



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

June 1, 2011
Volume 15, Issue 11

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

June 5
10:30 AM
Volunteer Recognition
Sunday

June 12
10:30 AM
Music 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



Portland's First United Methodist Church
Friends of Music
present a

CARNIVAL OF SOUND

an afternoon of music from
popular movies & well-known composers

Sunday, June 12, 2011
3:00 PM

Portland's First United Methodist Church
1838 SW Jefferson Street,
Portland, OR 97201



Featuring
Organist,
Jonas Nordwall
and the
Big Horn Brass



Tickets: \$15.00
Students HS and under \$10.00
503/228-3195
www.fumcpdx.org



CONFIRMATION CLASS 2011

The following youth were
confirmed on Sunday, May 22, 2011:
Cameron Backus
Erika Dvorak
Brett Graver
Jackson Hale
Alice Hermach
Madison Kenney
Ian Schipper



OREGON-IDAHO
CONFERENCE
OF THE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

memo

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

Oregonians are familiar with “Ski Season,” “Hunting Season” and “Fishing Season.” United Methodists know “Annual Conference Season.” It’s that time—roughly May through June when congregations in regions around the world gather for annual meetings.

Our annual conference (comprising UM congregations in Oregon and Southern Idaho) will be called to order by Bishop Hoshibata on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Convention Center in Salem, Oregon. In three and a half days the members will share reports of our common missions, recognize persons and churches for exceptional ministries, consecrate, ordain and retire clergy, be challenged for more effective service, and consider proposals for new efforts. This year the Conference will consider a resolution to halt global warming that was drafted and submitted by our own Planet Church. It has already received unanimous endorsement from a pre-conference task force.

In addition to your appointed clergy, First Church is sending three lay members: Bill Birge, Cheryl Bittle and Marge Terdal. Several other First UMC members will participate representing other Conference organizations.

Everyone is welcome—and encouraged—to come to Salem for a “Change the World” workshop on Saturday, June 18, 2011. The event will be led by the Rev. Michael Slaughter, pastor of Ginghamburg UMC in Ohio and one of the most dynamic leaders in our denomination. His new book, *Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus*, will be the basis of his talks. Our Bishop promises that this workshop will, “...encourage and inspire (us) to engage in mission that reaches the neighborhood and the community outside the walls of (our) church!” To find out more about this workshop (and the rest of the Conference) visit www.umoi.org and follow the Annual Conference link! There a \$25 fee for visitors—a small investment that will pay big dividends!

Also at the conference First UMC’s delegation will be presenting our “Change Hunger Fast” offerings. Your participation is vital! Baskets to receive your pocket change will be in the sanctuary the next two Sundays. Alleviating hunger is a priority for all who follow Christ. Let’s make a real difference through our gifts to the Bishop’s Initiative Against Hunger!

Please keep the church and its mission in your thoughts and prayers not only during “Annual Conference Season” but always.

See you in church!

Arvin

AN ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE ■ SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2011

An All-Church Conference will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2011 at about 12:15 PM in the Fireside Room. The agenda for the “called” conference will be: the annual election of church officers, adoption of the Peace Church Statement, adoption of congregational policies to prevent sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and a reconfiguration of the Senior Pastor’s compensation. Dr Lowell Greathouse, Assistant to the Bishop for the Metro District, will preside. Members and constituents of First Church are encouraged to participate.

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. You are invited to express your good wishes with a card to them to be brought to the celebration in Collins Hall or if you prefer, you may drop it off before that day at the church office or mail it there with a notation that it be placed in the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) mailbox.

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

this and that

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.

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.

CALLING ALL BAKERS

We want to have the best treats of the Rose Festival! On Sunday, June 12, 2011 at 3:00 PM, Portland First UMC will present the Carnival Of Sound Rose Festival Concert featuring Jonas Nordwall and the Big Horn Brass. This event will bring many new friends to our church and we want to provide a warm greeting. The Parish Conference and the Music Committee are hosting a coffee and dessert reception in Collins Hall immediately following the concert. Will you help us by sharing some of your favorite summer treats? You can bring your baked items to the Collins Hall kitchen either before church, or before the concert. Please have them clearly marked "For Concert Reception." Thank you. Contact Debby Fisher or Kelly Qualls if you have questions.

METHODIST HIKERS

Our next hike will be Wahkeena Falls Loop on June 18, 2011. Co-Leaders for this hike are Cathy Connall & Jim Teisher. This lovely five-mile Columbia Gorge hike is moderately difficult because of the climb. We will leave the First UMC parking lot at 9:00 AM and will car pool to the trail head. Please email Cathy at cathyconnall@msn.com or call 503.310.7156 if you are planning on joining us. Let us also know if you are also interested in driving. The suggested contribution to the driver is \$4.00. Please bring snacks, water and dress appropriately. We will stop in Troutdale for lunch on the way home.



