



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

April 6, 2011
Volume 15, Issue 07

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 10
10:30 AM

April 17
10:30 AM
Palm 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

FIRST CHURCH FORUMS



With Dr. Christina Hulbe,
PSU Associate Professor
April 10, 2011
at noon in the Fireside Room

On April 10, 2011 Planet Church will sponsor a climate science forum at noon in the Fireside Room. Dr. Christina Hulbe will speak on current climate research and what it suggests about the impact of climate change ... locally and globally. Her presentation will also include her own on-site research into how glaciers and ice shelves are responding to our warming planet.

Dr. Christina Hulbe is a geophysicist who specializes in glaciology, using computer simulations of glacial systems to study how and why they change over time. She is currently an associate professor of geology at Portland State University. While much of her work is computational, Christina has also spent four field seasons in the remote interior of west Antarctica. A light lunch will be provided, along with the opportunity to make a donation to cover costs.



A Peace Forum:
Seeking a Congregational Response
April 17, 2011
at noon in the Fireside Room

A Church Forum is scheduled for April 17, 2011 following worship to discuss the newly revised statement declaring First United Methodist Church members will do all we can to be peacemakers in our homes, in our community, and in our world. The Church & Society Committee presented the revised statement to the Parish Conference, which voted to refer it now to the congregation and invite responses. Copies of the statement are available in the church office. Please pick one up and read it before coming to the forum on April 17, 2011. For additional information, contact Rev. Peggy Luckman.





memo

Rev. Dr.
Arvin R.
Luchs

When John Yemma speaks, I listen. Yemma is the editor of *The Christian Science Monitor*, one of the most respected news sources. His column, “Upfront” leads each weekly issue of their magazine—as it did this week.

In a turbulent moment when conflicts are raging between nations, tribes and individuals, Yemma teams with correspondent, Jina Moore to explore emerging new ideas about peace. (Volume 103, Issue 19, April 4, 2011.)

“Peace,” he writes “is not just the absence of war.” It requires hard work and constant attention to thousands of little things that build an infrastructure to thwart the forces that perpetuate cycles of violence. Yemma cites many ways in which to strengthen infrastructures: meaningful, productive jobs for would-be warriors, schools and health clinics to strengthen families and train the next generation, improving the legal, judicial and administrative systems to rebuild confidence in laws and elections, upgrading roads and utilities to make day to day living easier, even addressing a region’s spiritual needs in order to counter fear and animosity with forgiveness, understanding and tolerance.

Moore’s contribution emphasizes new dimensions in the mission of the United Nations in international conflicts. No longer one, there are now *three* UN offices responding to international violence and civil wars:

Most of us are familiar with the blue helmets of the UN “*peace-keepers*” deployed to be buffers in regions where tensions threaten to escalate into warfare. By controlling and dampening small flames, they hope to keep animosity from flaring into wildfires.

Then there are those who work in international “*peace-making*”—intervening with the leaders of nations and factions to bring them to a negotiation table to work out the details of stand-downs, cease-fires and treaties.

More recently, a new office has been discovering the more difficult (and longer term) task of “*peace-building*.” Officials from this UN effort move into regions that have been devastated by recent battles—or are on the verge of slipping into renewed conflict—and offer the resources and a plan to rebuild community services and institutions in the hope of undermining the causes of unrest. It’s not glamorous to build hospitals, pave roads—even establish regular trash collections. Peace-builders come with international funds to seed their efforts. But the cost is only a small fraction of the monetary and human cost of war.

It’s that notion—that peace is more than the absence of war—that stands behind a multi-year study of how our congregation can enhance and encourage peace-keeping, peace-making and peace-building not only internationally—but in our communities, our homes and our church. The effort was not motivated by political idealism or social pressure—but by the desire to follow Christ in the ways of wholeness and peace.

Last month our Parish Conference endorsed a well-written statement from our Church and Society for Social Justice Committee and recommended it to be considered by us all—and hopefully adopted at an All-Church Conference in June. I commend it to you to prayerfully read and consider. Copies are available in the Church Office. There will be a forum following worship on Palm Sunday (April 17, 2011) that will allow us to ask questions and share opinions.

