many struggle with poverty—we need “good news for the poor”
In a time so full with despair and bereft of hope—we need the promise of abundant life.

Yes, we need a little Christmas—and the good news is:

... wherever hearts are open,
... wherever there is respect and dignity for everyone,
... wherever there is hospitality and welcome
... wherever love is,

Christmas happens once again!

Come help us celebrate the joy and wonder of it all.

There’s a full calendar of activities next week:

Lessons and Carols ... a Pops Concert ... Longest Night Service ...
a Family Christmas Pageant ... Candlelight and Carols—
even Christmas Eve Communion.

There’s something for everyone and, of course, your family and friends are always welcome.

And help share the blessings of God’s love to extend the mission and ministry of our church.
Extra-mile gifts for our Christmas Offering make a world of difference.
There’s a special envelope enclosed.

Indeed, we need a little Christmas—now!

May all the blessing of this Holy Season be yours!

See you in Church!

Arvin

* Published by Edward L. Morris and Company, 1966



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.

COMING IN JANUARY: LIVING THE QUESTIONS Sundays, January 9, 16, 23, 30

In these sessions we will be using DVD materials that feature leading religious scholars including Marcus Borg, John Cobb, Minerva Carcano, Meagan McKenna, Helen Prejean, John Dominic Crossan, John Spong and others. We will discuss various questions and concerns related to progressive Christianity and "what's next for Christianity." The class will be facilitated by Martha Powell and Peggy Luckman.

please take note this and that

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.

A FORUM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A forum on the issue of human trafficking in our Portland area will be held at noon on Sunday, January 9, 2011. A panel of speakers will include former victims, law enforcement, and representatives from agencies in our area working on this issue. Learn how we can become more aware and involved in this issue as parents, youth leaders and concerned church members. The forum, sponsored by United Methodist Women, will be held in the Fireside Room immediately following worship and food will be available. For more information contact Marilyn Outslay.

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 JANUARY UNIT MEETING

The January meeting for the UMW Unit will be sponsoring a forum on the issue of human trafficking in the Portland area. The forum will be held in the Fireside Room on Sunday, January 9, following worship.

SEWING GROUP

The Sewing Group will meet Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 1:30 PM in Room 202.

THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at noon in Room 204. Rev. Arvin Luchs will present a program titled "First Church Archives Stories – Through the Years". Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773.

THE UMW READING GROUP

The UMW Book Group will meet on Wednesday January 19, 2011 at 10:00 AM in the library. Trudy Kayser will present a review of the book *Half the Sky*, by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. They weave together a story of how culture and customs historically suppress women. They tackle many tough, taboo topics; however, they also champion the stories of heroic women and provide practical advice, giving the book an optimistic tone. The book is on the UMW Reading List. Chair: Sue Fisher. 503/203-1445



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

There will be a Longest Night Service on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at 5:00 PM in the Chapel. This service is designed for those who are experiencing grief and loss during the holiday season.

JOY to the WORLD

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER



- ★ Agro-Ecological Farming
- ★ Santa Etelvina, a Methodist Church in Manaus, Brazil
- ★ Youth Empowerment Project
- ★ Sawtelle Memorial Girls School
- ★ Strengthening Sustainable Communities
- ★ Support for Migrants at the Border
- ★ Muxungue Secondary School
- ★ Safeguarding Women's Health
- ★ Mar Elias Peace Study Center
- ★ Home of Hope Orphanages

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.

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.

Order forms are available in the church office or in the Commons in Collins Hall after worship.

On the Sundays in December you may purchase gifts from vendors in Collins Hall who are actively participating in justice, peacemaking and educational settings.

The Goose Hollow Family Shelter will turn 17 years old this January, and we're going to celebrate all month long! If you've thought about volunteering at the Shelter but weren't sure how to proceed, here's your chance. Each Sunday in January will make it very easy to volunteer at the shelter. You can assure that First United Methodist Church continues to provide support, compassion, and shelter to homeless families with children. We're organizing "Buddy Days" to pair first-timers with seasoned shelter volunteers from First Church.

On Sunday, January 23, 2011 we'll have a birthday party in the Fireside Room right after church. There will be cake and a chance to celebrate the wonderful work of First Church with Goose Hollow Family Shelter for the past 17 years. The entire shelter staff will be there to talk with you, answer your questions, and celebrate with all of our cherished volunteers.

As you know, everyone loves to get presents on their birthday! If you'd like to give Goose Hollow a present a complete list of needed items is available each Sunday in the Commons in Collins Hall. Bring your gifts any Sunday in January to the Outreach Table in The Commons.

There will also be opportunities to take tours of the shelter in January—keep your eyes on the Sunday bulletins for more information to follow.

