



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

May 18, 2011
Volume 15, Issue 10

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

May 22
10:30 AM
Confirmation
Sunday

May 29
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



FOURTH OF JULY FAMILY CAMP

Consider attending the Fourth of July Family camp on the beautiful Oregon Coast at Camp Magruder with other First UMC families. Celebrate our country's founding with a beach bonfire and a spectacular fireworks display. Your family will love it! Relax with your family and enjoy tide pool walks, wave jumping, boating, a sand castle building contest, archery, and crafts surrounded by incredible natural beauty.

THIRD THROUGH FIFTH GRADE CAMP

If you are looking for a cool camp for 3-5th graders: Mid Summer Challenge is a wonderful time for kids to stretch their wings and soar to new heights. Daily physical, mental, and spiritual challenges provide a unique opportunity for campers to grow in their understanding of themselves and of all Creation. This camp is led by Megan Humphreys-Loving, with the help of a great staff at Camp Magruder.

make
incredible
memories at
SUMMER CAMPS

When you hear the words "Summer Camp," what do you think about? Splashing in the lake? Hiking through the woods? Singing songs around a campfire? Feeling closer than ever to God? Making friends that last a lifetime?

We are so blessed to have six beautiful United Methodist camps in Oregon and Idaho. Each site has its own unique personality, but the thing that they share in common is that people of all ages find opportunities to feel the love of God through communing with the natural world and the camping community.

To learn more about the camping program of the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church visit their website at:

www.gocamping.org

The cost of camp should not be prohibitive of participation. First UMC has scholarship opportunities to help people of all ages get to camp this summer.

Please contact the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry at mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org for more information about scholarships.



memo

**Rev. Dr.
Arvin R.
Luchs**

It was, according to Executive Director David Leslie, their best attended annual meeting. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's partners and leaders gathered to celebrate ministry together and recognize significant accomplishments. Thanks to Cal Brockman Sr's efforts, First UMC filled two and a half tables in a packed banquet hall.

The theme this year: *The Power of Community!* More than a slogan, "community" was visible in the diversity of faith traditions sharing together that night—not only across the Christian spectrum, but Jewish and Muslim as well. Indeed, one of the most coveted awards, The Two Paul's Award for outstanding work in community service, dialogue and relation-building was presented to Salma Ahmad, President of the Islamic Society of Greater Portland.

The evening reminded me that we live in an "inter-faith" world!

Sadly there are those who claim to follow Christ who would deny that—even condemn the notion. Some have captured headlines including the Florida pastor who made good on threats to burn a *Koran* or the United Methodist congregation in the southeast who drove out a lay pastor for suggesting that God could love a non-Christian.

The inescapable reality is that our region, our nation, indeed, our world, is become increasingly diverse—ethnically and religiously. The question is not *should* we embrace this interfaith reality—but *how* can that happen?

How can we understand the faith of another without simplifying, homogenizing, and blurring each of their distinct truths?

How can we respect the diverse traditions of our neighbors while not allowing those differences to become barriers that keep us from relationship?

How can we appreciate and affirm the integrity and intensity of another's faith and faith practices without feeling we are compromising the commitment to our own faith and its values?

How can we build a network of cooperation between people of faith to identify ways we can join hands together to build communities of safety, opportunity and harmony?

An important initial step is to get to know one another personally—visit our places of worship—and share our faith and what it means to us. And we've been working on that. Just this spring we've welcomed Buddhist, Islamic, Hindu and Jewish leaders to share their understanding of "compassion" at our Lenten Suppers. Those gatherings were paralleled by a class studying world religions. We remember with our Jewish neighbors the horrors of the Holocaust and join them in declaring 'never again!' Our youth confirmation classes and our adult travel program have visited faith centers around the metro area. We are involved with faith-based programs to fight hunger and reverse global warming with inter-faith coalitions.

There is so much more to do to build an interfaith community, but the benefits are great. As EMO affirms, there is "Power in Community."

See you in church!

Arvin

PS ... Save Sunday, June 5, 2011 for a Church Conference to be held after worship.

FAREWELL & WELCOME

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JUNE 26 AND SUNDAY, JULY 10

On Sunday, June 26, 2011 we will be saying thanks and farewell to Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs and Sue Luchs, as Arvin retires from active ministry after more than four decades of service to the United Methodist Church and Sue retires from her teaching career. Please plan to join us in worship and for a celebration in Collins Hall. Contributions to a gift for Arvin and Sue can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off in the office; please include a notation, "Luchs Gift," on checks.

