



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

[www.fumcpdx.org](http://www.fumcpdx.org)

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

April 4, 2012  
Volume 16, Issue 07

## WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 8  
Worship at  
9:00 & 11:00 AM

April 15  
Worship at  
10:30 AM



# ESTER WORSHIP 9 & 11



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.

Easter Sunday, April 8, our worship will be full of celebration and joy as we focus on resurrection and new life together at 9:00 AM and again at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary. There will be the joyous sounds of the Chancel Choir and the Festival Brass, culminating with *The Hallelujah Chorus*. An Easter egg hunt for the children will be held in the Fireside Room following each service.



THE FESTIVAL BRASS  
& CHANCEL  
CHOIR



a message from  
our pastor

Rev. Donna  
Pritchard

## The Last Word

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Not long ago I found a book in the “sale” pile of my favorite bookstore. I imagine it was there because too many folks thought it was either a little too weird, or possibly a little maudlin. I, however, found it quite delightful.

The title of the book is *The Last Word*. It is edited by Marvin Siegel, and is simply a compilation of some of The New York Times’ obituaries. That’s right – obituaries. You find in this book “the last word” on everyone from the “Emperor of Ice Cream” (Reuben Mattus, who invented the name Haagen-Dazs, sold his family’s New York ice cream under that name and made a fortune); to “Gloves Greenberg” (who annually gave away hundreds of warm gloves to the residents of New York’s Skid Row, because his father had advised him, “Don’t deprive yourself of the joy of giving”); to the first “Gray Panther” (Maggie Kuhn, who celebrated her forced retirement in 1970 by founding that organization dedicated to lifting up the concerns and protecting the rights of older Americans.)

There are some great stories here of unusual lives, quirky people and even incredible accomplishments. But I think what I like most of all about the book is the inspiration it provides me.

This book challenges me to consider two questions which I believe are pertinent to each of our lives:

1. How can I be great – or at least unusual – in my life?
2. What will be the “last word” on my life?

These are good questions for all of us. Maybe especially as we celebrate resurrection once again. For the Easter season is certainly a celebration of greatness. It is a reminder of the greatness of God’s love and power through Jesus Christ.

And it calls each of us to find our own way to participate in greatness. If Easter is God’s last word, then it is a word which inspires us to believe that love really is stronger than hate. It is a word which enables us to trust that God’s light will eventually overcome the deepest darkness. It is a word which has the power to transform the ordinary, every day with the extraordinary presence of Christ.

How can we be great – or at least unusual? Our individual answers might vary greatly. But I suspect we might all start at the same place. We might begin with Easter – and the realization that God’s “last word” becomes the first word of new life over and over again. Let us be, at least unusual in our resurrection living at last.

*Rev. Donna*

“My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or the other of us has to go.”

Playwright  
Oscar Wilde’s  
last words

# Mission Trip

A few spots remain on the June 3-9, 2012 Volunteer in Mission team to UMCOR West. The team will hold a planning meeting on Sunday, April 15, in Room 110 following worship. Anyone who is interested in going, or is already signed up, is encouraged to attend. The cost is approximately \$600, including transportation, meals and lodging, and options are available to either fly or car pool. Application forms are available in the church office; completed forms and \$100 deposits are due by April 15, 2012.

Those unable to participate first-hand can also be members of the "team" by donating layette items. A complete list of requested items will be available in the Commons, starting in late April.

# 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.

# Photography Classes



## UNDERSTANDING DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY WITH LARRY SAWYER

Are you the proud owner of digital camera but aren't really sure how it works? Do you think Photoshop is a store in the mall where you buy pictures? Or perhaps you are just looking for a way to make family snapshots look more interesting. First Church photographer, Larry Sawyer will be offering three sessions on Understanding Digital Photography. There will be an hour-long session on the following Sundays: April 15, May 6, and May 20 at noon in the Fireside Room. The workshop will cover the basics of digital photography and go all the way through editing your pictures in Photoshop. Bring your digital cameras and your questions. No cost or registration is required. Plan to attend and learn to have fun taking better photos with your digital camera.

