



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

September 28, 2011
Volume 15, Issue 20

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 2
10:30 AM
Worldwide
Communion Sunday

October 9
10:30 AM



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



WE ARE NOT
MAKING
POVERTY
A GAME ...
WE ARE
GIVING YOU A
challenge

Poverty Simulation
Experience, Saturday,
October 1, 2011 from
10:00 AM to Noon

CHALLENGING POVERTY AT FIRST CHURCH!

Imagine for a moment that you and your family are suddenly homeless.

- ... You have no job.
- ... No health insurance and no means of obtaining needed prescription drugs.
- ... You have no rent money.
- ... No food money, only food stamps.
- ... Your children need clothing.
- ... You have no family members to turn to.
- ... You've been turned away from public housing.

In all, your situation looks pretty hopeless. Where do you go to get help?

You can do more than just imagine what that would be like. You can actually experience it, here at First Church on Saturday, October 1, 2011.

Our first ever "Poverty Simulation Experience" takes place at 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 1, 2011 in Collins Hall. Plan to attend. You will never forget the experience of living "on the edge" as one of Portland's poor or homeless residents. This outstanding program, led by a facilitator from the Oregon State University Extension Service and funded by the Bishop's Initiative to Eliminate Hunger, is a life changing event for many who participate. Won't you please join us on October 1st?

For more information email: mohlson@fumcpdx.org



a message from our pastor

Rev. Donna Pritchard

“The Shared Life.” That is our theme for the month of October. You’ll find it expressed in worship and sermons:

- October 2 *Our Shared Table* (World Communion Sunday)
- October 9 *Our Shared Vision*
- October 16 *Our Shared Ministries* (Laity Sunday)
- October 23 *Our Shared Essentials*
- October 30 *Our Shared History/Herstory* (All Saints’ Celebration)

You’ll find it fleshed out in our Shared Life groups, meeting once a week for four weeks. These small groups (six - eight participants per group) will be led by trained group members and will follow the same format each week: Opening prayer, the reading of a Psalm, a few non-threatening (and fun!) questions to share with each other, followed by a group activity to go a little deeper, and ending with a New Testament Scripture, a closing prayer and a song. The goal of these groups is to begin to meet the stated desire of the congregation to find more ways to “connect” with each other. We also hope this experience will help us tell our faith stories to each other, while deepening our own Christ-connection. It’s not too late to register for a group ... just call the church office TODAY!

Saturday, October 1st, our Shared Life expands to a consideration of poverty in our extended community. Join us for an award-winning “Poverty Simulation” experience, from 10:00 AM to noon in Collins Hall.

We will share some learning and growing through two October Forums as well. October 2nd Bill Haden will speak about his experiences with Africa University, a United Methodist institution of higher education in Zimbabwe. October 16 our Reconciling Ministries will help us consider issues involved with parenting along the sexual identity continuum.

October 23rd join us, after worship, for some shared fun, at our annual Harvest Festival. There will be games, crafts, and activities for all ages – with or without your Halloween costume!

Finally, we will use October to explore our Shared Life commitments as we roll out our annual Stewardship Campaign. We will celebrate the work of our church, and the goals we have set for ourselves in the coming year, as we give you the chance to support this common work through your own giving.

These are just a few of the ways we will “share life” during the month of October. I hope you will join me in celebrating the blessings of our common life here at First Church, because truly ... “The Shared Life” is what church is all about!

Donna

THIS & THAT



THE PARKER GROUP

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, October 1, 2011 in Room 202 at 12:30 PM for a potluck lunch and program. Bring a dish to share. Our speaker will be Rev. Donna Pritchard. For more information contact Melba Rizzo at 503/635-6716 or Lorraine Johnson at 503/236-9620.

YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please hold in your hearts the opportunity to work with the youth of First UMC. We are looking for a handful of folks who are available from 9:30 to 10:15 AM to teach Youth Sunday School. Curriculum is provided. If you are at all intrigued about what it might be like to “round table” with our next generation, lets talk more! Contact Megan Humphreys-Loving at mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org

FIBER ARTISTS WANTED

The Creative Spirits Committee invites you to participate in a Fiber Arts Display to be held in Collins Hall in the months of November and December, 2011. If you have an art you would like to display (such as print making, needlework, knitting, crochet, embroidery, counted cross stitch, rug making, quilts, wall hangings, silk scarf painting, weaving, calligraphy, collages) you are invited to submit an application to enter your work in this showing. Registration forms are in the church office and must be back to the church by October 2, 2011. For more information, contact Ruth Green or Pastor Peggy Luckman.

