



the First United Methodist Church of Portland

CIRCUIT RIDER

April 16, 2014 ■ Volume 19, Issue 08 ■ www.fumcpdx.org



EASTER 9 & 11 AM

April 20



BELL TOWER REDEDICATION

Sunday, May 4, 2014

save the date!

see page 5

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

First United Methodist Church of Portland 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. Worship at 10:30 AM, Sundays.



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

I love the story of Zacchaeus (found in Luke's Gospel, chapter 19, verses 1-10). You remember Zacchaeus – he's the fellow described as a short man, who was so intrigued by reports about Jesus, he just had to see him. Throwing caution, (and probably a bit of dignity) to the wind, Zacchaeus climbs up into a sycamore fig tree to get a better look.

He may have thought he could observe Jesus at a distance in this manner – satisfy his curiosity without sacrificing too much of his time. But what does Jesus do? He looks up into the tree, calls Zacchaeus by name and invites himself over for dinner!

Talk about the ultimate dinner party challenge! There was no time to hide the dirty dishes in the dishwasher, no time to grab the laundry off the line, no time even to serve up excuses along with the appetizers.

Imagine unexpected guests ... just like we receive every day here at First United Methodist Church! Every day we open our doors to the world, offering hospitality and welcome to neighbors, friends, and strangers who surprise us in life-changing ways.

So it is important for us to pay attention to this home of ours. We want our hospitality to be an expression of our love for God and for the world around us. And we want our home – this church – to provide the safety, comfort, efficiency and flexibility we need to do the work of loving God and transforming the world. Because we know that the world is coming to dinner! In the Spring of 2016, we will play host to United Methodists from as far away as Africa, Europe, east Asia, and every region of this nation. When General Conference comes to Portland we want to be ready. Not because we care about appearances. But because we care about people.

And like Zacchaeus, we have been called into relationship with Jesus. We have been called by name, and called together, to receive God's love, to live in God's love, and to share that love with the world. For today – and for generations yet to come.

This is why I hope you will join me in saying "yes" to our Capital Campaign. I believe God is calling our names and plans to stop by our house time and again. I believe we will be ready for the most life-changing encounters we can imagine. I believe in the future of First Church ... do you?

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Donna

2014 Bread for the World Offering of Letters

For the past several years, First Church has participated in Bread for the World's annual Offering of Letters. Bread for the World is a nationwide Christian movement that seeks justice for the world's hungry people by speaking out with one voice to our nation's leaders about policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist in our neighborhoods, our country and our world.

The 2013 typhoon in the Philippines, the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and the ongoing crisis in Syria emphasize the valuable U.S. food aid. Worldwide, 1.2 billion people still live in extreme poverty—on less than \$1.25 per day. In America, 1 in 8 continue to struggle with hunger every day. With smart changes to our food-aid programs, our government can both respond more quickly when disaster hits. We can provide food that is more nutritious, and better support small-scale farmers and build local economies by obtaining food aid closer to where it is needed. Smart changes to our food-aid programs, with the same level of funding, can benefit up to 17 million more people each year.

You can support this vital initiative by taking just a few minutes to write a brief letter to your members of Congress. Use your influence to participate in God's creative work in the world. Letters give Congress the political will to protect programs that help hungry and poor people. Letter writing opportunities will be held in the Commons on April 27 and May 4. All supplies, including sample letters, will be provided. Background information on hunger, poverty, and U.S. food aid programs will be available. We take seriously the Scripture's call to "Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy." (Proverbs 31:9).

Quilts for High School Seniors

On Sunday June 1 we will present a personalized quilt to our high school seniors. Each quilt is a token of the church family's warmth and support for graduating seniors. Each quilt costs about \$100 to create. You may participate by contributing to the project. Write the check: First UMC memo: Quilt Project.

Food Webs and Mining

Join EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns on Tuesday, April 22 from 6:30 to 8:15 PM at First Unitarian Church, 1011 SW Twelfth Ave., Portland. Hear environmental journalist, writer and filmmaker Bill Carter speak on the global mining boom and how it affects our food, water and atmosphere and panel discussion. Learn from special guests, including Tyler Edgar of Creation Justice Ministries and Bristol Bay fisherman John Copp on how faith communities, tribes and fisherman collaborated to oppose a copper mine (Pebble) proposed for one of the world's richest salmon habitats. RSVP to oipl@emoregon.org. Suggested donation of \$10 to \$20.

