



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

June 15, 2011
Volume 15, Issue 12

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

June 19
10:30 AM
Laity Sunday
Peace with Justice Sunday

June 26
10:30 AM
Rev. Dr. Arvin Luchs'
Farewell Service and
Retirement Reception



Portland First United Methodist Church declares that we will be an advocate for peace in our local communities and world. 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



The lifeblood of First Church is an energetic and capable cadre of volunteers. Nearly 500 unique individuals volunteer in some phase of First UMC's ministries and mission. We celebrate and give God thanks for our Volunteers of the Year who exemplify for us the amazing efforts of so many.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

GEORGE RIVES

George Rives was presented the Wesley Spirit Award. It is given annually to a volunteer who expresses a rich blend of service and spirituality. It's just the way of life for George. In the years he has blessed our congregation he has served in most of the major offices and shaped who we are. His keen mind has guided our understanding of the Bible. He continues to be active in the changing Christianity Class.

KAY WARD

Kay Ward is a newer member of First Church, but not new to United Methodism. In her relatively brief time among us she has made a big difference: initiating a robust ping-pong ministry each Thursday evening and founding the Tabitha Sewing Circle with the United Methodist Women. In addition Kay pitches in to help in the office and with Church School. She is the worthy recipient of the Guy Wheaton Award for service within our congregation.

SARAH BAKER

Sarah Baker is the quiet spoken, but energetic, co-chair of our Global Mission Committee. She has been involved in several Volunteer in Mission trips, organized forums on world mission issues and helped First Church play an active role in serving around our region and the world. Sarah was recognized with this year's Lewis Hughes Award for mission serving beyond our walls.

Congratulations, George, Kay and Sarah. You exemplify the spirit of leadership and rich faith that is characteristic of this congregation and so vital for Christ's mission today.



memo

Rev. Dr.
Arvin R.
Luchs

It seems like we just arrived at First Church. Yet the calendar doesn't lie. On June 30, Sue and I will have completed ten wonderful and eventful years with you. Over those years, we've danced and celebrated moments of great joy—and we've held each other in times of crisis, grief and loss. I've been honored with a special place in your families, your most significant celebrations, and sharing some of your deepest needs. But, perhaps, most important of all, I have appreciated your trust and confidence.

The Epistle we call "James" contains a rich treasure of wisdom. He reflects on life—the testing, the challenges as well as the high moments and wonder—and he suggests that in God's grace we may "count it all joy!" I know I speak for my spouse, Sue, as well as myself when I count our time together a joyful blessing and want you to know my sincere thanks and appreciation for all you have to make that true—and more that you probably didn't know you gave! I can't imagine a more compassionate, caring, supportive, and affirming faith-family than you.

I commend you to my worthy successor, the Rev. Donna Pritchard!

And I commend Rev. Pritchard to you!

She brings a wealth of experience and talent with her. Not only has she capably led congregations around western Oregon, she has been a District Superintendent, (now "Assistant to the Bishop") actively guiding our local and regional ministries. She has also been a leader in our Jurisdiction and the church nationally and internationally. I've heard glowing reports from those who have served with her or been members of congregations where she was appointed. With her guidance paired with the outstanding staff she will inherit, I am confident you will thrive and realize new dimensions of mission.

May I say a word of appreciation to the staff? The men and women who serve in program and administrative roles among you are dedicated and visionary servants. Portland bills itself, "The City that Works" (and sometimes it does). Your church staff is at the core of sustaining "A Church that Works!"—and does so without faltering. I treasure the teamwork we have shared, and I am grateful for the countless ways they have contributed to this vital place of mission!

I would be remiss not to say a special word about my colleague, The Rev. Peggy Luckman. Her spiritual vitality, far-reaching vision of mission, dedication to justice and dignity combine with her engaging, relational style to have made her a real asset to my ministry and to this church. You are in good hands!

United Methodists have a long tradition of "itineration." In the earliest days clergy moved every year! (Supposedly because no preacher had a "barrel" of sermons rich enough to support a congregation's interest for more than 52 Sundays.) I hope that has not been true during my tenure—but who am I to judge?

Thankfully we've had ten times that to share together. And now after a total of 43 years of itineration, it's time to make one last move—into "retired relationship" (a polite term—John Wesley called retirees "worn out preachers!"). It will be unknown territory—neither Sue nor I have been without daily employment since we started high school. So we're not making big plans—just "easing" into a new phase of life.

Please know that you will always be in my heart and prayers. But please also understand that after this month Rev. Pritchard and Rev. Luckman will be your pastors. I do not want to impede their relationship with you by accepting invitations from members and friends to perform baptisms, weddings, funerals, do counseling, hospital calling or perform other pastoral functions. Sue and I intend to become active in another United Methodist congregation in the area.