SUPPORT THE VIM TEAM TO PALESTINE/ISRAEL

On October 22, 2011 our First Church's Volunteer in Mission team will leave for the Holy Land. “Shares” can be purchased for \$10 Sundays in Collins Hall. A share will entitle you to a postcard from a member of the team! You may also purchase olive oil and other Fair Trade Products from Canaan Fair Trade. Profits from the shares and sales will be given to further the work at sites the team will visit in Palestine. A blog, accessible through “Volunteers in Mission” (on the First UMC web page at fumcpdx.org) allows you to enjoy pre-trip news about the team members and frequent postings as the team travels.

FAMILY FRIENDLY HIKE

We invite you to join us for a hike under the beautiful trees of Tryon Creek State Park. Join Bob Wilson, our naturalist extraordinaire, and Megan Humphreys-Loving on Saturday, October 15, 2011. We will meet in front of the nature center at 10:00 AM. The hike will be a bit under two hours and will be appropriate for all ages and abilities. Sign up to attend in Collins Hall following worship.

TOUR OF OREGON PUBLIC BROADCASTING STUDIOS

On November 7, 2011, join us for a tour that will include a “backstage” look at the broadcast studios and central control room of Oregon Public Broadcasting. We will meet at First Church on November 7, 2011 at 10:00 AM and carpool to the studio with a projected return to First Church by 3:00 PM. Lunch will be catered and served in the studio. Registration is \$15.00 and includes lunch. Sign up deadline is October 20, 2011. To register for First Church travel events contact: Christine Bostick, Church Administrator at 503/228-3195 ext. 222 or cbostick@fumcpdx.org.

REV. PEGGY LUCKMAN

For you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- Galatians 3:28b

The reading group that meets in the library once a month introduced me to the author Wendell Berry. I am intrigued by his ability to write about the simplest things and at the same time give the reader an appreciation for the deeper story that ties the simplest of life experiences to the life of the community.

Being on staff here at First Church gives me an opportunity to participate in many of those simple moments in life. After spending a few minutes in worship this past Sunday, I left with the children to teach the kindergarten and first graders about communion. We talked about why we do communion, and how we do it. We sang a song. We used sign language as we said, “We remember Jesus.”

After worship I spent some time with our new acolytes, young children eager to light our worship candles and put them out. Though a simple action, the children knew it was “to bring the light of Christ into the service and then to take it out.” Their enthusiasm was so full of joy.

A tender service of remembrance of Betty Hager (aka “Hager the Hugger”) followed and I was able to learn more about this woman who had blessed my life with her joy in serving others.

The work day concluded with a Blessing of the Animals. Dogs and kittens and their caretakers were together as we paused to thank God for each animal and to ask God's blessing upon them.

Berry would love a day like this. He would see that in each event there is deeper story that draws us together in community and enriches our lives. Thank you for the allowing me to be here and to participate in such special moments with you.

Peggy

adult Sunday School Classes

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

This class meets each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM in Room 202. On October 9, 2011 the class will begin discussing *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, by Karen Armstrong.

FAITH LINKS

This class meets each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in Room 134. Faith Links is a new adult class that is forming. Following a time of fellowship, the class will discuss a topic taken directly from today's headlines and consider coordinating Scriptures.

SHORT-TERM CLASSES: NURTURING OUR FAITH

Classes meet each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in the Fireside Room

Living the Questions

September October 2 & 9, 2011 - Led by Martha Powell

The Parables of the Kingdom

October 16, 23, 30, & November 6, 2011
Led by Gene Gregory and Rev. Peggy Luckman

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The family and friends of Betty Hager, who died September 19, 2011. Her memorial service was held at First Church on Sunday, September 25th.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Doris Lavley, who now under hospice care ...
Suzanne Webster, who is now under hospice care ...
Dorothy Lomen, who is recovering from surgery.
Dorothy is the mother of Rev. Donna Pritchard ...
Joan Hill, who is at St. Vincent's ...*

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

Virginia Bender, Peggy Cook, Judie Carpenter, Kevin Downey, Ted Hoch, Doris Lavelly, Kitty Riddle, Karen Smith, and Kyong Vaandering

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING ABROAD ...

*Jared Bomberger, who is serving in Iraq ...
A. J. Jennings, who is serving in Turkey ...*



AFRICA UNIVERSITY FORUM

Sunday, October 2, 2011 at noon in the Fireside Room there will be a forum on Africa University. First UMC member, Bill Haden, commutes between Zimbabwe and Portland as he serves on the board of Africa University. He will share his experiences in that troubled land as he tells how this United Methodist mission project is making a difference to the students and their families. The Global Mission committee will serve an African-themed meal.