After all, as Yemma reminds us, “... (peace) requires hard work and constant attention.” And it calls us all to help make it happen.

See you in Church!

Arvin

adult sunday school classes

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

This class is combining with the Major Religions of the World class (see below). They will resume on Sunday, April 17, 2011.

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. Currently, we are discussing Robert C. Morris' book, *Wrestling with Grace: A Spirituality for the Rough Edges of Daily Life*.

MAJOR RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

The final session of our look at Major Religions of the World will be Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. Our study will conclude with a look at the Baha'i faith.

our prayers & concerns

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The family and friends of Jay Stewart, Jay died on March 30, 2011 at his home in Cannon Beach. He was the son-in-law of Betty Cobb ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Molly Mckelvey, who has cancer. She is a good friend of Peggy Rockwood ...
Grace Renfroe, who is recovering from surgery ...

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

Doris Lavelly, Cadence May, Karen Smith, Eleanor Stubbs, and Rev. Donna Pritchard ...

our gratitude

PAT RIEKE

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your expressions of concern and your help while I nursed a broken elbow. The splint is gone now, but unfortunately so is a lot of range on motion. It is on to physical therapy in the coming weeks--after I have a loose screw removed on April 1st. Please keep me in your prayers, because I remember from a couple of broken wrists that physical therapy was not much fun.
Pat Rieke

this & that

CELEBRATE CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRY

Sunday, April 10, 2011 wear your camp shirt and come to Collins Hall after worship to learn about all the cool summer camps available for youth, kids, adults, grandparents and more! Start thinking about joining Megan and several other families at the 4th of July Family Camp at Magruder! Learn about how to get to a Horse Camp, or Grand Camp ... or just swing by the table to pick up registration forms.
Go Camping!

NATURE WALK

There will be a Nature Walk on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at Tyron Creek State Park from 10:00 AM to noon. Meet at the park. Bob Wilson, one of our resident naturalists, will lead this informative and engaging hike in a local setting. Please sign up with Megan Humphreys-Loving or in Collins Hall after worship.

YOUNG ADULTS

If you are college age and under 30, you are invited to come on Sunday, May 1, 2011 to Room 202 at noon to meet other people your age who attend this church! We will have a meal together, get better acquainted, and talk about what you would like to do together. Please contact Rev. Peggy Luckman at pluckman@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195 and let her know you are coming so the food can be ordered. If this group interests you but you cannot attend on May 1st, let Peggy know so you will be included in the follow-up information.

AN INVITATION

The UMVIM Team to Palestine/Israel invites the congregation to join them on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at noon in the Fireside Room. Rev. Canon Richard Toll, chair of Friends of Sabeel, North America, will share his experiences from the February, 2011, International Conference that was held in Jerusalem. Those who follow the news are aware that the situation in Palestine/Israel changes daily. Rev. Toll will talk about what he observed "on the ground" during his recent visit. He will also explain the KAIROS document, which is a prayerful call of Palestinian Christians to end the occupation. A light lunch will be served and a free will offering taken. There will be an opportunity to meet members of the UMVIM team from First UMC who will travel to Palestine in October, as well as to learn more about Sabeel, an international peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land.

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 RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at noon in Room 204. Lila Palmiter will share ideas from Lester R. Brown's book, *Plan B*. Each April, planet earth is remembered. We are in an environmental bubble. We are a species out-of-control, setting into motion processes we do not understand with consequences that we cannot foresee. 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, April 27, 2011 at noon in Room 204. Ruth Green will present the program: *Mission in the Age of Global Christianity*. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Chair: Mary Covert 503/652-6480.

THE UMW QUILT LUNCHEON

The United Methodist Women present the Ninth Annual Quilt Show and Luncheon on Friday, April 29, 2011. This year our quilters have chosen the theme of "A Fine Line." It is a theme of recurring circles as they connect one quilt to the next. The quilt preview begins at 11:30 PM, lunch at 12:00 PM and program at 12:30 PM. Tickets are \$20.00 with \$15.00 designated for Mission Giving. Tickets are available today in Commons in Collins Hall after the church service.