I bid you God's blessings as you move into new and exciting dimensions of mission and service.

We'll share one more Sunday together—June 26, 2011.

See you in church!

Arvin

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

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

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

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 19: The Crucible

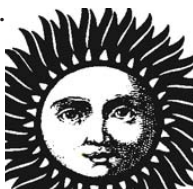
The Crucible by Arthur Miller. This play is set in Massachusetts at the time of the Salem Witch trials. It is considered an allegory of Miller's experiences in the McCarthy era of the 1950s.

July 17, 24, 31: JB

J.B. by Archibald MacLeish. This play is based on the Biblical story of Job. 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.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SOON!

Summer Sunday School starts June 19, 2011. Join us in Room 205 for activities, Bible lessons, fun, and friends. We will all be in "One BIG Room" so kids ages 3-12 are welcome to attend following the Children's Time in worship. Questions about how to volunteer to help out with Sunday school can be directed to Megan Humphreys-Loving: mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org



PRAYERS & CONCERNS



PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The family and friends of Robert Fulton, Bob died on June 6, 2011 at the age of 89. He was a member of our Chancel Choir for a number of years. No services were requested.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING ...

Judie Carpenter, is now home following rehab ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Betty Hager, dealing with some health issues ...

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

Doris Lavelly, Grace Renfro, Karen Smith, Eleanor Stubbs, and Virginia Townend

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING ABROAD ...

Jared Bomberger, who is serving in Iraq ...

THANK YOU OREGON FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the five volunteers who turned out for the Oregon Food Bank volunteer day on Saturday, June 4, 2011. Together with other volunteers from the community we packed 7,313 pounds of potatoes. This will help to provide 5,625 meals to people all around the State of Oregon. Keep your "eyes peeled" for another opportunity to serve in God's great world this summer.



YOUTH 2011 - SACRAMENTO, CA

This summer, the youth of First UMC have a great opportunity to be in service, worship, and fellowship with youth from other United Methodist Churches from all across the country.

On July 26, 2011 young people from youth groups far and away will be gathering in Sacramento for Youth 2011, the national youth gathering for the United Methodist Church. It is an event that only happens every four years and is the largest single gathering of UMC youth in existence. This four day conference will bring together top United Methodist leaders as well as the best ecumenical speakers, bands and talent with thousands of youth from all around the nation for what is sure to be a life-changing event.

There are five youth and two adults who will be attending from our church. Can you help us get there? We need to raise \$4,393.70 to make this opportunity possible.

The Wall O'Money is a fund raiser that we launched in June. Come to Collins Hall and see a large bulletin board with information about the trip and how you can help make it happen!



DOWNTOWN COMPASSION CLINIC

Date: Saturday, July 9, 2011,
from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Coliseum

In addition to recruiting volunteers for this upcoming event, First Church will also be collecting Personal Care Items, which will be distributed to the uninsured and underinsured guests who will be receiving care at the free medical and dental clinics that day. Living on the streets, or with a very restricted income, makes everyday purchases of these supplies difficult.



Congratulations to the graduating high school seniors of First Church:

- Mary Dahn
- Isabel English
- Michael Hall
- Kyle Kempton
- Carter Lassetter
- Koty Pavan
- Elisse Saito
- Emily Schechtman
- Keely Vedanayagam
- Sarah Williams

Congratulations to those graduating from college:

- John Allen, Macalaster
- Julia Kayser, Stanford
- Michelle Fisher, Cornell
- Aaron Anderson, Cornell
- Sarah Goff, Grinnell
- Kelly Greathouse, Pacific University

If we have overlooked a graduate please let the church office know at office@fumcpdx.org or 503/228-3195.

Allow us to join in celebrating your accomplishments!



REV. PEGGY LUCKMAN

Let all you do be done in love.

First Corinthians 16:14

There will be many loving actions by the members of First UMC this summer. Some examples are: Our farewell celebration of the ministry of Dr. Luchs and welcoming our new pastor, Rev. Donna Prichard; the Downtown Compassion Clinic in July; financial support for four youth who will travel to Sacramento to attend the National UMC Youth Event the end of July; Renee Harber's participation on a mission team going to Kenya; and a mission team who will travel to Utah to work at the UMCOR West Depot the last week in August.

Our 2011 Lowell Greathouse Community Interns are Emily Wright (who will be working with the Portland Police Bureau in a program for teen girls) and Julia Tawney, (who hopes to be involved in some aspect of low income housing work.)