EMO Community Awards Dinner

The Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner will be May 14 at the Hilton Hotel. A silent auction starts at 5:00 PM and dinner at 6:30 PM. First Church has purchased a table for the event. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased at the church office

Going Deeper is a three-week small group that serves as Methodism 101. Led by our clergy, we will study what makes United Methodism unique in its perspective and role the world. Whether you are a newcomer or a long-timer at First Church, you will learn something! We especially encourage our newest members to attend.

Each session includes a light dinner hosted by our Newcomer's Committee and child care is available upon request. Contact Rev. Jeremy for any questions.

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in the Fireside Room

April 23 **The Bible & Our Sources of Authority**, Rev. Dick Stormont

April 30 **Personal Holiness & Wesleyan Grace**, Rev. Donna Pritchard

May 7 **Social Holiness and Social Action**, Rev. Jeremy Smith



Prayers of Sympathy for ...

Frank & Gerry Mills, on the death of their daughter *Sheila Ho*.

Prayers of Concern for ...

Joan Jozwiak, following hip surgery ...

Bruce Hendrickson, following eye surgery ...

Debbie Kirkendall, daughter of *Nancy Noland*, recovering from surgery ...

Peggy Rockwood, who is in New York visiting her brother, *Lawrence Rockwood*, who is poor health ...

Stephanie Stevens, recovering in ICU ...



United Methodist Women of Portland First **grow**

UMW May Unit Meeting

If you ate today, thank an immigrant. Immigrant workers contribute the majority of the food industry labor in our country. This is especially apparent in the field crops plus meat and poultry industries. Join the immigration discussion, learn new information, share your observations, and join us at the UMW Unit meeting Wednesday, May 7 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room as we express gratitude for these workers and celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Luncheon is provided. A \$5.00 donation is suggested. Also, payment for the lunch at the Oregon Culinary Institute following the installation on June 4 will be collected at the May Unit meeting.

Tabitha Circle

The Tabitha Circle will meet Monday, May 5 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Room 202 for a "Sewing Day." Now that the quilts are finished, our goal is to sew 25 simple school bags for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The bags will be filled with school supplies and sent to places in the world where students may attend school in a dirt-floored hut or under the shade of a tree. Often UMCOR school bags are sent to refugee camps and disaster sites where having even a make-shift school gives children a sense of normalcy and comfort. We have the fabric and the pattern, but we need loving hands to create the bags. Come help if you are able! Information: 503/709-5469

Naomi Circle

An opportunity for springtime renewal awaits each participant at Naomi Circle's April 24 program. The Rev. Joanne Rannells will lead us on the pathway from Lent through Easter, concluding with a beautifully prepared Communion Service beginning at 2:00 PM in the Club Room at Terwilliger Plaza. All are welcome. Chair: Colleen Foster 503/808-7389

Planning Team

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, April 23 at 9:30 AM in Room 110.

Circle Of Friends

Who are the Roma? Many people have a romantic notion of the Roma and picture images of mysterious fortune-tellers, vibrant vagabonds or spirited musicians. The Circle of Friends program will look at the rich history, close-knit family life and joyful faith of the Roma, leading to a deeper understanding of the people. The Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 30 at noon in Room 202. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Ruth Green 503/269-8420

Pathfinders Fellowship

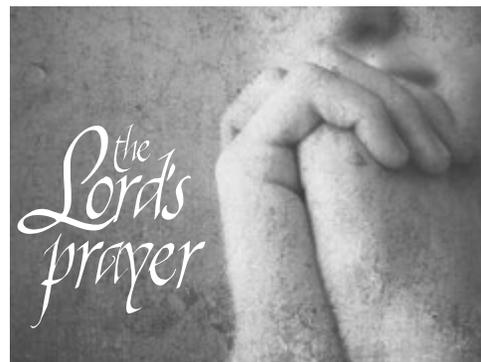
The next Pathfinders Fellowship will be Saturday, May 3 at 11:30 AM in Room 202. All are welcome to gather for coffee and conversation and then share a lunch from the potluck table at noon. After the business meeting, guest speakers from "Japan On The Road" will provide an introduction to the country's customs, and everyday life in contemporary Japan. Please call Tom or Colleen Foster at 503/808-7389 if you plan to attend and the dish you will provide.



