



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

October 24, 2012  
Volume 17, Issue 17

WORSHIP  
AT FIRST  
CHURCH

SUNDAYS  
AT 10:30 AM  
IN THE  
SANCTUARY

LIVING A VIBRANT FAITH

BELIEVING THINKING ACTING

day of  
HOMELESSNESS  
AWARENESS  
NOVEMBER 16, 2012

### Awareness

Homelessness can seem overwhelming. Since January of 1994, First United Methodist Church of Portland has provided temporary shelter for homeless families, in conjunction with Portland Homeless Family Solutions. Even before that momentous start-up date, the causes, the issues, the needs of homeless families struck a chord within this congregation. So it is tempting to think, “There, we have done our part.” It is tempting to want to move on from homelessness to other issues of concern to our community, but the job is not yet done.

We need to keep learning, to keep exploring and reminding ourselves of the causes, issues, and challenges facing homeless persons in Portland. That is why *Homelessness Awareness Day, on November 16, 2012* is so important. See page 5 for a full schedule of activities for the day.

### Response

We need to raise our awareness and we have a great opportunity to respond. New City Initiative, Portland Homeless Family Solutions, and our own United Methodist Columbia District are collaborating on the Village Support Network. The families who stay in our shelter need us to provide support, companionship and mentoring during the first six months in their new homes. We are hoping to raise up at least two Village Support Teams (of 4-6 persons) from First Church. As a member of a team you would help a family connect with their new neighborhood, access the community resources available to them, maintain employment, connect with schools, etc. Training will be provided.

If you are interested in learning more, or would like to be one of our “Village People,” please contact Sonja Connor, Phyllis Leonard, or Brandi Tuck. It all begins with awareness but continue with an authentic response.



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.



## a message from our pastor

**Rev. Donna  
Pritchard**

As I enter into the second week of recovery from surgery and continue to get to know my new hip (and help it to get to know me!), I am grateful to be part of a community of support.

I am not a person who likes to be dependent. In fact, I really hate having to ask for help. And yet, help has been given so graciously – by family and friends and by many of you. I am grateful – profoundly grateful – that I have a village of persons wanting me to get well, and helping that to happen through prayers and presence.

So while I heal, I have come to appreciate a few “tools” for this process. The dictionary defines a “tool” in this way... “a device for doing work; a means to an end; something used for a job...” All of these definitions have taken on new importance for me in recent days.

There are thousands of moments each day when I am temporarily inconvenienced because I am still healing. Even simple tasks like pulling on socks, or washing dishes, or sitting at the computer require me to slow down, to think a little, and to improvise. Sometimes I appreciate a tool which can extend my dexterity or control. Often the most important “tool” is the patience which so often eludes me, and that little warning bell at the back of my mind which says “Don’t do that!”

This experiential learning seems to be the way of this world and we would all do well to find the blessing in creativity which is born out of necessity. While we may not all have been to the hospital and back, we certainly have each experienced frustration, or at least inconvenience, as the world around us changes. As economies struggle and communities turn inward, as globalization brings the world closer while fear pushes us further apart, we have to find the patience to embrace a new reality.

Which leaves me wondering – how is it that some communities flourish in seasons of stress, while others simply give in to their decline? I think it goes back to finding the blessing in creativity born out of necessity. It is learning to slow down, to think a little and pray a lot, and to be willing to improvise. That may mean finding new ways or times or places to work, or finding new means to the end of building real relationships. It may mean empowering ourselves and each other to do God’s work in the world.

The apostle Paul encourages us to find the blessing in this way ... “I do not cease to give thanks for you, and remember you in my prayers, asking that you may know what is the hope to which God has called you.”  
(Ephesians 1:15 ff)

That we may know the hope to which God has called us, may be the best reason yet to learn to use a few new tools ... even tools like patience and vulnerability, persistence and creativity and hope.

