



the First United Methodist Church of Portland

CIRCUIT RIDER

November 26, 2014 ■ Volume 20, Issue 19 ■ www.fumcpdx.org

do you see what I see?



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS Sundays, December 7, 14, 21

Alternative Christmas allows you to take a break from giving “things” to making a difference. Choose from seven different ministries and cause that help those in need.
“I was naked and you clothed me ...”



MOZART'S MAGNIFICAT Sunday, December 14 | 10:30 AM



Come and remember Mary's wondrous encounter with an angel as the Chancel Choir performs Mozart's *Magnificat* from *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*.
“My soul rejoices in God ...”



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Sunday, December 21 | 10:30 AM

Children remind us of the simplicity of Christmas story. You are invited to join us as our children tell that story through music, drama, and hymn singing.
“Away in the manger no crib for a bed ...”

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**



We welcome
Liz Temple,
as our new
Church
Administrator.

Things change ... constantly. I'm sure you have heard that old saying, "There is nothing constant except change." Sometimes the changes are anticipated well in advance, like the coming of winter and the beginning of Advent. Sometimes the changes are sudden and unexpected, like the news I received this morning from friends of mine.

Six weeks ago I called my friend Mary just to chat, and found out she was in Minnesota, because her father had died quite unexpectedly. I listened to her stories, said a quick prayer, and asked her to call me when she got home to Corvallis. This morning, I got the call ... from her new home in Bellingham, Washington! In the space of six weeks, these friends had buried a father, sold one house in Corvallis bought another one in Bellingham, packed and moved! I am still reeling, and I didn't even have to pack a single box!

This morning, things are changing here at First Church, as we welcome Liz Temple, our newly hired Church Administrator. Liz comes to First Church from Olympia, WA where she lived and worked for the past 22 years. She raised her daughter Kira there, who is finishing up her Associate Arts degree in Olympia. Most recently Liz served as the Administrative Director of an OBGYN clinic where she managed a woman owned practice consisting of four Certified Nurse Midwives.

Among Liz's many life experiences, she has owned and built a dance studio in downtown Olympia, served in various capacities as a grassroots organizer for an environmental and social justice non-profit, and started and ran several small businesses. However, her favorite years were spent as the Youth Ministry Director of the Unity Church of Olympia. She is very excited to be back in the church setting applying her numerous gifts and talents to meaningful work.

Liz was baptized and raised in the Beaverton United Methodist Church before leaving Oregon so her mother could pursue her Masters of Divinity at the Methodist Theological School of Ohio. They returned to Oregon where her mother served as pastor of the Bay City United Methodist Church. It was on the coast where Liz first taught Sunday School. Liz feels this spiritual heritage serves to support her work as First Church Administrator.

During her personal time, Liz likes to take long walks with her dog, Spirit, and enjoys dancing.

Liz steps into a very busy, complex and challenging environment with her position here. Please stop by and offer her a word of encouragement and welcome, or send her a note to let her know how glad we are to have her as a part of our dynamic church staff.

While it is true that there is nothing constant except change, it is also true that change is a reality for all of us. And we do best with the changes we experience when we share them together. When we recognize that all of us are in this life together, that all of us are called to move with the changes as they come, we can take a deep breath, relax and go with the flow. Here's to the changes as they come!

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Donna

FOR THE WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH

UMW December Unit Gathering

The UMW Unit will meet Wednesday, December 3 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. We will remember Mary, mother of Jesus by assembling birthing kits. A quarter of a million women around the world die each year during pregnancy and childbirth because they lack access to proper health facilities or health workers. Birthing kits provide the essential items to promote a safe, clean delivery and to encourage good aftercare. Using a birthing kit can double a woman's chance of surviving the birth. UMCOR distributes these kits to communities around the world, to help create a safer world for women and their children. Also for our gathering, special Christmas music is planned. A Christmas luncheon will be served. A \$5.00 donation is appreciated.

UMW'S Reading Program - Book Chat

Read-Learn-Listen - Discuss and explore new insights. Book Chat gatherings are planned for the first Wednesday of each month following the Unit Meeting in the Fireside Room. Books are selected from the UMW Reading Program to expand understanding and participation in God's mission for humanity in this changing world. All are welcome. Chair: Sandra Howard 503/786-3566

Tabitha Circle

The Tabitha Circle will meet Monday, December 8 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Room 202. The invitation is out to all who like to do needlecraft of any kind. Knitters, those of you who crochet and sewers are needed. They plan to sew UMCOR school bags, mend the robes for the cherub choir and make some Biblical costumes for the Sunday School rooms. Co-Chairs: Kay Ward 503-915/7974 and Erin Riley 503/709-5469

The Ruth Circle

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, December 17 at noon in Room 202. This is our gift exchange party! Decorate our lunch table with your own Christmas ornament or keepsake and share its special memory. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Judy Moon 503/543-2220

PATHFINDERS FELLOWSHIP

Pathfinders December Fellowship

The next Pathfinders Fellowship gathering will be Saturday, December 6 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. Please call Melba Rizzo at 503/635-6716 if you plan to attend and the dish you will provide. After the business meeting, a traditional "White Elephant" gift exchange is planned. To make it even more fun, you are invited to attach to the package a clue as to what it could be!

