



the First United Methodist Church of Portland

CIRCUIT RIDER

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PORTLAND HOMELESS FAMILY SOLUTIONS

.... 2014 BENEFIT AUCTION

FAMILY REUNION

GAMES • DINING • AUCTION • ENTERTAINMENT



The 2014 Family Reunion Fundraiser will not be your typical fundraiser. Rather than solely an auction, they will be bringing in some games! Revel in the family reunion fun with games like: "Wall of Wine Ring Toss," putt-putt golf, a scavenger hunt, PHFS Plinko, and much more! Please join your community for a seated dinner, live auction, paddle raise, live music, games, and as normally promised at a PHFS event: fantastic all-around entertainment! Visit www.pdxhfs.org to purchase your ticket and learn more about the evening.

When: Friday, October 24 | 5:30 PM | The Exchange Ballroom, NE Portland | Cost: \$100/ticket
Includes dinner & hosted beverages | We love families at PHFS, but ask that this remain an adult-only event.

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.



INSIDE | Community Warehouse Drive



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

a
good
place
to
be ...

The last Sunday of September was “Goose Hollow Shelter” Sunday here at First United Methodist Church. On that day we also finished up our month-long sermon series on “Reality Christianity,” using images from current reality television shows. September 28 happened to be the day we used “Shark Tank!” as a metaphor for the life of faith.

Although I wondered about this juxtaposition, it all came together when I realized the consistent theme in both the television series and the Christian walk is the ability to take risks for the sake of a vision.

Twenty years ago, when this congregation decided to invest in a vision which said it was unacceptable for families with children to live in their cars, or under a bridge, or to be separated from one another in their search for shelter... it was like being in our own version of Shark Tank. The Goose Hollow Family Shelter was born out of this vision, which was too persistent to ignore. It was born – and it continues to thrive – because of a faith courageous enough to risk the unknown.

Nobody could have predicted, all those many years ago, where this adventure would lead. Nobody knew how many families (about 100 a year) would be helped into housing, or how many volunteers (giving about 17,000 hours a year) would be helped into wholeness, or how many people would be drawn into this church, because of the ministry of the family homeless shelter.

Shortly after our celebration of “Shelter Sunday” I received an email from Bruce Hendrickson, one of our members. In it he said:

I realized this morning that I attend FUMC and stay for three good reasons:

1. *The music is outstanding.*
2. *As Scott Spencer reminded us when he joined, “... the preaching is pretty good.”*
3. *And not least ... we have the courage to leap into the unknown and do such scary things as establish homeless shelters and take on drives to finance major remodeling work. In doing this we face our own sharks and we overcome and we move on.*

This is a good place to be.

Nobody could have predicted, twenty years ago, where our homeless family ministry would lead us. And nobody knows where it – or any of our other endeavors – will take us twenty years hence. All we really do know is that God will be with us, wherever we end up. And God will be with us all along the way.

And yes, this is a good place to be.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Donna

PS ... For more information about the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, or to volunteer, please visit their website, pdxhfs.org (Portland Homeless Family Solutions).

share

The Oregon-Idaho Conference Annual Meeting for United Methodist Women is just around the corner. It will be held at Eugene First United Methodist Church, October 25, 2014, Eugene, Oregon. The theme is: **Faith and Finance: Making it Work**. We will be talking about ethical investing, and the Legacy Fund. This information will be beneficial and pertinent for all of us as Christians. The work of United Methodist Women is not just an educational experience, we also equip ourselves for turning faith into action. Keeping in tune with the vision of United Methodist Women by turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world, we are asking that you bring something with you to the UMW Annual Conference Meeting.

United Methodist Women focus on those most adversely affected economically in our world today, many of whom are women, children and youth. Our challenge is to fill the Cesar Chavez Backpack pantry so it is overflowing. Let's remember Jesus feeding of the 5,000, because it takes all of us to share the "fish and bread." The following items would be helpful for the Cesar Chavez Backpack Program:

- Cans of meat: tuna, chicken, beef stew
- Cans of beans: black, pinto, kidney, refried and etc.
- Cans of soup
- Cans of vegetables: green beans, corn, peas and etc.
- Cans of fruit: peaches, pears, pineapple and etc.

vision

Women of First Church, as dedicated members of United Methodist Women, are women of vision. With eyes, hearts, and minds beamed into human need, a vision for mission is the ever-guiding force behind UMW's amazing variety of projects. A few examples of current outreach projects which make a difference, especially in the lives of women, children, and youth, nearby or far away:

- ❖ Portland Clothing Center, which provides gently used clothing, plus new undies and socks, for school children from low income homes
- ❖ \$25 Gift to Mission, in honor of each infant/child baptized at First Church
- ❖ Imagine No Malaria support
- ❖ Prayer Shawls for persons in transition, in crisis or bereaved
- ❖ Cards of caring, sent to those listed among First Church prayer concerns
- ❖ Backpack program, providing weekend meals for school children from low income families



learn

★ **Christianity in a Changing World** is an adult class studying Catherine Keller's, **On the Mystery**. "Creative, witty, and wise, it traces an adventure of the spirit for thinking folk, one that doesn't duck difficult questions but finds new ways through them."
9:00 AM/Room 202

★ **The Gathering** is a community of parents of school-age children. We meet at the same time as the children's choirs and youth Sunday school: 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings in Room 204. Rev. Jeremy leads us each week in a time of conversation and study.



