



the First United Methodist Church of Portland

# CIRCUIT RIDER

December 10, 2014 ■ Volume 20, Issue 20 ■ www.fumcpdx.org



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24 is a wonderful opportunity to gather in worship to celebrate the arrival of Emanuel ... God with us! Invite family and friends to join you in special times of music, joy and celebration.

Christmas Eve  
Family  
Service

5 PM



Sanctuary

Christmas Eve  
Traditional Candlelight Services  
Sanctuary

7 & 9 PM



Christmas Eve  
Communion  
Service

11 PM



Chapel

### 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.



Page Five | Children's Christmas Pageant



**a message  
from  
our  
Pastor**

**Rev. Donna  
Pritchard**

As I write this we are smack-dab in the middle of another busy Advent season. These days are full of preparation ... hanging the greens in the sanctuary, putting up the crèche in Beckham Courtyard, writing the Christmas letter, practicing the children’s pageant, rehearsing all the choirs for extra-special Christmas presentations, lining up Stephen Ministers to pray with those for whom the season brings particular challenges, writing extra sermons and worship services for the Longest Night (December 21) and Christmas Eve (Dec. 24), and (oh, yes!) getting our hearts ready to welcome God-with-us once more!

Thankfully, no one person here has to make all these preparations all by themselves. We experience Advent, and we prepare for Christmas *together*. Just like we share God’s love, and care for the world together. Just like we grow in our faith, deepen our understanding, broaden our compassion, together. We need each other ... especially in these days of preparation.

When I had a few people tell me recently, “We’ve got a problem ... ,” my ears perked up.

Sunday, just before worship started, I was in the narthex when one of our greeters motioned me over and told me, “We’ve got a problem ... a parking problem.” It seems that people coming to worship are having a hard time finding a place to park, and some are even having a little trouble claiming their favorite pew. *Oh, what a problem!*

And then, after worship, winding my way down to Collins Hall, someone else stopped me to say, “We’ve got a problem ... a Sunday School problem.” Imagine 18 children in the third and fourth grade class, 16 first and second graders, and 18 kindergarten students. *Oh, what a problem!*

Now I hope you can see that my tongue is firmly planted in my cheek ... because these are precisely the kind of “problems” we love to encounter in our life together as a church! It is a joy when people who are hungry for community and thirsty for the Spirit find themselves fed and filled with us. It is a *good* thing when we outgrow our parking lots and when our teachers are being stretched and challenged by the enthusiasm and energy of all those kids.

These “problems” are simply another chance for us to come together. If you are a regular at our Sunday morning worship – why not extend the community time by finding someone else with whom you could carpool to church? Or, consider taking the MAX ... you know it stops just outside our door! And don’t be surprised if somebody new is sitting in your regular spot in the pew – look at it as an opportunity for you to discover the view from a new vantage point.

And there really is nothing better than being together with the children of the church. Teaching Sunday School is easy. It is not a lifetime commitment – you can join the fun for a month at a time. And it is not something you would do all on your own – you will be paired with one (or hopefully two) other teachers, you will be given curriculum materials and plenty of support to do the job.

Just let me know – or Megan Jones, or Rev. Jeremy or Rev. Dick know – if you would like to come together in taking these “problems” and viewing them instead as blessings. Oh, what blessings we are given, as we come together to grow in God’s love. See you in worship – and in Sunday School!

Merry Christmas,  
*Rev. Donna*



# FOR THE WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH

*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.*

## **The Ruth Circle**

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, December 17 at noon in Room 202. This is our gift exchange time. You are invited to bring a wrapped gift to put under the tree and then we will take turns to select one that looks inviting! We may use the format of being able to “grab” a gift when it is our turn or maybe not! Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Judy Moon 503/543-2220

## **Naomi Circle**

The Naomi Circle of Terwilliger Plaza will meet Thursday, December 18 at 2:00 PM in the Club Room. The theme of the gathering is: “Carols and Contemplation.” Chair: Colleen Foster, 503/808-7389

## **Circle Of Friends**

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, December 17 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. A delicious brunch will be enjoyed followed by the traditional cookie exchange. Please bring items for HUGS (Hats, underwear, gloves, socks, and scarves). Co-Chairs: Mary Covert 503/652-6480 and Trudy Kayser 503/292-7528

## **Planning Team**

The Planning Team will not meet for the month of December.

## **The January 2015 UMW Unit Meeting**

Start the new year off right by coming to the January 2015 UMW Unit Meeting on Wednesday, January 7 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. This meeting will feature the ministry of the Portland Clothing Center.



# 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**

This Circuit Rider (church newsletter) is the final issue of 2014. The first issue of 2015 will be mailed Wednesday, January 7.