“CARE MAIL” UPDATE

“Care Mail”, the effort here to send needed items to Afghan children and US service personnel there, has struck a chord at First Church. Donations of supplies and cash to pay postage have been generous. First Church member Tamara Mucha, who was instrumental in bringing this effort to fruition writes:

“Our ‘Care Mail’ mission arose from an email sent by my cousin James, a U.S. Navy Chaplain serving in Afghanistan. I knew our congregation would respond compassionately by supporting our troops and the children met in the Afghan war-zone. Little did I know how voluminous that response would be! The people of First Church have once again demonstrated that we are truly “Living a Vibrant Faith: Believing, Thinking, Acting” as the hands and feet of Christ! To date we have received enough ‘Care Mail’ donations to fill approximately 15 flat rate postal boxes. Thank you all for your generous support in prayer and in deed!”

Donations of items and cash for postage will be welcomed at the Church Office through June 5, 2011.

As Tamara Mucha concludes, “Whether it is Memorial Day or any other day, please continue to keep our troops, their families, the Afghan people, and leaders of both countries in your prayers.”



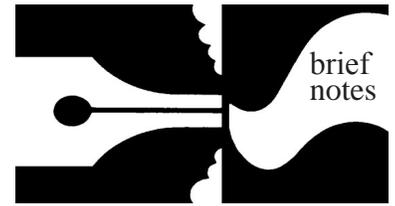
BREAD FOR THE WORLD DEADLINE APPROACHING

On Sunday, June 12, 2011 First Church will bless letters written by our members urging Congress to focus our aid dollars to more effectively help move poor nations out of hunger and poverty. For the past several weeks, sample letters and Congressional address information has been available at the Outreach Table in Collins Hall after worship.

It’s easy to participate. Please drop by the Outreach Table this Sunday, pick up a sample letter and return your own handwritten version on Sunday, June 12, 2011. You’ll also find more information about this nationwide program to urge our nation’s decision makers to strengthen our foreign assistance programs to end hunger.

DOWNTOWN COMPASSION

For the second year, Portland First United Methodist Church is one of several downtown churches sponsoring this event at the Portland Memorial Coliseum. The clinic will provide free medical and dental care for uninsured and underinsured individuals in the downtown Portland area, as well as other services such as haircuts, bicycle repair, childcare during the event, a Social Service Fair, and a warm meal. If you check the Bulletin Board just outside Megan’s Office, you can see photos of the 2010 clinic, including a group photo of the volunteers from First Church. It was a very successful event: more than 300 people received basic medical, dental, vision, or chiropractic care; 600 immunizations were given; and more than 1200 meals were served. We need even more volunteers to help this year. If you are a medical or dental provider - we need your help for the day. If you are not a health professional, there are at least a dozen other areas requesting volunteers. Visit the website at www.downtown-compassion.org for more information and plan to visit our informational table in the Commons starting June 5th.



REV. PEGGY LUCKMAN

Let all you do be done in love.
First Corinthians 16:14

Seven of the young people of our congregation were confirmed in a recent worship service that also included a baptism. The baby was adorable, and the confirmands were very poised young people. Having both of these very special events in one service served as a reminder that we are all on a journey of faith that spans our lifetimes. It also highlighted the importance of Christian community.

During the baptism, all of us promised to encourage young Alexander as he grows. Thirteen years from now, he too may be one of the confirmands as he affirms the faith his parents have promised to teach him and we have promised to nurture.

During confirmation, as each youth knelt in worship to accept his or her blessing, the hopes of parents who had presented them for baptism years earlier were fulfilled. Nurtured through the years by family, teachers, youth leaders and friends who shared their love of Jesus and Christianity with them, the young people made the choice to be confirmed as Christians.

Having welcomed them into the membership of the church, let us also welcome them into our hearts, and continue to do all we can to nurture them in faith. Welcome Alexander, Alice, Brett, Cameron, Erika, Ian, Jackson and Madison!

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 15, 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.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

We will be meeting regularly on the second and fourth Wednesdays through the summer. The group is going to be reading the book *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell. If we end up talking about the book, that is great, but reading this book is not a requirement to come to the dinner! Our next gathering will be in the evening on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at Megan Humphreys-Loving's house. For more information, email mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org

YOUTH LUNCH

First Church youth are invited to head out to lunch to a Lebanese restaurant downtown on Sunday, June 12, 2011. Meet in Collins Hall at 12:15 after worship, and bring \$10 for food!

this and that