THE UMW READING GROUP

The UMW Reading Group meeting for April is cancelled. The group will meet again Wednesday, May 18, 2011. Chair: Sue Fisher. 503/203-1445.

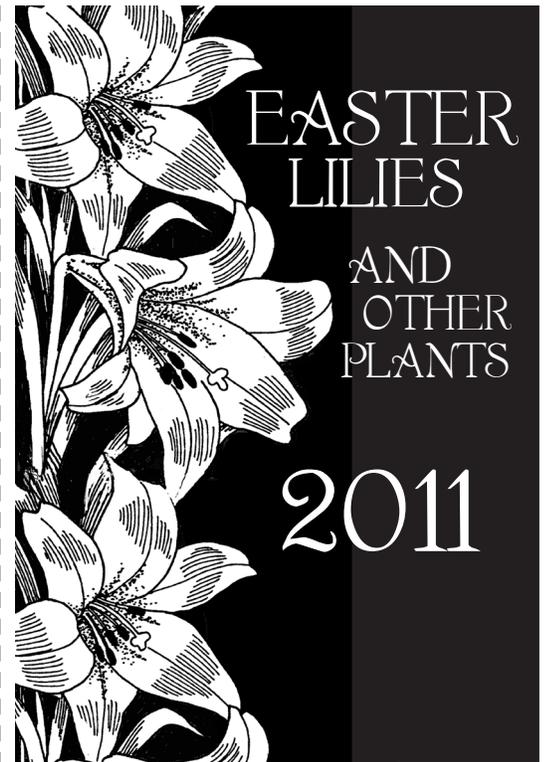
OREGON-IDAHO CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Oregon-Idaho Conference United Methodist Women are sponsoring a spiritual growth and social action retreat on human trafficking entitled: *Not In My Neighborhood – A Young Women's Event*. The event is Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Aldersgate Retreat Center near Turner, Oregon. The \$20.00 registration fee includes lunch. Please call Helen VanNice at 541/753-4118 or email her at hvannice@teleport.com for registration information. Registration deadline is May 1, 2011. Note: Everyone is welcome even though the event is focused on younger women.



EASTER WEEK GREETERS NEEDED

People with a smile to share and a handshake to lend are needed in celebration of Holy Week and Easter Sunday services. Sign up sheets for Maundy Thursday and both Easter Sunday services are located outside the office windows. You may also sign up at the volunteer table after church in Collins Hall. Please take a moment to add your name to the list so we can extend First UMC members and guests a hearty welcome in this season of praise and rebirth. Please call or email Nancy Bartow with questions. Thank you! 503/297-1255 or nancy_bartow@yahoo.com



It is time to order flowers to prepare our sanctuary for Easter. There are three choices: lilies, azaleas and hydrangeas for \$15.50 each. Use the form below to indicate which flowers you want to order and if they are in memory or honor of someone. Return the form to the church office with your check, by April 17, 2011. Indicate: LILY in the memo portion of the check.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LILY | \$15.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AZALEA | \$15.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HYDRANGEA | \$15.50 |

Name _____

Name In Memory In Honor

**If you are ordering
lilies or hydrangeas please
get your order in ASAP.**

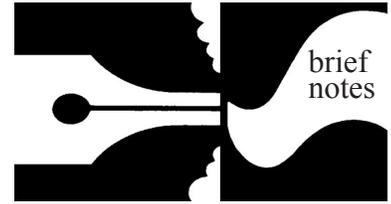
**Return this form to
the church office.**

Supporting the Blessed Community

As of April 5, 2011

HOUSE-HOLDS RESPONDING	RESOURCES COMMITTED TO MISSION	RESOURCES NEEDED FOR MISSION	% OF RESOURCES COMMITTED
346	\$864,543	\$910,000	95.00%

Estimate of Giving Cards are available in the church pews and can be placed in the offering plates or taken to the church office.