Welcome  
our new  
members



### Welcome New Members

It has been a year of wonderful growth at First Church! We received 27 new members, so far, in 2014. Please welcome the following to our church family:

Theodore Clarke  
David & Shelly Edwards  
Brenda Jacob  
Jessica Kimmet  
Eric & Ann Lantz  
Scott Lantz, Scott  
Bill & Kathryn Liddicoet  
Martin, Kendall & Tara  
Kelly McPherson &  
Jenny Kratzke  
Steve & Crystal Milazzo  
Lia Milazzo  
Bill Moyer  
Rich & Harriet Ottaviano  
Ty & Rosa Parent  
Jon & Amanda Sanford  
Vidhya Sathyaraj  
Katherine Scott  
Scott Spencer

Our next **New Member Orientation** will be **Sunday, January 25** at noon in Room 202. A light lunch will be provided and child care as needed.

If you would like to be a part of this orientation, contact Rev. Jeremy Smith at: [jsmith@fumcpdx.org](mailto:jsmith@fumcpdx.org) or call 503/228-3195 ext 224.

# This & that

### Creative Spirit Exhibitions

The current Creative Spirit Exhibition in Collins Hall is the Zimbabwe Art Project. This exhibit will end on Sunday, December 28. The artwork is for sale. ZAP is a non-profit in Portland who work to improve the standard of living for women and children in Zimbabwe through sale of their original art.

The January and February 2015 Creative Spirit Exhibition will begin on Sunday, January 4. The theme is "Fiber Arts" and will include any art-work using needle and thread. If you have any fiber art that you would like to share with the congregation, please contact the coordinator Ruth Green at [ruthgreen@juno.com](mailto:ruthgreen@juno.com) or 503/469-8420.

### Stephen Ministry

For some people the holiday season is a time of worries, doubts, or sadness. A Stephen Minister is a lay person trained to walk with someone in time of need. Each Sunday in Advent a Stephen Minister will be standing in the front of the sanctuary, by the stained glass windows. Feel free to come and talk to them about your concerns or questions. Stephen Ministers will also be at the Longest Night Service in the Chapel, December 21, 7:00 PM. The Stephen Minister will listen carefully, offer to pray with you, and maintain your confidentiality.

### You're Opportunity to SHINE!

Learn about our continued partnership with William Walker Elementary School on Sunday, January 4 at noon in the Fireside Room. Liz Norman, director of the school's Shine program, will be with us to share information about the school, answer questions, and promote volunteer opportunities.



### Prayers of Sympathy

The family of *Doris Huff*, on the death of her brother, Don Arnold, who died recently ...

The family of *Art Carpenter*, who passed away November 26, 2014. His service will be Friday, December 12 at 11:00 AM in the Chapel.

### Prayers of Concern

*Bill Rizzo*, who is now in rehabilitation for a short stay ...

*June Kinney*, who is in rehab recovering from surgery for a broken leg ...

*Daniele Nepper*, the niece of Linda Anderson, is recovering from an auto accident ...

### Prayers of Celebration

*Doug & Frey Stearns*, are now the grandparents of *Robert Douglas Mansker*, the son of *Rob & Margaret Stearns* ...



2014 Winter Term  
Group Ministries Brochure  
available January 11

# ADVENT



## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS



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 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.



### **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 Terwilliger 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.



### **Christmas Pageant Rehearsals**

A Christmas Pageant rehearsal for **all participants** will be held on Saturday, December 20 at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary. It is important for everyone to be present!

## CHRISTMAS EVE

The 7 & 9 PM Services



### **Music Notes for the 7 & 9 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

Inspiring preaching and outstanding music are two features that make Christmas Eve worship such a meaningful time. Twenty minutes before the 7:00 and 9:00 PM Christmas Eve services, The Festival Brass will be playing lovely Renaissance Christmas music. The Chancel Choir, directed by Erick Lichte will be joined by the Festival Brass, percussionist, Greg Henion and our organist, Jonas Nordwall when they sing a newly commissioned anthem by Brent Weaver, **Veni Emmanuel: A Fantasy on Christmas Carols**. The Chancel Choir will also sing: **There Is No Rose** by John Joubert. Jonas Nordwall and the Festival Brass will play the stunningly beautiful, **Alleluia** by Mozart.



the FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PORTLAND  
**CIRCUIT RIDER**

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**BECAUSE OF** *you*  
2015 ANNUAL FUND

**From the Zach Family ...**

We came to First Church over 20 years ago ... seems hard to believe. As a young couple, we were “shopping” for a church home .. trying to find where we fit. We found it at First Church! You were welcoming, had interesting programs(including a strong Children’s program), community outreach, a young couple’s group, and emphasized social justice. When we joined, we pledged to give time, talent and treasure. Over the years, different pieces of that commitment have risen to the top. We have served on committees, taught Sunday School, attended events, driven children to events, and made a monthly contribution every year. That contribution has changed, from time to, based on financial obligations, but even with unemployment, school fees, and unexpected issues, we’ve always found a way to give something every month.

We give because the church, in part, raised our kids ... and we’re proud of our kids! Sunday School became an important part of their week. They engaged with adults as well as other children. Every week someone asked them how they were doing and offered assistance if needed. They never questioned what the kids needed, it was and is just unconditional support.

We give because we want to. It means something to us to be part of First Church and we are proud of that connection. Everyone has their reasons, but we truly believe that the church is here because of the gifts of the congregation ... it is here because you and me!