Grace and Peace,

*Rev. Donna*

# PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

## PRAYERS OF CONCERN FOR ...

*Our pastor, Rev. Donna Pritchard, who is doing well following surgery ...*

*Bruce Hendrickson's sister Dee Dee, who has started six weeks of therapy ...*

*Aaby Family, after a recent accident on the way to church ...*

## CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

*Norman Freed, Peggy Luckman, Heather Garrison, Elizabeth Walton, Olive Pomeroy*

# AND OUR GRATITUDE

## FROM DEE POUJADE ...

To members of my church family who came to hear about Palestine and my upcoming journey there this spring - thank you! I especially appreciate your thoughts and prayers, both as I prepare for this journey and as I undertake it. I will be setting up a blog, which I hope to link to the church website, so you can follow along with what I am doing. An account has been set up in my name through the church office, so, if you would like to donate, you can do so by writing a check to the church with "EAPPI" on the memo line. I would like to speak to anyone who would like to know more about this ecumenical, neutral program and the work I will be doing in the West Bank - either one-on-one or in a group setting. Please feel free to contact me about this. And, again, thank you for your support! - *Dee Poujade*

## FROM ELIZABETH WALTON ...

Thank you to everyone who included me in their prayers during my recent hospitalization and surgery. Your thoughts, prayers, and cards were much appreciated. - *Elizabeth Walton*

## From Multitasking to Monotasking

Rev. Jeremy Smith

One of my flaws is that I tend to multi-task: do several things at one time. I blame my generation that has grown up with cell phones. Have you ever been talking to a youth or young adult and their phone buzzes or beeps that they got a text message? Often we keep in the conversation, but we bring out the cell phone, check the message, and send a reply all while "talking" to you! It's rude and I've been guilty of it more than I'm comfortable revealing. But my generation and succeeding ones seem to believe that multi-tasking is the way life should be.

Anjali Claire, born on Sunday the 7th of this month, has changed my ability to multi-task. When I hold her to calm her nerves or rock to sleep, she seems to know if I have my phone or a book in my other hand and continues to fuss. It seems only when I'm fully present with her, holding her with both arms, that she feels content and quiets down. She reminds me that since she is fully present with me that I should be fully present with her and not multi-tasking other actions.

I wonder if Anjali has a lesson here for our Christian discipleship, for our growing more aware and responding to the presence of God in our lives. So many of us multi-task during worship: going through shopping lists or calendars in our heads. What would it take for us to be fully present during the hymns, scriptures, sermons, and prayers? As a presider over worship, it is one of the hardest tasks to be present while in the chairs, but so easy to do it while I'm active in prayer or sermon. That sense of focus, of being fully present, leads often to the most enlightening moments during worship on both sides of the altar rail.

I would invite you to seek to be fully present for a while in worship. Leave the phone or calendar or checkbook in the car. Encourage youth to go to youth group without their phones (\*gasp!\*). Read the hymn lyrics or the choral translations. And if that doesn't work, I'll let you hold Anjali for a while and I guarantee, that will get you focused in short order.

Being fully present is one of the newfound challenges of fatherhood, but also a challenge for everyone's discipleship. I hope you join with me in seeking to be present and attentive to our journeys and in every one-on-one conversation that we have. The text messages can wait.

## Adult Sunday School Classes



### CHANGING CHRISTIANITY

This class is discussing the book *Justice: What's the Right Thing To Do?* by Michael Sandel. The class meets at 9:00 AM in Room 202.



### THE GATHERING

The Gathering is a new Sunday morning opportunity for young adults and parents of Sunday School children. We are currently studying a variety of topics informed by Rob Bell's Nooma videos. We gather at 9:30 AM in Room 204.



### FAITHLINKS

FaithLinks is studying the book, *Praising the Grace of God: The Theology of Charles Wesley's Hymns* by Charles Yrigoyen. We meet at 9:15 AM in Room 110.

# United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women join with women in United Methodist congregations around the world in organizing for mission. We strive to develop a supportive fellowship as we participate with women, children and youth in nearly 300 international programs, in 103 national programs as well as several local programs. Our Unit President is Linda Anderson, 503/281-7569.