FOR ADULTS ON SUNDAY MORNING

- ★ **Christianity in a Changing World** is an adult class studying *Convictions: How I Learned What Mattered Most*, by Marcus Borg. As he celebrates his 70th year, theologian and Bible scholar Marcus Borg reflects on his life and how he developed his most bedrock convictions and why they matter. 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.



- ★ **What Is Bethlehem Like Today?** This is a four-week Advent class for adults. This class meets at 9:00 AM in Room 110. It will be taught by Dee Poujade. Dee has many years experience of travel and study in the Middle East.

Circuit Rider Schedule

The next Circuit Rider (church newsletter) will be mailed Wednesday, December 10. The first issue of 2015 will be mailed Wednesday, January 7.



make the most of your giving ...

Double Your Gift to United Methodism Missions!

Sharing our gifts is a spiritual discipline that helps us to grow stronger as the body of Christ. The church's response to those in need is an expression of our faith, a confirmation of our discipleship, and a witness to our love for our neighbors.

This year, we have an exciting opportunity to maximize your support. When you makes an online donation to any project or missionary through The Advance on December 2, your gift will multiply. As part of UMC #GivingTuesday, all gifts made online through The Advance to any project or missionary will be matched up to \$1 million.

Last year, the matching funds ran out in the first few hours. But Portland is in luck! Because of our time zone, the clock for the \$1 million in matching funds actually begins at 9:00 PM on Monday, December 1. We recommend that if you want maximum chance at a matching donation that you make your donation in the late evening of December 1!

The Global Missions Committee recommends support of the following:

Our Covenant Missionaries (past and present):

- Cambodia: Clara Biswas #13952Z
- Brazil: Teca Greathouse #07696Z
- Palestine: Kristen Brown #3021280
- Mission Photographer Paul Jeffrey #09541Z

Recommended Projects:

- UMCOR Disaster Response: #982450 - (International disasters)
- Ebola Response in Liberia: #3021770
- Church World Service blankets: #982810

How to give: Go to www.umcmision.org/give and enter the # above in the "Enter Project Name" blue box. After it brings up the correct entry, click on it and then click the big red DONATE button on the right. At the bottom of the giving screen, be sure to enter "Oregon" and type "First United Methodist Church of PORTLAND" to give our church some of the credit!

100% of your donation goes to the project, with overhead and administrative costs supported by the United Methodist Church's special offering, **One Great Hour of Sharing**, which will be held this year on March 15.

Thank you for your continual support of Global Missions and outreach!



Prayers of Sympathy

For Sam Little and Dave Jenkins, Sam's father, John Little, died Tuesday, November 18. Sam is Dave's partner of nearly ten years.

For Jim and Joan Jozwiak, Jim's sister died recently.

For the family of Rev. Michael Cowan, in the death of his wife, Sandy Zickafoose. Michael is a retired United Methodist Pastor.

Prayers of Concern

Bill Rizzo, was hospitalized and is now in rehabilitation for a short stay ...

Jeremy Wedge, the 29-year-old nephew of Tamara Mucha & Carla Oesterle, is struggling with brain cancer ...

Jim McManus, recovering from a reworking of his knee surgery ...

Words of Appreciation & Thanks

Thank you so much to everyone for your gifts, support, and best wishes. It is great to be among our families again. Wes and I love our new house and my job is swell! You are the best! We miss you.

Christine & Wes Meyer



Olive Oil Sales Proceeds Go to Support Bethlehem Mission Projects!

Thank you for your support of the olive oil sales in 2014! As a result of your purchases, our church is sending \$373 to Wadi Fukin Community Development Project near Bethlehem (Advance Special #3021565); and \$374 to Wi'am Community Empowerment & Conflict Resolution in Bethlehem (Advance Special #14910A).

Global Missions Committee will be selling olive oil and related products on December 7, 14 and 21 in Collins after church. Come support Palestinian farmers and Methodist mission work in Israel/Palestine!

