



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

October 12, 2011
Volume 15, Issue 21

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 16
10:30 AM

October 23
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

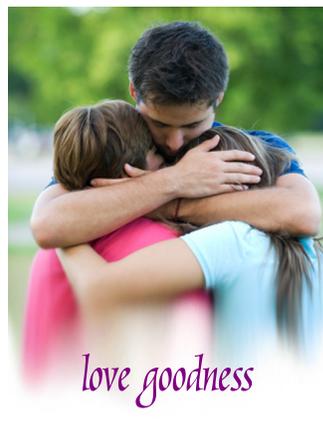
Supporting the Blessed Community

*God has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what the Lord requires of you:
only to do justice ...
and to love goodness ...
and to walk modestly with your God.*

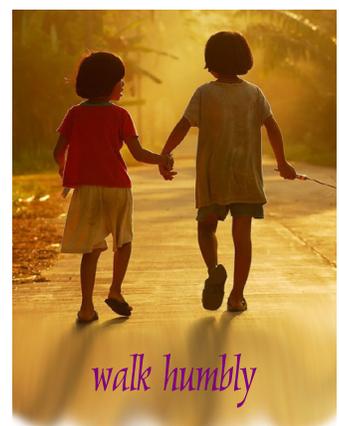
Micah 6:8



do justice



love goodness



walk humbly

Senior Pastor, Donna Pritchard, and leaders of our church have been working productively to refine the focus of our efforts and ministries for next year, 2012.

To support and sustain our church's ministries, Sonja Connor and Ralph Bolliger have, once again, graciously agreed to co-chair the 2012 Financial Campaign. They sent to each family of our congregation on October 8, 2011, a request for your commitment to our ministries in 2012, along with a budget reflecting our commitment to ... do justice ... to love goodness ... and to walk modestly with our God. If you did not receive their letter, please let us know and they will send another letter to you. If possible, we would like to hear from everyone by **Sunday, November 20**. Doing so will allow us to have a better sense of where we stand and what still needs to be done for next year. Thank you for your careful consideration of your church's mission and ministries.

If you have any questions about our efforts to attract the resources necessary to be the church that the Holy One intends, please contact either Sonja [503/226.0529] or Ralph [503.644.9311].



**a message
from our
pastor**
**Rev. Donna
Pritchard**

I recently came across a little advice on “How to Make or Break a Habit,” which I thought helpful or at least intriguing. The advice was broken down into four simple steps designed to help you break an unwanted habit or add a new one into your life:

No. 1 – Do it immediately.

This seems to imply that procrastination is the enemy of real change. That certainly has been true in my experience, as I think about the number of times I have decided to stop doing something, or add something else into my life. The longer the gap between the decision point and the action point, the less likely I am to make the change.

No. 2 – Do it flamboyantly.

Of course this is my favorite of the four steps, because it feels playful. This also has the effect of increasing the visibility of my desired change, and keeps it in front of me and the world.

No. 3 – Tell others you intend to do it.

There is no substitute for the support – and accountability – for change when we let others in on our decision. It is much easier to follow through with change when we know that our spouse, children, friends, co-workers, or fellow disciples understand what we are trying to do and why we are doing it. And that they will notice when our enthusiasm begins to lag, or our zeal becomes a little tarnished.

No. 4 – Do it repeatedly.

I have heard it said that to really own a new habit or break an old one, you need to practice the new behavior consistently for at least six weeks. In my experience, the longer I practice, the better.

So what does all this have to do with a month spent focusing on “The Shared Life” of First United Methodist Church? I think quite a lot. For we grow in our faith and develop as disciples only as we practice particular habits. Habits like participating in worship, practicing daily prayer and meditation, joining with others to provide hands-on service in the larger community, and yes – even habits like intentional giving for the financial support of our ministry. This year’s Financial Campaign, “Supporting the Blessed Community” lifts up our goals in three main categories, based on a Biblical image of God’s requirements of us:

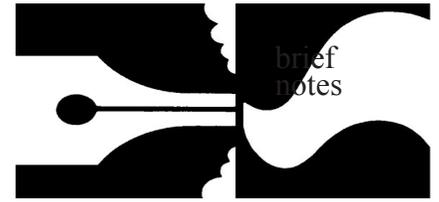
First, we seek as a church to **DO JUSTICE**, caring for the poor, safe-guarding the environment and supporting human rights. This we estimate will take about \$244,790 in 2012 if we are to accomplish all our goals.

Second, we want to **LOVE GOODNESS**, providing food and shelter through Goose Hollow Family Shelter and other local programs, caring for our own shut-ins and the bereaved, and extending our compassionate reach to the world through Volunteer in Mission experiences and global ministries of our church. This work will call for 25% of our overall budget, or about \$281,770 in the coming year.