Our new Senior Minister, Rev. Donna Pritchard, will lead us in worship for the first time on Sunday, July 10, 2011 and we will welcome her in Collins Hall after worship. It will help her get to know us if we all can get in the habit of wearing our name tags in church! If you have lost your name tag, you can contact the church office to order a replacement.

adult sunday school classes

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

Meets each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM in Room 202.

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*.

READERS' THEATER

The popular Readers' Theater is back for late Spring and early Summer. Come to these Sunday morning classes, 9:15 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room. You will participate in reading aloud a part in one of the plays, or you may sit back and enjoy listening to others read. There will also be time to discuss each play. Clare Humphrey will lead each class session.

Sunday May 22: An Original Play

An original play about the origins of the First United Methodist Church, Santa Rosa, CA. This church was started by Circuit Riders in 1854, and there are similarities with the founding of our own church.

June 5, 12, 19: The Crucible

The Crucible by Arthur Miller. This play is set in Massachusetts at the time of the Salem Witch trials. It is considered an allegory of Miller's experiences in the McCarthy era of the 1950s.

July 17, 24, 31: JB

J.B. by Archibald MacLeish. This play is based on the Biblical story of Job. The main character, J.B., a wealthy banker, loses everything but struggles to maintain his faith. MacLeish examines how people can retain hope and keep on living, despite all the suffering in the world.

library book sale

FIRST CHURCH LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The First Church Library's follow-up used book sale will be held on Sunday, May 22, before and after worship in Collins Hall. We have plenty of great books of all types: fiction, non-fiction, children, crafts, and more. All proceeds benefit the First Church Library.



first church orientation

FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION

There will be a First Church Orientation, Sunday, May 22, 2011 in Room 110 from 12:00-2:00 PM. Lunch is provided. Join us for a brief history of First Church, a tour of the building, theological insights, a time to ask questions, and if interested, membership information. Register by calling 503/228-3195 or by emailing Rev. Peggy Luckman at pluckman@fumcpdx.org



Memorial Coliseum - Portland, Oregon - July 9th, 2011 - 9:30pm
www.downtowncompassion.org

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 JUNE UNIT MEETING

The UMW Unit will meet Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 11:00 AM in Room 202. Members are asked to bring a salad to serve eight for a luncheon. Marilyn Outslay will install the UMW officers for 2011-2012. President Marion Hollenberg. 503/640-3270.

TABITHA CIRCLE

The Tabitha Circle will meet Wednesday, June 1, 2011 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in Room 202.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 11:30 AM in the First Church narthex to carpool to Bob's Red Mill for a tour and then lunch at the site. For questions, please contact Hazelee Stevenson at 503/283-0041.

PLANNING TEAM

The UMW Planning Team will meet Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 9:30 AM in Room 110.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS



PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR

Bob & Patty Meyers, in the death of Patty's mother, on April 20, 2010 in Iowa ...

PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION ...

Sullivan Harry Martin, was born on May 10th to *Ryan & Siriyaba Martin*, and is the grandson of *Marty & Holly Martin* ...

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING ...

Eleanor Stubbs, was able to return to Calaroga, from rehab, on May 12, 2011 ... *Nancy Beth Davis*, was able to be at worship on Sunday, May 15, 2011 after many weeks of illness ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Judie Carpenter, who is hospitalized with heart problems ...

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

Betty Lou Hare, Doris Lavelly, Grace Renfroe, Karen Smith, and Virginia Townend

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING ABROAD ...

Jared Bomberger, who is serving in Iraq ...

children & youth

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2011

We will continue to have quality Sunday School for children of all ages through the summer. Summer Sunday School will take place in Room 206 for children preschool through fifth grade. Our Summer Sunday school class will be a in the style of "One Big Room." We still need summer volunteers! Contact: Megan Humphreys-Loving, mhumprheys-loving@fumcpdx.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN ACTION GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER

The Goose Hollow Family Shelter is open year-round helping homeless families who need temporary housing. Sunday School participants and families are encouraged to work together to provide Meal Hosts and Kid Times for the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, located here at the church. If you are interested in participating, contact Megan Humphreys-Loving or sign up in Collins Hall with Phil and Susannah Greenberg.