ADVENT



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS



Zoo Lights

Sunday, December 7

Join us for a trip for families to the **Zoo Lights**. Meet in Room 202 at 4:45 PM to MAX together to the Zoo, then return for a light dinner with the Goose Hollow Family Shelter guests.



Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 14

Anyone with a heart for music is invited to go **Christmas Caroling** at Terwilliger Plaza from 1:30 to 3:00 PM. Gather at the Terrace.



Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 21

A **Longest Night** worship service will be held at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. This service is designed for those experiencing various forms of grief and loss in a season of celebration.



Stephen Ministry During Advent

During the Advent Season, a Stephen Minister is standing at the front of the sanctuary after each service, ready to listen to concerns, answer questions, and pray with anyone who may be grieving or experiencing other needs.



Christmas Cookie Project

Support Goose Hollow Family Shelter by purchasing items needed to make Cookie Kits. The kits are part of a parenting class incentive program providing activities to encourage family togetherness at home. Items Needed for Kits: cookie sheets, food coloring, cookie cutters, cookie mix. Items will be collected in the narthex through Monday, December 8.



Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

A Christmas Pageant rehearsal for **speaking parts only** will be held on Sunday, December 14 at noon in Room 202.

Select one of the ministries listed below and give it as a "gift" to someone this Christmas. You will be given an attractive card that describes the ministry of the organization you have chosen.

Alternative Christmas brochures are available in Collins Hall following worship on December 7, 14, 21.

The Macdonald Center

The donation made in your honor will joyfully help fund monthly birthday parties for socially isolated clients who have limited or no contact with family or friends.

Goose Hollow Family Shelter

Portland Homeless Family Solutions works toward ending family homelessness. Year round families with children have a warm place to sleep thanks to the kindness and compassion.

Support Organic Agriculture in Brazil

In this project, Grassroots International is partnering with Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement to organize trainings on sustainable farming practices for poor regions in Brazil by improving standard of living; alleviating hunger; and supporting women's leadership.

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light

Oregon Interfaith Power and Light, Oregon's faith community at work on energy efficiency and climate change, a project of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Ebola Response

The Global Health unit of the General Board of Global Ministries, and UMCOR, are working to provide protective equipment and other Ebola-related supplies and education to health boards in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Cote d'Ivoire.

Church World Service Blankets

The smallest, simplest things can make a major difference in the daily lives of neighbors in need the world over. \$10 buys a blanket.

UMCOR Birthing Kits

Help provide essential items to promote a safe clean births. A quarter of a million women around the world die each year during pregnancy and childbirth. UMCOR Birthing Kits double a woman's chance of surviving the birth.



the FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PORTLAND
CIRCUIT RIDER

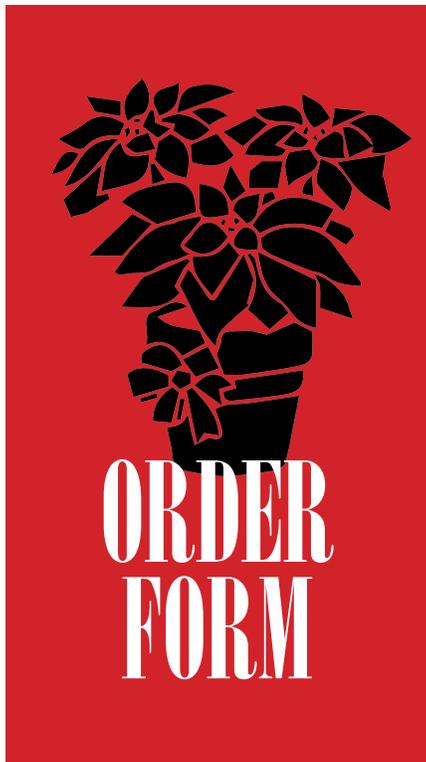
THE CIRCUIT RIDER is a publication of First United Methodist Church,
1838 SW Jefferson St, Portland, OR 97201-2496

Nonprofit Org US Postage Paid Portland, OR
Permit No. 1719

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND OR
Permit No. 1719

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



It is time to order plants to prepare our sanctuary for the Christmas season. Poinsettias or azaleas are **\$15.50** each. Use this order form to indicate if the flowers are in memory or honor of someone and return the form and payment to the church office by Monday, **December 8, 2014**. Indicate **POINSETTIA** in the memo portion of your check. Also, indicate if you are picking your plant up after the 9:00 PM service. Please note that the earliest that plants can be picked up is after the 9:00 PM service.

Your Name

Name In Memory In Honor

POINSETTIA AZALEA

I will pick up the plant.