And the third category of ministry has to do with **WALKING MODESTLY WITH GOD**, as we seek to provide meaningful worship, Christian education, high quality music, youth ministries, and a variety of small group learning and fellowship opportunities. For this work we will need \$591,630.

I want to encourage you to consider your habit of discipleship, especially when it comes to the sharing of your gifts. Is there a way you will grow by changing the habit of generosity – or perhaps by adding it into your faith practices for the very first time? If so, please consider making that change immediately (no time like the present), flamboyantly (and have a little fun with it), publicly (getting on the same page with some important folks in your life), and repeatedly (practice, practice, practice until this habit becomes a part of the new normal for you). Because, in the words of the prophet Micah: “God has showed you, O mortal, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: only to do justice, and to love goodness, and to walk modestly with your God.”

THIS & THAT



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.

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.

A FORUM: GAY PARENTING ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES

The forum on Gay Parenting Issues and Perspectives scheduled for Sunday, October 16, 2011 has been cancelled.

UNITED NATIONS DAY OBSERVANCE

United Nation's Day will be celebrated in Portland this year on Monday, October 24, 2011 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM in cooperation with the Oregon World Affairs Council at their Headquarters in the Oregon Historical Society Building at 1200 in the Park Blocks. The speaker will be Mr. Will Davis who heads the United Nations Information Office in our nation's capitol. Mr. Davis is, in effect the 24/7 spokesperson in Washington for Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. He is very knowledgeable and a riveting speaker. Marilyn Outslay, of First Church, has been designated by Bishop Hoshibata as liaison between Oregon-Idaho United Methodism and the Oregon Division of the United Nation's Association. David Poindexter, also of First Church, is president.

CLERGY & LAITY ROUND UP

Metro District is hosting a Round Up for clergy and laity on October 29, 2011 at Portland First United Methodist Church, from 9:00 AM. to 2:00 PM in Fireside Room, with guest presenter, Rev. John Flowers. This workshop, *Stepping Up Outreach*, details what can your church do to increase its presence in the wider community. Are you tapping all the ministry resources you can in to achieve ministry beyond the local church? Is your church effectively reaching out to the poor and marginalized in the community? John Flowers is currently co-pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Phoenix, with a focus on financial development, missions evangelism. Pastor Flowers possesses skills including thinking outside the box to take novel approaches to conflict and problem solving, developing ministries with the poor, and recruiting and working with volunteers. He has a D.Min. in Church Revitalization from McCormick Theological Seminary. Please register by notifying the Metro District office by phone at 503/249-1851 or e-mail: metrodistrictoffice@umoi.org.

REV. PEGGY LUCKMAN

Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth! - Psalm 100

In a recent Circuit Rider I wrote about the singing camp I attend on Orcas Island. Now you can experience a mini music camp right here at First Church! You will find details in this newsletter about Labyrinth and Song, but here is additional information.

At First Church we have an amazing group of musicians and the music they create is incredibly beautiful. Our choir is a wonderful mix of professional singers, interns, and people who simply love to sing! And wow! Do they sing!

At the music camp on Orcas Island, I rediscovered another kind of music making that most of us have experienced in our lives, and that is the music of the simple round. Rounds allow all who sing to participate, and in a short time to create beautiful harmonies together.

At Labyrinth and Song, we will learn simple, hauntingly beautiful, joyful, sacred, and some fun secular rounds. The rounds will be taught so that you can sing along, even if you do not read music!

We will also have the Labyrinth available for walking prayer in the Fireside Room both Friday evening and Saturday. If you love to sing, I hope you will join us for this time of making a joyful noise together. The minimal cost will be used for an honorarium for The Rev. Barbara Schultz who will be with us Friday evening, and for a lunch on Saturday. Don't forget to register!

Peggy

adult Sunday School Classes

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

The Parables of the Kingdom

October 16, 23, 30, & November 6, 2011

Led by Gene Gregory and Rev. Peggy Luckman

Labyrinth and Song

LABYRINTH & SONG

Dates: Friday & Saturday, November 4 & 5, 2011
Place: Chapel and Collins Hall
Friday: 7:00 - 8:30 PM, In the Chapel
Saturday: 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, Meet in the Chapel
Cost: \$20.00 and includes lunch on Saturday

Do you love to sing? Rev. Peggy Luckman and Rev. Barbara Schultz will be leading this singing and labyrinth meditation retreat. On Friday evening we will learn chants, rounds, and simple tunes that help us open our hearts to each other and to God. Saturday will include more singing, lunch together, and an opportunity to walk the labyrinth. You do not have to read music to participate in this event. Lunch is included in the cost. Registration forms are available in the church office or the Commons in Collins Hall. The registration deadline is October 25, 2011.

FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATIONS

If you would like to officially join First United Methodist Church or learn more about our congregation, then this two-hour session and simple meal is for you. Meet others who are interested in becoming a part of First Church. The next orientation will be **Sunday, October 23, 2011** from noon to 2:00 PM. If you would like to attend, contact the church office at 503/228-3195 or at pluckman@fumcpdx.org. Child care is available.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS & THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

The family & friends of Suzanne Webster; Suzanne died on September 28, 2011. Her service will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2011 at 2:00 PM in our Chapel ...

The Rev. Donna Pritchard, whose mother, Dorothy Lomen, died on October 1, 2011 in Olympia, WA ...

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

Margaret Allen, who is now under hospice ...

Joan Hill, who is in a rehab facility ...

Jane Lenon, who is in the infirmary at Willamette View following surgery ...

Al Snyder, who is home at Canfield Place after being hospitalized ...

Eleanor Stubbs, who is recovering from oral surgery ...

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

Virginia Bender, Peggy Cook, Judie Carpenter, 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 ...

THANKS FROM THE FOSTERS

The Fosters wish to express their appreciation for the concern, calls and cards during Tom's recent illness. He's much improved, and back on task.



*getting
to know
you ...*



**COME
AND
ENJOY**

Costumes
Donuts on a String
Balloon Animals
Face Painting
Lots of Candy

HARVEST FESTIVAL & POTLUCK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

Join the youth of First Church on Sunday, October 23, 2011, right after worship, for festivities and the celebration of the Harvest Season. The youth will host games and activities for children and the young-at-heart.

Also, join us for a Harvest Potluck. The Children and Family Ministries Committee will provide soup and bread. You are encouraged to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert:

Last name starts with **A-M**: bring salad or side dish

Last name starts with **N-Z**: bring dessert or fruit

Everyone is welcome!



**PLUG INTO
YOUTH NEWS**

LAST SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP SCAVENGER HUNT: OCTOBER 30

Join us for a Downtown Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, October 30, 2011. Meet in Collins Hall at noon with a sack lunch or money for "take out" lunch. We will take the MAX downtown and then embark on our hunt for all things Portland. We will return to the church, by MAX, at 2:00 PM. Don't forget your pass or money for MAX fares.

PARENTS OF YOUTH GATHERING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

While your youth are on a downtown extravaganza, come and have lunch and a conversation with Pastor Donna and other parents of youth. Meet in Room 202 at noon. The youth will leave at noon and return to the church by 2:00 PM. Lunch will be provided for parents.

**UMW 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 UNIT MEETING

The UMW Unit will meet Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. The program, *Serving Women and Children in Crisis*, will feature the role of UMW. This will also be the Pledge Service. Bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

UMW SINGING GROUP

Following the UMW Unit meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 join the new group getting together to sing for the fun of it!

TABITHA CIRCLE

The Tabitha Circle will meet Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 1:30 PM in Room 202. Members will continue their projects of totes for the women and children in the homeless shelter. Chair: Kay Ward, 971/255-1430

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The Church Women United will meet Friday, November 4, 2011 at Clackamas United Church of Christ located at 15303 SE Webster Road, Milwaukie. Registration is at 9:30 AM and the World Community Day Celebration begins at 10:00 AM. This year's theme is: *Living Our Faith, Unlocking Action*. 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 introduce the film, *12 Stones*, which documents Heifer International's work with illiterate women in Nepal and their journey out of poverty into self reliance. Liz will also tell of her personal experience in Tanzania where she visited three Heifer International farm projects. 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, *Sharing the Gift of Ideas ... Celebrating Creativity*, will be held Saturday, October 22, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Hillsboro United Methodist 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 October 26, 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.



POVERTY CHALLENGE REPORT

Carol Potter and Dora Luckert, playing the roles of single mom/young son, negotiate with Allison Anderson who portrays the part of a Department of Human Services official. The “Poverty Challenge” at First Church on October 1st, put participants in the roles of impoverished persons seeking services and others in the role of service providers – including a grocer, social worker, landlord, and banker among others. The purpose was to show everyone just how disheartening and difficult it is living “on the edge” as one of Oregon’s many poor and homeless citizens. A full report on the workshop was featured in the Sunday Oregonian, October 2nd. The workshop was made possible by a grant from the Bishop’s Initiative to Eliminate Hunger.

photo by Larry Sawyer



2012 UMCOR TRIP

Next Year, we are sending a team to Salt Lake City the week of June 3 - 9, 2012. Will you be one of the people going? We will spend five days working together at the UMCOR Depot West. The final cost is not yet available, but the most recent group to go paid a little more than \$600 for the week, which included air travel but not all the food. A \$100 deposit will secure your place on the trip. To be part of the team, contact Rev. Peggy Luckman or make your deposit through the church office.

BOOK SALE

The Church Library uses the proceeds from our used book sales to purchase new materials for the library. We are now accepting donations for our next book sale in February 2012. We generally accept any books, except for textbooks and Readers’ Digest or similar condensed books. Donations may be dropped off at the library on Sundays or at the church office during the week.