FIRST CHURCH YOUTH LOOKING AHEAD

There are some great opportunities for Youth at First Church this summer:

May 29

Sunday Youth Lunch at Sushiville

June 4

Volunteer at Oregon Food Bank

Sign up for all volunteer opportunities with Megan at mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org

June 12

Sunday Youth Lunch at Habibi

July 14

Dinner meet and greet with Rev. Donna Pritchard

July 26-31

Youth 2011 trip to Sacramento



Winning Hearts & Minds

We are collecting gifts for Afghani children and military personnel at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, through the month of May. Bring your items to the donation boxes in Collins Hall. If you have questions about this project contact: Mark Ohlson at 503/228-3195 ext. 220 or mohlson@fumcpdx.org. Here are the items needed:

For the Local Population

- Baby Crocs and Children's sturdy Crocs or Sandals
- Children's Sunglasses
- Beanie Babies or small Stuffed Animals
- Crayons and Coloring Books

For the Marines and Sailors:

- Beef Jerky
- M & M Candies
- Baby Wipes and Hand Sanitizer
- Hygiene and Toiletries

farmer's table

FARMER'S TABLE RETURNS

On Sunday, June 12, 2011 the Farmer's Table returns to Collins Hall after worship, featuring:
... beautiful bouquets of spring flowers
... crisp, fresh lettuce
... spinach, bok choy, and sugar snap peas!

Welcome back our farmers, Hmong refugees who have a talent for growing gorgeous flowers and delicious vegetables. Lowering our carbon footprint by buying locally grown food never tasted better! Thanks to the generosity of our farmer, Yua Lo, and members of First UMC, we will be donating some of the Farmers Table produce to the Northwest Portland Ministries Food Box program to help our neighbors who are in need, and sending flowers to local nursing homes. Our Farmers' Table is sponsored by the Planet Church committee with the help of the Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

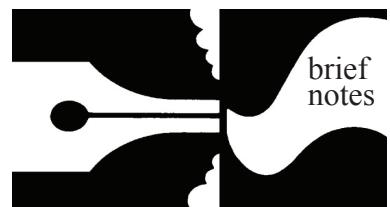


breadfortheworld OFFERING OF LETTERS



BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS

At First Church, we add our own voices to Bread for the World's collective Christian voice, urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger. We do this by participating in the "Offering of Letters." We will submit handwritten letters to our Congressional leadership urging reform of U.S. foreign assistance to make it more effective in reducing poverty and enabling millions of people to move out of hunger. Letters will be written during May. **Deadline for the return of letters to First Church is June 5, 2011. They will then be blessed during worship on Sunday, June 12, 2011 before sending to Congress.** Please stay tuned!



REV. PEGGY LUCKMAN

Do all you do in love.

First Corinthians 16:14

The ongoing movement of the ocean, the sound of seagulls, beautiful sunshine and a cool but comfortable breeze are making this particular day a wonderful day of Sabbath rest. Ed is out walking on the beach, and I am quietly reflecting on the joy that I am experiencing in my life. These vacation days are a time of Sabbath rest, reflection and renewal. ("Sabbath" is derived from the Hebrew word Shabbath, meaning "to cease.")

When was the last time you took Sabbath time? Setting aside specific time to play, to relax, and to let go of the usual routines of our lives is life-giving and health-enhancing. To reflect without interruption, to play with abandon, to be aware of the gentle breeze that cools the face: these are moments that bring us back to the basic joys of life.

I am reminded of the many times the scripture mentions that Jesus went off by himself: to pray, to be away from the crowds and the daily responsibilities and to be renewed for his ministry.

When we talk about living as Jesus lived, let us not forget the importance of making time for our own Sabbath rest. As the weather gets better, we all will have more opportunities for being outside, absorbing the sun, and feeling the gentle breezes. Whether it be for a designated hour, a day, or a series of days, may your moments of Sabbath be a blessing to you.

Peggy

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 June 1, 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:

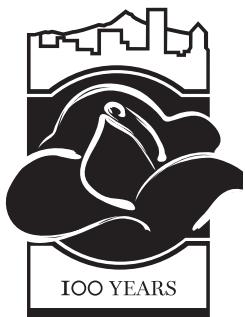
office@fumcpdx.org

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.

Portland's First United Methodist Church Friends of Music in conjunction with the Rose Festival present a ...



CARNIVAL OF SOUND

Organist Jonas Nordwall & the Big Horn Brass
in an afternoon of music from popular movies & well-known composers

Sunday, June 12, 2011 at 3:00 PM

Portland's First UMC, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland
Tickets: \$15.00 / Students HS and under \$10.00