REV. PEGGY LUCKMAN

We are coming to the end of our Lenten dinners and wonderful series, *Religions of the World*, and how each views compassion. These dinners, coupled with the Sunday morning classes describing the basic beliefs of other faiths, have been enlightening and informative. I have had the privilege of meeting wonderful people along the way, and I hope that if you have been attending, you have enjoyed our times together and now have a deeper understanding and appreciation of other religions.

A special thanks to Michael Copeland who has been providing us with our Wednesday evening meals! He spent hours planning menus with sensitivity to our guests needs, shopping, cooking, laying out welcoming and colorful presentations and leading us in grace each evening. Michael has had others helping with set-up and clean-up ... to all of you, our thanks!

Peggy

looking ahead events of interest

CHURCHES OF OTHER CULTURES

The First Church Travel Committee is pleased to announce the return of a popular event. On Thursday, May 12, 2011 we will visit Churches of Other Cultures. We will experience personalized tours and mini-seminars at three locations: the Bilal Masjid Mosque, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and Temple Beth Israel Synagogue. We will meet at First Church at 8:45 AM, have a brief overview of the day, and then carpool to each worship center. A lunch stop will also be part of the day. Projected return to First Church is around 4:30 PM. The fee is \$10.00 per person; registration is necessary to be included. Registration is through the church office with a deadline of April 15, 2011. To register, call 503/228-3195 or e-mail office@fumcpdx.org.

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES OF OREGON BANQUET

Members and friends of First Church can show their continued support for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) by attending its Annual Awards and Community Celebration Dinner to be held on May, 12, 2011, at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW 6th Ave., Portland.

The event honors important ministries of churches, organizations and individuals. Check-in, silent auction, cocktails, and appetizers begin at 5:00 PM with the banquet to follow at 6:30 PM. We would hope to fill at least two tables (ten persons each). Tickets for this event are \$60 per person. You may send your check for tickets to the church office, made out to First UMC, marked EMO Banquet. We hope you will plan on being a part of this enjoyable area-wide event. If you have any questions, contact: Cal Brockman, at 503/292-6270. Please RSVP by May 5, 2011.

Tapestry of FAITH

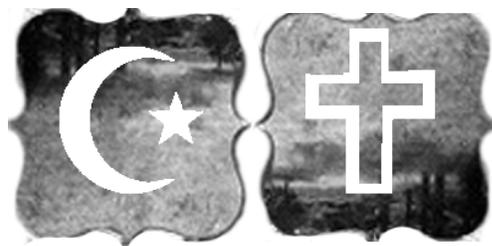
The theme for our Lenten Suppers is: Compassion: A Tapestry of Faith. Each Wednesday evening of Lent has begun with a simple meal at 5:30 PM, followed by a brief time of singing, and a presentation in the Chapel by a leader of a world religion speaking on compassion in the context of their religion.

COMPASSION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

Compassion Through the Eyes of Youth: Christian and Muslim Faiths

Youth from the Muslim Education Trust, along with youth from our own congregation will share what compassion and faith mean to them.



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 20, 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

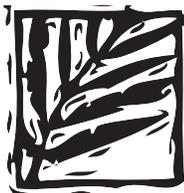
See the latest and past issues of **The Circuit Rider** in color at www.fumcpdx.org/newsletter

The Circuit Rider can be e-mailed to you. E-mail the church office at office@fumcpdx.org to request it by e-mail.

HOLY WEEK

There will be no church meetings or outside groups meeting in the building during Holy Week.

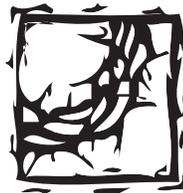
We encourage you to make this a time of prayer and spiritual reflection.



Sunday, April 17
Palm Sunday Service at 10:30 AM and Children's Processional



Thursday, April 21
Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary



Friday, April 22
Good Friday Service at noon at the First Congregational-United Church of Christ, 1126 SW Park (Park & Madison Streets.)



Sunday, April 24
Easter Services at 9:00 & 11:00 AM in the sanctuary