If you have questions about volunteering, donations or any other information about the shelter, contact Allie at <mailto:allie@pdxhfs.org> or 503/915-8307. Thanks so much for your support, and we look forward to celebrating with you!

Watch for more information on each vendor in the weekly bulletins.

December 19

Lutherans for Justice in the Holy Land
The United Methodist Women and Christmas Cookies

in
our
prayers

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

Arvin and Sue Luchs, on the death of Arvin's mother, *Olive Luchs*. Olive died on December 20, 2010 at the age of 103. A service was held in the First Church chapel on December 11, 2010.

Janet Richards, on the death of her mother, *Mavis Rood*, who died in Coos Bay, OR on December 11, 2010 at age 93.

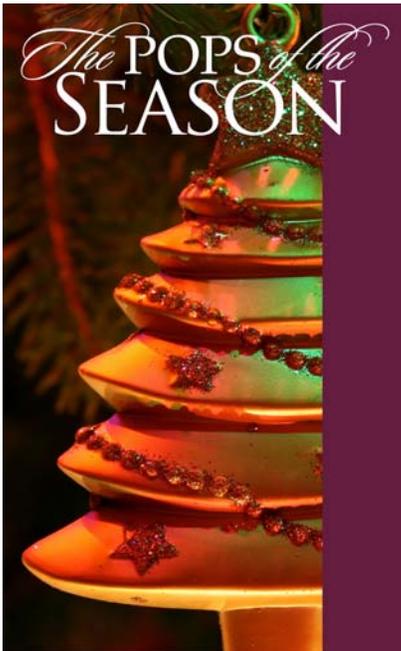
PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Benjamin Owre, who is at the Holliday Park Plaza rehab ...

Marilyn Schuberg who is at the Laurelhurst Village rehab ...

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

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



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.

check out what's going on ...

this and that

HOLIDAY READING FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

The Donkey's Dream by Barbara Helen Berger presents the story of the birth of Jesus from the viewpoint of the Donkey that carried Mary to Bethlehem. Sensing being special, he imagines what he is carrying. The illustrations are akin to illuminations from the Middle Ages, yet with a simpler, modern touch.

YOUTH LOCK IN AND SERVICE PROJECT

On Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM, youth are invited to attend an overnight lock-in at the church. We will combine with the youth from St. Paul's UMC for a night of games and fun. We will be baking dog treats for dogs at the Oregon Humane Society. Monday, January 17, at 9:00 AM, we will travel to the Oregon Humane Society for a tour and give the dogs our gifts of treats and love. RSVP to Megan to attend.

GO BLAZERS

Are you and your family are interested in attending the Family Faith Night at the Portland Trailblazers game on Saturday, January 22, 2011? Rise with Us, and bring the family! A portion of the tickets purchased for this night will go to support City Team. For ticket pricing and to register call Megan Humphreys-Loving at 503/228-3195 or email mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org.

OHSU SEMINAR ON HEART DISEASE, STROKE AND DEMENTIA

Learn of the risks of heart disease, stroke, and dementia in a special seminar presented by professional staff at Oregon Health and Science University on January 24, 2011. We will meet at First Church at 10:00 AM, take TriMet to the lower campus, and ride the tram to the upper campus to enjoy a tour and lunch. The seminar will follow with a return to First Church by 4:30 PM. A registration fee of \$4.00 will cover the tram ride; TriMet fares and lunch are at your own expense. Register soon through the Church Office at 503/228-3195. We are limited to 25 participants

January 2011

looking ahead

in the
NEW YEAR

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.

LEADERSHIP ENRICHMENT

Metro District United Methodist Church OR-ID will present Growing Healthy, Vital Congregations on Saturday, January 29, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM at Portland First United Methodist Church. Plan to attend this Enrichment Event, sponsored by the District Leadership Team. Learn innovative approaches used to increase the health and vitality of your congregation and community.

RECENT NEW MEMBERS

If you joined this church between January 1 and December 31, 2010, you are invited to a luncheon to be held on Sunday, January 30 after church. Save the date for this special event!

YOUNG ADULT PARENTS

Parents of young and school age children are invited to a night of fun and fellowship at the church on Sunday, January 30, 2011 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Bring a favorite easy snack to share and a favorite game. Child care will be provided. We need to know if you are coming to arrange childcare, so please contact Peggy at pluckman@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195.

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 January 12, 2011.

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 December 14, 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	250	39.3%	\$694,487	\$910,000	76.31%



CIRCUIT RIDER SCHEDULE AND DEADLINES

Due to the Christmas and New Year’s holiday schedules, The Circuit Rider will not be published again until January 12, 2011. Any items that you would like to appear in that issue need to be into the church office by Friday, January 7, 2011. You can drop them by the church office or e-mail them directly to Dave Jenkins at office@fumcpdx.org The bulletin insert will be published each Sunday and submissions are requested by no later than the Wednesday prior.