## UMW NOVEMBER UNIT MEETING

Our topic will be: *The Bible and Immigration*. The Bible was written by, for, and about migrants, immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. It is also the book that many of our ancestors used to help them survive the stress of integrating into a new homeland. At our UMW Unit meeting, Wednesday, November 7, 2012 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room, we will listen to and tell immigration stories as we learn more about the many journeys of immigrants. We will also have our annual Pledge Service. Bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

## TABITHA CIRCLE

The Tabitha Circle will meet Monday, November 5, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Room 202 for a "Sewing Day." The Circle is making great strides in their production of garments and flannel blankets for babies for donation, so they welcome helpers to cut out patterns and/or sew. To date 44 gowns, seven jackets and 30 diapers have been completed. The goal is to fill a pallet. See the Mission Bulletin Board in the church narthex to learn more. Tabitha Circle thanks the UMW for their gift, the Circle of Friends and numerous others that have kept them supplied with flannel material. Bring a sack lunch and stay the day or come for just a couple of hours, as "many hands make light work!" Chair, Kay Ward: 503/915-7974

## THE RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, November 14 at noon in Room 204. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Dick Storment, Minister of Pastoral Care at First Church. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair. Jeanette Chardon: 503/866-3192

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, October 31, 2012 at noon in Room 204. A representative from the Goose Hollow Family Shelter will be our guest speaker. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair, Hazelee Stevenson: 503/283-0041

## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Trafficking in Portland??!! Jes Richardson, founder of Freedom's Breath is the speaker. As a survivor of domestic sex trafficking and intense abuse, she has experienced the pain of healing and is passionate about breaking cycles of trauma in future generations. Jes is a wife, mother of five, business owner, artist and abolitionist. The Church Women United meet Saturday, November 3, 2012 at Ainsworth United Church of Christ, 2941 NE Ainsworth, Portland. Coffee and registration are at 9:30 AM and the program begins at 10:00 AM. Contact Betty-Lou Hare for more information: 503/292-1773.



### GOING DEEPER

We will be offering a **Going Deeper** learning opportunity which functions as a United Methodism 101 class. It is great for newcomers and longtime members will get something out of it too.

November 7 & 14, 5:30 - 7:00 PM, Room 202

Child care is available for all the above opportunities. Please contact Ruth Gray, Norma Winemiller or Martha Powell with any questions.

**December 16** - The Pops of the Season Concert with Jonas Nordwall and Friends

**February 9** - Mardi Gras Party at First Church



### CALLING ALL FIRST CHURCH ARTISTS

First Church photographers have had their showing, now Creative Spirit Exhibit in Collins Hall wants to feature all other artists for November and December. To sign up for the exhibit, or if you have questions, contact: Diane Sawyer at [diane\\_sawyer@comcast.net](mailto:diane_sawyer@comcast.net) or 503.646-8782.

save  
the  
date



# A Day of Homelessness Awareness

# Church Tours



## DAY OF HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS

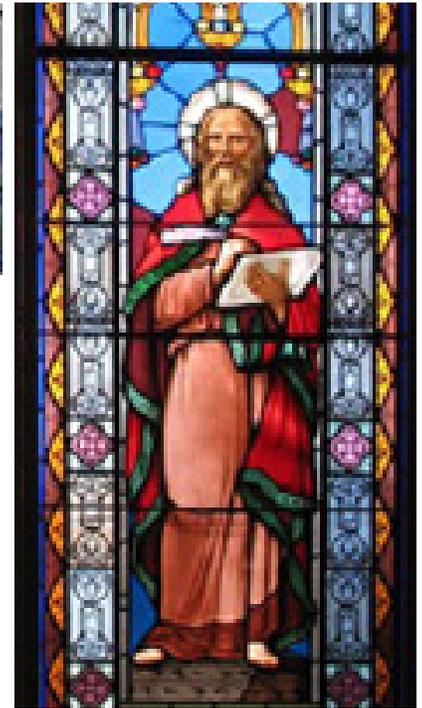
On Friday, November 16, 2012, civic and religious leaders will join members of faith communities and people of goodwill to observe the third annual Day of Homelessness Awareness in Portland and Multnomah County. The Day of Homelessness Awareness is held each year in conjunction with National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, which falls on the week before Thanksgiving. It also comes at a time when the weather is turning colder, and the emergency shelter system is opening for the winter. The Day of Homelessness Awareness is organized by the New City Initiative, a non-profit with a mission to engage faith communities in ending the cycle of homelessness.

The Day of Homelessness Awareness begins with an early morning walk. Participants will meet at First Baptist Church, 909 SW 11th Ave (enter the church through the Taylor St. entrance) at 7:30 AM. After opening remarks and an invocation, walkers will embark on an “urban pilgrimage” through downtown Portland, passing important landmarks, including faith communities and social service agencies that assist people experiencing homelessness (route map: <http://goo.gl/maps/KLBcW>) and engaging with people who have experienced homelessness. The walk will end at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson. Coffee and pastries will be provided. Those driving into downtown may wish to park at First United Methodist Church, and then catch the MAX to First Baptist Church; get off at the Library stop, walk two blocks west and one block south.