A newly formed Youth Ministry Committee will begin planning for the fall. A Hospitality team is already working on ways to become a more welcoming congregation. Adults, as well as young people, may acolyte. Choir members will be singing for worship after a pre-worship practice, and you are welcome to participate. The Fall Program guide will be created in July. Young Adults will be meeting. Special family activities are being planned. Volunteers will teach Sunday School for our children. Classes will be available for adults on Sunday mornings. Church orientations will be offered for people wanting to know more about First Church.

In the beautiful days of summer, we continue the work of ministry as we worship and study together, support our mission teams, send out our interns and compassion clinic volunteers, and prepare for a Fall of ongoing opportunities for learning and service in Christ's name. If you cannot physically participate in these events, I invite you to be in prayerful support.

Peggy

united methodist women

caring & sharing

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.

PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 9:30 AM in Room 110.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Tuesday, June 28, 2011 (note date change) Circle of Friends will visit the Oregon Garden, a spectacular 80 acre botanical garden in Silverton. We will meet at the church at 10:00 AM and carpool. Admission to the garden is \$9.00. In addition, we will enjoy lunch in the Garden View Restaurant. We will need reservations for lunch, so please let Hazelee Stevenson know if you plan to attend, 503/283-0041.

UMW SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

The theme for the 2011 School of Christian Mission is "All Things Made New" held July 14-17, 2011 at George Fox College in Newberg. The geographical study will be *Haiti: Challenges and Hope*, which will give an overview of the cultures that shaped Haiti's past and the ongoing legacy of colonialism, along with glimpses into the heart and soul of Haiti's people, and the impact of the 2010 earthquake. The spiritual growth study will be *The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice and Reconciliation*. The third study will be *Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity*. For more information and registration forms contact Marion Hollenberg at 503/640-3270 or Trudy Kayser at 503/292-7528.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Sunday, June 19, 2011 United Methodists across the nation celebrate our ministries in peacemaking and justice with an offering that is jointly shared between regional efforts and international justice ministries. Offering have funded aid to people victimized by the ongoing war over "conflict minerals" in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by empowering Congolese people to find ways to meaningfully close the gap between rich and poor. Others of our gifts help support church projects to strengthen peace-making in local communities around Oregon and southern Idaho. A special offering envelope will be in the bulletin next Sunday for your generous gifts.

A WORD FROM GLOBAL MISSIONS

Watch for a box in the Commons, throughout July and August, marked "UMCOR WEST." We are collecting sewing and layette kit supplies for the Greathouse VIM team. Our own Peggy Luckman and Sarah Baker will be on that team. Also, mark your calendar for Sunday, July 24, 2011 to hear Clara Biswas, our covenant missionary to Cambodia.



welcome

our new
chancel choir
conductor

ERICK LICHTÉ



Beginning with the annual Chancel Choir Retreat on September 9, 2011 Erick Lichte will be our new Chancel Choir conductor. He is a St. Olaf graduate and is currently on the faculty of Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We are excited to have him join the music staff here at First Church!

In the last ten years, Erick Lichte has carved out a distinct niche in the vocal music world and concert life in America. The Washington Post has hailed the "audacity" of his programming, the Chicago Tribune has noted the "meticulous preparation" of his choirs and Fanfare Magazine declared that he created and helmed "the premier men's vocal ensemble in the United States."

As a founding member, singer and Artistic Director of the male vocal ensemble Cantus, Lichte created and sustained one of the two full-time vocal ensembles in the nation. From 2000-2009, Lichte's programming and artistic direction was heard in over 60 concerts a year in such venues as Kennedy Center, Library of Congress, Merkin Hall, San Francisco Performances, Oregon Bach Festival, UCLA and Spivey Hall, to name a few. He has collaborated with artists such as Bobby McFerrin, the Boston Pops, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Doc Severinsen, Minnesota Orchestra, James Sewell Ballet and poet Robert Bly.

This season Lichte served as Director of the Minnesota Compline Choir, Assistant Artistic Director of the Twin Cities Women's Choir, Interim Artistic Director of One Voice Mixed Chorus. He is also on faculty at Augsburg College where he conducts the men's choir and is choir director at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

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 29, 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 PRIDE PARADE 2011

On Sunday, June 19, 2011 Reconciling Ministries invites you to join church members, family and friends to participate in the 2011 Portland Gay Pride Parade and Activities at Tom McCall Waterfront Park on Sunday, June 19, 2011. Participants will meet at the church and follow the choir into worship for a blessing before leaving for the parade. You will receive a t-shirt stating "In God's House, All Are Welcome," an umbrella to use, water and a snack. Last year, we had well over 39 First UMC folks, which included families and friends of the church. Let's try to beat that number this year.

pride parade

young adults

YOUNG ADULTS

The Young Adults of First UMC will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, beginning with a meal at 6:00 PM with conversation to follow. Contact Rev. Peggy Luckman for further details, pluckman@fumcpdx.org.