Christianity in a Changing World ...

explores contemporary questions of our Christian life. Class participants choose books, videos, and guest speakers representing a wide array of subjects and view points, including those that are controversial, seeking new ideas and findings which are related to our rapidly changing world. The book under current discussion is: *The Evolution of God*, by Robert Wright - exploring how people's views of God have developed and changed in our Judeo-Christian tradition. 9:00 AM/ Room 202

The Gathering is a class for young adults and parents of children and youth. For Lent, they are studying compassion and how "being compassionate" is part of charity, justice, families and relationships. 9:30 AM/Room 204, across from the Cherubs Choir.



Living the Lord's Prayer is a class led by Sarah H. de Salazar. This study will focus on prayer and contemplation. 9:00 AM/Room 110





BELL TOWER REDEDICATION

Sunday, May 4, 2014

Now that the dust has settled and all of the painting has been done, it's time to celebrate the restoration of The First Church Bell Tower.

Join us on Sunday May 4 for a special worship event to acknowledge a very important accomplishment in the life of First Church. The Bell Tower is a symbol that represents our place in the community and its restoration is a hopeful sign about the future of First Church.

We will start the morning at our normal 10:30 am worship time but we will first gather in the parking lot. We will have a short ribbon cutting ceremony with a musical accompaniment by our special guests, the Trombone Quartet. After a few words to thank the generous donors whose gifts supported the restoration, we will all begin a procession toward the Sanctuary. After worship, we will be led in an All-Church Conference by Rev. Steve Sprecher to formally adopt the 2014 Capital Campaign.

More details to follow and we hope you can join us for this special day. The future of First Church begins now.



**ALL-CHURCH
SPRING
RETREAT**
April 25-27,
at Suttle Lake
Camp

Registration Deadline:
Sunday, April 20

Friends of Music

The Friends of Music Dinner is sold out! Thank you to all the people that purchased tickets and to those that donated money. Thank you for your support of our outstanding First Church music ministry.

Thank You Sabeel Volunteers!

We appreciate the hard work of our First Church volunteers and staff at the recent Sabeel conference. We received many nice notes about our hospitality. Special thanks the Global Missions committee co-chairs Betty Cobb-Hogan and Sarah Baker for their leadership and months of efforts to make this conference a success.



FORUM: IMAGINE NO MALARIA

On Sunday, May 18, at noon in the Fireside Room, the Outreach Committees and the United Methodist Women co-sponsor this Forum after Church on May 18th in the Fireside Room. Our very own Julia (Kayser) Frisbie is the Pacific Northwest's Imagine No Malaria field coordinator. Her presentation will include success stories, resources, and lots of time for questions about how close we are to eradicating this disease. A light lunch will be available.





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Your First Church Communications Team needs your help. In the March 19 edition of Crosstalk, we first announced our intention to begin producing short videos that would serve to capture life around our congregation. These videos would be featured on our Website as a way to highlight all of the great fellowship and outreach in which we are involved. Now we can formally announce the formation of that new group. We call it **iWitness**.

The goal of this group is to identify volunteers from all areas of First Church who feel comfortable using their cellphone, digital camera or video camera to document the fellowship and activities that you experience. We will be scheduling a workshop in late May that will involve teaching basic videography and sharing tips to help you become a social media auteur.

We are in the early stage of setting up our meeting schedule but we encourage ALL of you to consider joining. If you are interested in becoming a member of this group, please e-mail me at kmartin@fumcpdx.org. The group will be a fun way for you to learn a new skill while sharing your experience of First Church with the world.

Faithfully serving you,
Kendall Martin - Manager, Marketing and Communications - e: kmartin@fumcpdx.org