

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

www.fumcpdx.org

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

February 22, 2012
Volume 16, Issue 04

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 26
Worship at
10:30 AM

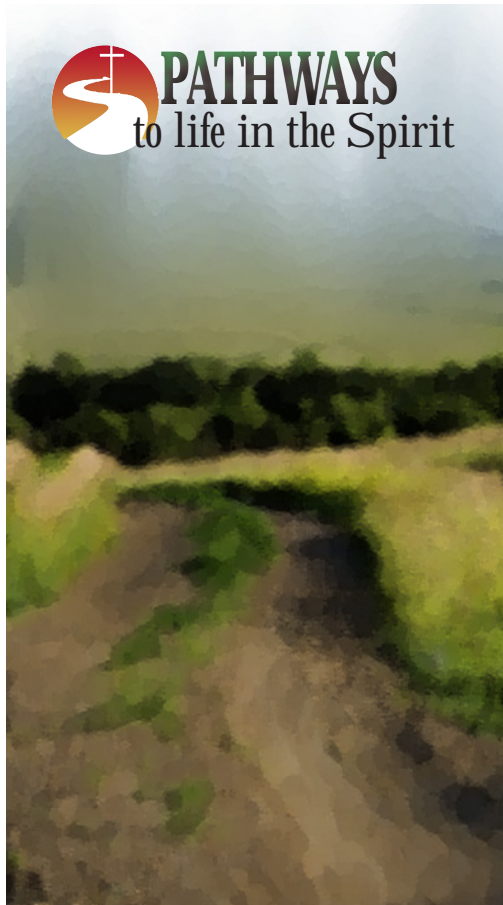
March 4
Worship at
10:30 AM



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



THE PATHWAY OF COMMUNITY: LENTEN SUPPERS

Lenten Suppers will provide an opportunity for us to connect with each other along the pathway. Supper will be served in Collins Hall from 5:30 to 6:30 PM each Wednesday (February 22 through March 28). Then from 6:30 to 7:15 we'll travel the path of Spiritual Practices. These short lessons will be geared for all ages:

Ash Wednesday: Beginning Path
February 22

Prayer Path: Centering Prayer
February 29

Prayer Path: Body Prayer
March 7

Scripture Path: Lectio Divina
March 14

Contemplative Path: Meditation
March 21

Praise Path: Spirit Singing
March 28

THE PATHWAY OF UNDERSTANDING

Reading provides a pathway to understanding in our relationship with God, each other, and the world. Barbara Brow Taylor's book, **An Altar in the World**, is available in the church office for \$10.

THE PATHWAY OF PRAYER

Prayer is a pathway to recognize God's presence in our lives and in the world. Lent is a great time to add or renew a commitment to daily prayer.

THE PATHWAY OF DEVOTION

Daily devotions at home are another pathway to spiritual growth. You can pick up Henri Nouwen's **Renewed for Life** booklet in the church office.

Lent

Not long ago, I was downtown, heading out to visit someone in southeast Portland, in a neighborhood I had never visited before. And I just couldn't quite believe it ... this could not be right. "The lady" – that is, the disembodied voice of my Global Positioning System was telling me to keep driving south. I had looked at the map before I left my office, and my destination didn't seem so far away. So obviously, the GPS was wrong!

I was faced with yet another difficult decision about trust. Should I keep going, keep following the guidance emanating from my dashboard? Should I patiently listen to each direction, taking each turn as I was told, without having to see four turns ahead?

Or, should I do what I often do ... decide that my memory is undoubtedly clearer than the technology's vision, and head back toward downtown? Should I give up on "the lady" and go it alone again?

Often this is the very question we ask, the very situation we face in the life of faith!

How often do we go to God in prayer, asking for God's guidance, seeking God's direction – and then decide that we undoubtedly know better, see more clearly, and can choose more easily the best path to take? As our patience wears thin, as our desire to see four turns ahead grows more intense, we give up on God and decide to go it alone.

It is not just about global positioning. It is about trust. In our own lives and in the life of the community. We all could get a little better at trust. Because spiritual maturity does not guarantee the ability to see "four turns ahead." But it does imply the patience to hang in there with God, knowing we are not going to get to our destination more quickly or easily by going it alone. If anything, we may only get ourselves more deeply lost.

The season of Lent is a great time for us to consider the lessons of trust. During these weeks before Easter we will be doing just that in Sunday morning worship and at our Wednesday Lenten Suppers. Using the theme of PATHWAYS we will practice trusting God and one another on those pathways that lead toward newness of life and the promise of Easter.

I hope you will join us... Sundays at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary; and Wednesdays in Collins Hall (supper from 5:30 – 6:30 PM and program from 6:30 to 7:00 PM).

Trusting ... Trusting ...

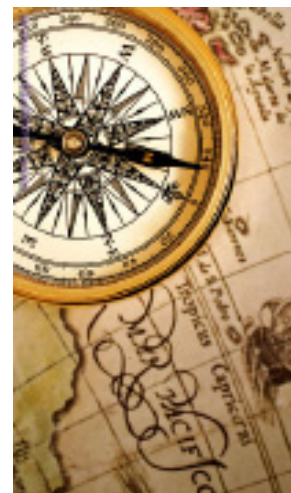
Rev. Donna

PS ... I did manage to trust "the lady" the other day. Guess what? She was right on!



a message
from our
pastor

Rev. Donna
Pritchard



prayers & concerns

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...