- How Digital Cameras Work
- Exposure
- Shutter Speeds
- Focus
- Aperture
- Depth of Field
- Optics
- Lenses
- Lighting
- Photo Composition
- Photoshop Basics for Editing
- Questions and Answers

# A Forum

## THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

On Sunday, April 22, 2012 at noon in the Fireside Room there will be a forum on The Impact of Climate Change. Dr. Christina Hulbe, PSU Professor of Geology and department chair, will be the guest presenter. She will update us on the most recent developments in the field of climate change. Dr. Hulbe will highlight the growing scientific understandings of the impact of climate change ... locally and globally. As a glaciologist, she will share her observations of four field seasons in the remote interior of west Antarctica, as well the projected implications of climate change for life on earth.

A light lunch and nursery care will be provided, along with the opportunity to make a donation to cover cost.



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 APRIL UNIT MEETING

The UMW April Unit meeting will be April 11 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Trudy Kayser will present, *Haiti and Palestine -- Nations in Crisis* and will include a new video: *Haiti--Perspectives on a Living History*, prepared by Paul Jeffrey for the Schools of Christian Mission. Pat Brockman and Phyllis Leonard will share their VIM trip to Palestine experiences. Bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

### TABITHA CIRCLE

The Tabitha Circle will meet April 11 at 1:00 PM in Room 202. Kay Ward will demonstrate using men's ties to make blouses, skirts, and purses. We will also work on receiving blankets for the UMCOR birthing kits which the VIM group will take to the Salt Lake City.

### THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, April 18 at noon in Room 204. Marilyn Outslay will present personal observations of Restorative Justice during her visit to South Africa. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

### CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, April 25 at noon in Room 204 for a salad potluck luncheon. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

### PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, April 25 at 9:30 AM in Room 110.

### NAOMI CIRCLE

Naomi Circle will meet on Thursday, April 26, at 2:00 PM in the Club Room at Terwilliger Plaza. We will be planning for summer meetings and events. Bring your calendars, dreams and ideas.

### TENTH ANNUAL QUILT SHOW & LUNCHEON

The United Methodist Women will celebrate their 10th Anniversary Quilt Show and Luncheon with a display of quilts based on the book *Memory Wall*, by Anthony Doerr and a luncheon, Friday, April 27, 2012 in Collins Hall. The quilt preview begins at 11:30 AM, luncheon at 12:00 PM and program at 12:30 PM. Tickets are \$20.00 with \$15.00 designated for Mission Giving and will be available for purchase after church service in Collins Hall on Sunday April 15 and 22. Deadline for ticket purchase is April 24. The program will include a retrospective of past quilt shows plus the display of new quilts. *Memory Wall* is a collection of stories about memory, the source of meaning and coherence in our lives. Every hour an infinite number of memories disappear and yet at the same time fresh new memories appear.

### WESTERN JURISDICTIONAL EVENT

Mark your calendars for the Western Jurisdictional Quadrennial Event, June 1-3, 2012 at the Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel, Portland! It happens only once every four years, it is rarely in Portland. Complete information regarding events, meetings and registration is on the website [umoi.org/umw](http://umoi.org/umw) or contact registrar Vicki Bever at 719/852-5008 or her email [vickirae34@q.com](mailto:vickirae34@q.com). Deadline for registration is April 15, 2012.



### AN UPDATE ON THE FINANCES OF THE CHURCH

As we close the first quarter of 2012, I would like to give a short financial report for First United Methodist Church. Our pledges for the 2012 Finance Campaign are \$854,811 and we are only \$26,549 from our goal of \$881,360. All of our financial obligations are currently paid and we were able to give our wonderful staff a 2% raise. However, we have nine more months remaining in this calendar year and it is very important that our individual members keep their pledges current. In addition, use the Easter Offering envelope in this issue of the newsletter to make a gift in honor of the Easter season. A few extra dollars would be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for your support and generosity.

Ted Moon  
Finance Committee Chair





**CURRENT & UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ...**

Below are some of the current outreach opportunities at First Church. If you want more information on any of these activities contact Mark Ohlson at: 503/228-3195 ext. 220 or mohlson@fumcpdx.org.