★ **Making Sense of the Bible** is a video series featuring Rev. Adam Hamilton, pastor of the largest UMC in the world. The class will run through November 2 at 9:00 AM in Room 110.

change



First Church Men's Retreat NOVEMBER 7 & 8 Alton Collins Retreat Center

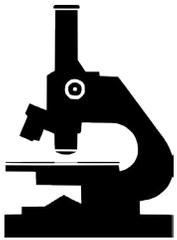
2014 Men's Retreat

The First Church Men's Retreat will be November 7 and 8 (beginning at 7:00 PM on Friday and ending at 7:00 PM on Saturday) at the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center just outside of Sandy, Oregon. Rev. Jeremy and Doug Force will lead this time of food, prayer, hiking, late-night board games, and devotion in the lush greenery. Hotel-style rooms, meals are provided. Registration deadline: October 29

First Church Women of Spirit Retreat NOVEMBER 14 & 15 Camp Cascade

2014 Women of Spirit Retreat

The First Church Women's Retreat will be November 14 and 15 (beginning at 6:00 PM on Friday and ending at 7:00 PM on Saturday) at Camp Cascade, just outside Lyons, Oregon. We will play together, pray together, learn, love, and live together as "women of spirit" in a beautiful, comfortable setting. Open to all women of the church, this is a great gift to give to yourself! Registration deadline: November 5



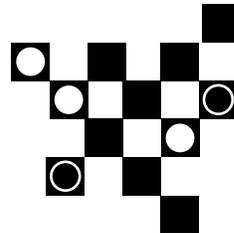
Forum on the Science and Ethics of Genetically Modified Organisms

Planet Church would like to invite you to attend a Forum on the Science and Ethics of Genetically Modified organisms (GMO). This event will be at Warner Pacific College on Wednesday, October 15 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the Schlatter Chapel. This forum is hosted by the Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.



First Church Birders

First Church Birders will visit the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday October 18. Join us as we venture out to Sherwood and the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. We'll be looking at raptors, the influx of wintering waterfowl, and whatever else presents itself. We will meet at the refuge at 9:30 AM or meet at the church at 9:00 am for carpooling. Contact planetchurch@fumcpdx.org to register.



Young Adults Game Night

A game night for young adults is scheduled for Friday, October 10. Gather in the Fireside Room at 7:00 PM. Bring games and "game friendly snacks" or just yourself! (No dinner will be served.)

Goodbye to Christine Meyer

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has received notice that our Church Administrator, Christine Meyer, has accepted a new position as a church administrator in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to be closer to family, beginning at the end of the month. Although we are saddened to have Chris leaving this position, we wish her the best in her new endeavors. Christine has been with us for eight years and you will have an opportunity to thank her and wish her well at a farewell reception on Sunday, October 26. Cards and money gifts for Christine can be sent to the church office with the memo "For Christine" or put in a basket at the farewell on October 26.

RUMMAGE
THROUGH
YOUR
KITCHEN
AND HELP
SOMEONE
MAKE A
HOUSE
A HOME



Let's Make Houses into Homes for those in Need!

During October, Church and Society is asking your help in supporting Portland's Community Warehouse. We need your new or slightly used kitchen items as well as extra linens. Items collected go to help get formerly homeless families back on their feet in new homes through Community Warehouse. Items are in high demand include:

- Bed Linens and Pillows
- Blankets and Comforters
- Towels of all kinds

Collection barrels will be placed in the narthex. Donations will be collected October 12, 19, 26. Begin sorting through your closets and cupboards and donate some unneeded items. A family in need will put your items to good use.



Prayers of Sympathy

Gerry Mills, whose husband, Frank Mills died September 29, 2014 ...

Kristin Allan, whose father died recently ...

Prayers of Concern

Paul Ingram, whose father, Guy, has been hospitalized with heart concerns ...

Marti Lucas, who is recovering from surgery ...

Bonnie Sonnemaker, sister of Betty Bobb-Colgan, who is awaiting word regarding a major medical condition ...

Sylvia Scott, who continues in rehab recovering from hip surgery ...

VOTER FORUM

David Leslie, the Executive Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, will lead a forum at First Church, after worship, on Sunday, October 12. David will bring and distribute papers written by EMO which describe in detail their positions on various ballot measures Oregon voters will be voting on in the November 4 General Election. A light lunch is provided and a Q&A session with EMO will follow.

Church & Society and the United Methodist Women will have voter registration cards available in Collins Hall after worship on October 5 and October 12. If you need to register to vote or need to update your registration, please stop by. There are several reasons why you may need to update your registration. Some of the most common are:

- ... A change in your home address
- ... A change in your mailing address
- ... A change in your name



First Church Charge Conference

Our annual Charge Conference will be held in the Chapel on Wednesday, November 19 at 7:00 PM



Prayers of Thanksgiving

Martha Powell, Erin Riley, Shirley Blalock, Frey Stearns, and Bob Fujimoto, who returned safely from their recent trip to Salt Lake City UMCOR.

The Volunteers In Mission team would like to thank you for your prayers and financial support that made this mission of love possible!



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THE 2014 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
The future of First Church starts today.

**No matter where we start our journey,
the pathway leads us home.**

Thank you
We are currently at **65%** *of our pledge goal.*

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