Frances LeFever, in the death of her mother,
Evangeline, who died February 6, 2012.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

David Sperling, who has an ongoing illness.
He is a friend of Cameron Backus.

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...

Virginia Bender, Judie Carpenter, Nancy Beth Davis,
Doris Lavelly, Olive Pomeroy, Jim Jozwiak,
and Kyong Vaandering ...



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, February 29 at noon at Creekside Retirement Residence in Beaverton. Lunch will be provided with Grace Renfroe as hostess. Trudy Kayser will present the program on Haiti. For those wishing to carpool from the First UMC parking lot, please contact Hazelee Stevenson at 503/283-0041 or Leah Vislisel at 503/648-6808.

PLANNING TEAM

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

UMW MARCH UNIT MEETING

The UMW Unit will meet Wednesday, March 7 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Marilyn Outslay will present the program from the 2011 Schools of Christian Mission: *Forgiveness, Restorative Justice & Reconciliation*. Bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

TABITHA CIRCLE

Joanne Weiss, chair of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is inviting all knitters to the next Tabitha Circle meeting on Wednesday, March 7 at 1:30 PM in Room 202. Dora Luckert will be introducing a new triangular shape for prayer shawls. She will demonstrate construction and provide written instruction. After this demonstration, Tabitha members will be cutting out fannel for receiving blankets to be part of the UMCOR birthing kits which members of the VIM group will take to the Salt Lake City Distribution Center in June.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The 2012 Human Rights Celebration: *Embracing Our Oneness*, will be the theme for CWU on Friday, March 2 at Bethel AME Church located at 5828 NE Eighth Avenue. 9:30 AM registration and the meeting begins at 10:00 AM. Contact: Betty-Lou Hare, 503/292-1773

Adult Sunday School Classes

CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

This class meets each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM in Room 202. The class is currently discussing *Speaking Christian* by Marcus Borg.

FAITHLINK

This class meets each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in Room 134. This weekly study analyzes current events from a Methodist perspective. FaithLink is a study for individuals or groups who want to apply their United Methodist beliefs to current faith issues and world events. This essential guide motivates Christians to consider their personal views on important contemporary issues. FaithLink also encourages action for beliefs. Please join us each Sunday for lively discussions and inspiration.

A SHORT-TERM ADULT CLASS: PATHWAYS THROUGH THE EPISTLES

For six weeks, Rev. Dr. Tom Rannells will lead the short-term class: *Pathways through the Epistles*. This class will meet February 26 - March 25, 2012 at 9:00 AM in Room 110. This class is an overview of Romans, I Corinthians, Ephesians, Hebrews and Philippians with detailed study of one passage from each of the letters. Participants are encouraged to bring their own Bible and to have read each letter prior to class.

A FORUM

PATHWAYS TO UNDERSTANDING SUICIDE

Pathways to Understanding Suicide will be presented on Sunday, February 26 from noon to 2:00 PM in the Fireside Room. A light lunch and child care will be provided.



Joan Schweizer Hoff, MA of Portland's Dougy Center and Leslie Storm of the Oregon Partnership a nationally certified suicide prevention organization will lead our forum. We will seek to gain better understanding of Prevention, Intervention and Postvention before, during and after this crisis or traumatic event has occurred. It is designed to help us better understand our experience as a congregation and help us be better prepared when crisis may occur. We will attempt to have a learning experience helpful for all including youth, young adults, family members. The events design will include discussion, question and answers and potential follow-up gatherings. Friends and interested persons are encouraged to attend.



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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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 March 7, 2012.

The Circuit Rider can be e-mailed to you. E-mail the church office at office@fumcpdx.org to request it by e-mail.

Address Service Requested

EXPLORE

WEB TEAM OPEN HOUSE

Please join us in Room 110 on Monday, February 27, from 6 to 7:30 PM, for a Website Open House. We'll be exploring tips and tricks about how to use the church website. Plus we'll be comparing notes and doing some training with the volunteers who help to manage it. If your group or committee is not currently listed on our website and you'd like to see it there, please join us.

If you'd like to join our web team, this is the place to be!

Contact Paul Adams, adams@cliffdweller.com, or click on the "Contact the Web Manager" link at the bottom of any page on the website for more details. <http://www.fumcpdx.org>.

PARKER GROUP

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

The Parker Group will meet Saturday, March 10, in Room 202. A potuck lunch will be served at 12:30 PM. Bring your favorite dish. David Poindexter, internationally known population consultant, will share conversations he's had with famous people around the world. All are welcome. Contact Melba Rizzo at 503/635-6716 or at rizzold72@comcast.net or call Lorraine Johnson 503/235-9620 to reserve a chair for you at the table.

YOUTH

LAST SUNDAY YOUTH LUNCH

The Last Sunday Youth Lunch will be Sunday, February 26, 2012. All First UMC Youth are meeting for pizza in the Youth Room after church. Bring \$5 and a shirt you can get messy! We will be playing many fun games, so be prepared for a fun and challenging time.