**Compassion Coins**

Now available in the narthex and Collins Hall

**Crop Hunger Walk**

April 29, 2012

**United Methodist "Change the World" Weekend**

May 19 & 20, 2012

**Downtown Compassion Clinic**

All Day, Saturday, June 16, 2012

**EMO DINNER**

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Annual Dinner will be on Tuesday May 8, 2012 at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW 5th, Portland. Registration and a silent auction will begin at 5:00 PM. The dinner and program begins at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in being a part of the "First Church Table," tickets are \$60 each. Please bring a check to the church office or contact Christine Bostick. This Annual Dinner is the only time during the year that EMO's 140 member congregations and organizations gather as one. The event embodies what is unique about EMO's mission. It is a drawing together of members and friends—congregations, mosques, faith based organizations and synagogues from around our rugged state. EMO's Annual Dinner is an ideal time to gather with others who share your values.

**GRADUATES**

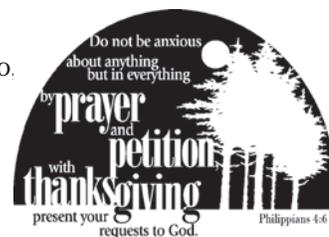
**GRADUATE RECOGNITION**

Graduating youth will be recognized on Youth Sunday, May 6, 2012. Please submit the names of any graduates you would like to be lifted up in celebration on this day. Also, let us know about any college or post-graduates Email mhumphreys-loving@fumcpdx.org with the name of the graduate.



**PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY FOR ...**

- Jim & Betsy Elliot, Jim's mother, Marian Hodges, died on March 20, 2012 at Willamette View Retirement Community ...*
- The family and friends of The Rev. Ed Paup, Ed died on March 21, 2012 in New Mexico. He served as our Bishop from 1996 to 2004 ...*
- Ed Pittaway, in the death of his sister, Carol, who died on March 21, 2012 in Vancouver, WA ...*
- The Family and friends of Carol Howard, Carol died on March 30, 2012 at her home, a memorial service will be announced later ...*



**PRAYERS & CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...**

- Bernie Cook, who is now under hospice care ...*
- Bill Birge, who has bi-lateral pneumonia ...*
- Paul & Michele Ingram, Michele's father is on life-support in Oklahoma ...*

**OUR PRAYERS CONTINUE FOR ...**

*Nancy Beth Davis, Iris Kimbark, Jim Jozwiak, and Kyong Vaandering ...*



**EASTER EGG HUNT**

There will be Easter Egg Hunts on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012. Kids of all ages are invited to come and join in an Easter Egg Hunt after one of the two Easter Sunday worship services (9:00 & 11:00 AM). Meet outside the Fireside Room and bring a basket!





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## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1838 SW Jefferson St. ■ Portland ■ OR 97201-2496

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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 April 18, 2012.

The Circuit Rider can be e-mailed to you.  
E-mail the church office at [office@fumcpdx.org](mailto:office@fumcpdx.org)  
to request it by e-mail.

Address Service Requested



from

the

FRONT

DESK

Part of my job is to pass along prayer requests from the congregation to the pastoral staff. I'm not a big fan of prayer ... wait, that didn't come out right. I am not a big fan of what I call ATM prayer: "God, I want this, and this, and this and that." And then we punch in our spiritual PIN number: "In-Jesus-Name-We-Pray-Amen." I tend to use my Psalmist namesake for my prayers. David was brutally honest as he prayed ... "God, my enemies are a pain in my ... heart," or "God, my sexual life (insert sin of choice) is a wretched mess, restore the joy of my salvation," or "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?" One thing I learned early on in my spiritual life was God can handle my honesty. God can handle my To-Do-List but Santa Claus is not a favorite bit part. For me and my meager prayer life, it is a matter more often of "wrestling with angels" than chit-chat with the essence of all that is holy.

When we were very young, my older brother, Justin and I shared a bed. Bedtime prayers were a part of our routine. One night, after our prayers, Justin turned to me and said, "If you open your eyes after praying, you have to start all over." "Really?" I said, wide-eyed. "It's the truth, trust me." I scrunched my eyes and shut them tightly and prayed again my childish prayer. My eyes almost throbbed as I tried to keep them shut. Against my will they popped open. I repeated my prayer. This pattern went on for what seemed like an hour and I finally said, "Amen," four times and went to sleep.

My advice to you is to not believe everything your brother says about prayer. Amen!

*Dave Jenkins, Administrative Asst.*