A FORUM: GAY PARENTING ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES

Join Reconciling Ministries on Sunday, October 16, 2011 at noon in the Fireside Room for a stimulating conversation with a fantastic panel of experts on LGBT parenting. We'll explore these issues and more, as well as how our faith community can support same-sex parents in this one-hour interactive panel discussion. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered singles and couples have overcome many obstacles in the last 40 years. Today, LGBT couples are living more openly than ever, yet when it comes to parenting, old stereotypes are pervasive. A recent national poll found that 48% are "unsure" if gays and lesbians could be good parents while 36% are outright opposed to gay and lesbian adoptions. Although only four states remain that outright ban gay adoption, gay and lesbian parents still face a myriad of complex legal issues and long-standing prejudices.

HUNGER: BREAD FOR THE WORLD

On Sunday, November 13, 2011 at noon in the Fireside Room will be the forum: *Hunger: Bread for the World*. You won't want to miss hearing about this amazing organization and getting an update on the state of hunger in our country and around the world. You will also learn how to connect with others who are changing the systems that make it difficult to address hunger.





**HARVEST FESTIVAL,
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2011**

Parents and kids are invited to attend a Harvest Festival after worship on Sunday, October 23. We will have games, crafts, and activities for kids of all ages. Wear or bring your Halloween costume (not a scary one!) to church and then come and celebrate the fall season with the Youth Group as your hosts in Room 202 at noon.

55 ALIVE

The next 55-Alive Driving Course will be offered: Tuesday and Wednesday, October 18 & 19, 2011

55-Alive is a unique program for older drivers. This popular course is offered three times a year at First UMC. Each day the class runs from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$12.00 for AARP members with cards and \$14.00 for non-members. Make checks payable to: AARP. To register, call the church office at 503/228-3195.



LABYRINTH & SONG

Mark your calendars for Labyrinth and Song, Friday November 4 & 5, 2011. Watch the next Circuit Rider for details, or refer to the Fall Program Guide.



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 UNIT MEETING

The UMW Unit will meet Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. The program, *Follow the Journey of Your Mission Dollar*, will also feature the story of the "Lost Coin." Bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

TABITHA CIRCLE

The Tabitha Circle will meet Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 1:00 PM in Room 202. At 1:30 PM, Ruth Green will be presenting a small demo program on a unique way to apply appliqué. Chair: Kay Ward 971/255-1430

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United Fall Forum will meet Friday, October 7 at Maranatha Church of God located at 4222 NE 12th Avenue, Portland. Registration is at 9:30 AM and the meeting begins at 10:00 AM. Sandra Evan Falconer will present the program, *Movement and Health*. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare 503/292-1773

THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at noon in Room 204. Liz Jacobs will present the program on Heifer International, a program begun in 1944 that is dedicated to ending hunger in the world. It supplies livestock and training to families that enables them to feed themselves rather than relying on a handout. The families then agree to "pass on the gift" by donating the female offspring of this animal to another family so that the gift is never ending. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773.

**OREGON-IDAHO CONFERENCE
UMW ANNUAL MEETING**

The Oregon-Idaho Conference UMW Annual Meeting's theme will be, *Sharing the Gift of Ideas ... Celebrating Creativity*. It will be held Saturday, October 22, 2011 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Hillsboro United Methodist Church. Please send registration form and a fee of \$12.50 by October 10, 2011 to Kathy Hanna at 541 NE Goldie Drive, Hillsboro, Oregon 97214-2122.

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 October 19, 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.



NEW PROGRAM: N-YAC (Not-Your Average Campfire)

Join Mark Woodward in the Chapel at 9:00 AM for singing campfire favorites, gospel songs, and more. This 25-minute time together will be a great way to start your Sunday mornings before going to class. This exciting new program is open to all!



from

the

FRONT

DESK

The front desk sees it all ... moment's of joy and grief ... moments of desperation and frustration (and that's just the pastor at the copy machine!) Seriously, the front desk is a unique vantage point from which to view the life of the church. I meet a lot of fascinating people and answer some interesting questions. That is why I love my job.

The passing of Betty Hager reminded me of another reason ... our volunteers. Each Thursday of a newsletter day, Betty would stop by my desk and kiss me on my bald forehead and say, "Maybe that will help it grow!" I will miss that! When you get your newsletter each month or admire the flowers in the courtyard say, "My! But doesn't First Church have a great group of volunteers!" Then take it one step further and give me a call and say, "How can I volunteer?" That is a question I love to answer!

Dave Jenkins, Administrative Assistant