Following the walk, a forum will take place titled “Linking Arms: Affordable Housing and Homelessness in Our Community.” The forum is co-sponsored by the City of Portland, Multnomah County, and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and will last from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Lunch will be provided.

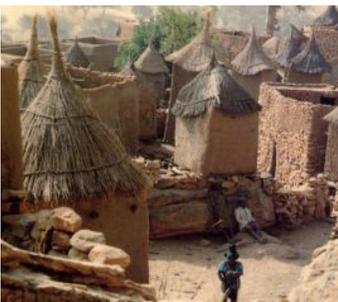
In addition, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is sponsoring a workshop on economic justice the following day titled “Envisioning an Ethical Economy: A Participatory Workshop for Students and Young Adults.” The workshop will take place from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at First Christian Church. For more information about the workshop, visit EMO’s website: [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org).

For more information about the Day of Homelessness Awareness, contact Susanna Rempel at New City Initiative: [susanna@newcityinitiative.net](mailto:susanna@newcityinitiative.net).



## CHURCHES OF OTHER CULTURES

Join First Church Travelers on Monday, November 26, 2012 for a tour of churches. Examine the history and basic doctrines of various faiths. Meet at the church at 8:30 AM to travel to the stately Portland Mormon Temple, Beaverton Baha’i Center, with roots in the Middle East, and the magnificent St. Mary’s Cathedral. There will be a no-host lunch. Return to the church about 4:00 PM. The cost is \$12.00 per person: Register through the church office by November 12, 2012 (503/228-3195).



## A VIRTUAL TOUR OF MALI

On Sunday, November 4, 2012, The Travel Committee invites you on a Virtual Tour of Mali, West Africa with Philip Greenberg as guide. Experience the vibrant human condition where unique cultures overcome a challenging environment in this landlocked African nation, home to the fabled city of Timbuktu. Mali has seen a rebellion advocating an independent desert nation (the Azawad) go awry, resulting in a coup d’etat. This left the northern half of the nation in control of extremist groups. Guest appearance by Baba Wagué Diakité, a local artist and storyteller from Mali, will highlight the presentation. This program is in the Fireside Room beginning at 11:45 AM following worship; it is free and requires no prior registration.



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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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from the

**FRONT  
DESK**

I admire Megan Tekchandani and the work she has done with our children and youth. Recently, in staff meeting, she shared that she is having difficulty recruiting teachers for first grade Sunday School. Recruitment of teachers in a church is a tough gig. Parents of children already know how “charming and precocious” their children are and can only assume even worse for the children of others. Older adults feel like they have already put in “combat duty” in raising their own children. Miraculously, however, a few saints and unsuspecting people say, “Yes!” In my childhood, one Sunday School teacher stood out. Appropriately, her name was Hope. In the basement of the Hendricks Methodist Church in LaGrande, Oregon, Hope taught the first grade Sunday School class for over a decade. She was probably too shy to be considered a dynamic teacher. In my first grade class of Sunday School we had mostly all boys. On more than one occasion we would derail the class by telling her our stories instead of listening to hers ... Billy is not here because he is grounded for playing with firecrackers or Jim got a new dog and did you know that dogs can use their minds to stop cars? Hope would patiently listen, nod and smile and then tell us it was important to glue the cotton balls on the sheep and remind us, “The Lord is your Shepherd ...” My favorite thing, however, was that on your birthday she invited the class to her house for dinner and birthday cake. From her I learned generosity, hospitality, patience, and how to remove Elmer’s glue from your hair.

Now I won’t use this Hallmark moment to manipulate you into volunteering to teach first grade Sunday School. I will use this moment to remind you that sometimes saying YES will allow you the privilege of shaping and molding the life of someone who becomes a church secretary or at least a really good person. Fortunately at First Church you don’t have to sign up for a decade at a time, just a few weeks, just enough to teach someone the words to *Jesus Loves Me* and how to get Elmer’s glue out of their hair.

*David Jenkins, Administrative Assistant*