



the First United Methodist Church of Portland
CIRCUIT RIDER

March 4, 2015 ■ Volume 21, Issue 05 ■ www.fumcpdx.org



LENTEN SUPPERS & LENTEN STUDIES

Lent Madness: Who Will Win the Golden Halo?

Our Lenten Suppers have begun and will be held each Wednesday night through March 25.

5:30 to 6:15 PM

Lenten Supper A light supper in Collins Hall

6:15 to 6:55 PM

Lenten Study Lent Madness in the Fireside Room

Join us as we look at the lives of the saints. Then create your "brackets" and cast your votes to see who rises in the standings and who falls by the wayside (but not from grace!)

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.



back cover | Something for kids ... and parents!



**a message
from
our
Pastor**

**Rev. Donna
Pritchard**

FROM THE PASTOR

You have heard it said that there is nothing constant in life but change. W. Edwards Denning once suggested that, “It is not necessary to change, because survival is not mandatory.” And John Lilly reminds us that, “Our only security is our ability to change.”

Why all this talk about change? I’ve been thinking a lot about worship here at Portland First – and specifically, about the changes we will experience this summer when we move out of the sanctuary into Collins Hall ... and then the changes we will benefit from when we move back in!

It is true that the renovations planned for our sanctuary – new energy-efficient and much more effective lighting; refinished cork floors and new carpeting; new double-paned, safety windows looking onto Beckham Courtyard, and a new video wall designed to bring visual images into our worship experiences – may not be mandatory for our survival as a church. However, our ability to embrace these changes and so many others will in the end determine our future.

Now I know that change is not always an easy thing to embrace. In fact, I think one of the ways we know we are in the process of making real change is by the discomfort and the disquiet it brings. I saw this truth in real life when my youngest daughter was getting ready to go off to college.

We were on our way to a party for friends moving from one job into another. Of course we were running late (nothing particularly “changed” about that!). While I drove I asked my daughter to choose a card for our friends, and a hearthstone to go with it. Now hearthstones are small, handmade clay hearts imprinted with a word for inspiration or blessing. I had a bag of about 20 stones to sort through to choose just the right gift for our friends. One by one the stones were lifted from the bag and their blessings were read, until one of the stones was accidentally dropped onto the floor of the car, landing upside down. Retrieving it, my daughter began to laugh and said, “Wouldn’t you know it ... it says change!”

At that particular time in her life, Kate was feeling almost engulfed by change. As she prepared to move from the safety and security of home to the uncertainty and wonder of college, it seemed the perfect time for her to delve a little deeper into the fears she carried in her heart. So of course, the stone she dropped said change.

Off we went to the party. And then it was time to go home. Climbing into the car, Kate surprised me by saying, “Very funny, Mom!” She accused me of planting that problematic blessing on her seat. For there it was, in all its ironic glory, that one hearthstone – this time face up where nobody could miss its message – CHANGE.

Perhaps the trick is to stop stressing about it or running from it or fearing it. We all know that nothing which is alive is not changing in every moment. I hope we also know that change is not only a constant, it is also an opportunity. It may make us uncomfortable at first, it may disquiet us in the beginning. But if we hang in there with it – and with each other – it will bless us in the end.

I believe in the future of First Church, because we are secure enough to change. And I know we will not only survive, we will continue to thrive as followers of Jesus and as agents of change. If you would like to learn more about the renovations planned for our sanctuary, take a look at our website, www.fumcpdx.org or contact me.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Donna

FOR THE WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH

Tabitha Circle

The Tabitha Circle will meet Monday, March 9 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Room 202. They will be tying the quilts to present to the six high school seniors who will graduate in June. For the past few months they have been working on their goal of 100 school bags for UMCOR. They surpassed that goal by completing 125 bags! Co-Chairs: Kay Ward 503.915.7974 and Erin Riley 503.709.5469

Ruth Circle

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, March 18 at noon in Room 202. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Ruth Circle members will share a special springtime experience. Together, participants will discover ways to become more spiritually connected as, "Sisters in Christ." Through activities guided by theological resources, the group will explore pathways which will lead to deeper relationships and lasting bonds of friendship. Leader of the event will be Colleen Foster. Chair: Marilyn Weber 503.241.4081.

Naomi Circle

On Thursday, March 26, Joanne Rannells will lead Naomi Circle women on a Lenten Journey, tracing the steps along the way through Holy Week and toward Easter. Beginning at 2:00 PM in the Club Room at Terwilliger Plaza, the hour will conclude with shared communion. This annual event provides a time of reflection and spiritual deepening for participants. All are invited. Chair: Colleen Foster, 503.808.7389

Circle Of Friends

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, March 25 at noon in the Fireside Room. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. United Methodist Women's immigration initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to racial justice, and civil and human rights. Circle of Friends will discuss Resolution #3281 from 2012 Book of Resolutions and its impact on our local community. Co-Chairs: Mary Covert 503.652.6480 and Trudy Kayser 503.292.7528

Columbia & Cascadia District UMW Spiritual Retreat

Choose April 10 or 11 for the District UMW Spiritual Retreat to be held at Alton L. Collins Retreat Center in Eagle Creek, OR. Registration deadline is March 13. Contact Barbara Garrett at 503.954.6729 for a registration form.

UMW Planning Team

The UMW Planning Team will meet Wednesday, March 25 at 9:30 AM in Room 110.

FOR ADULTS ON SUNDAY MORNING

Christianity in a Changing World

is discussing *A People's History of Christianity* by Diana Butler Bass - two thousand years of Christian voices whose faith called for social justice and radical love. 9:00 AM/Room 202

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

How Did THAT Get in the Bible?

Join this study of the canonization process that resulted in the Bible we know today. Taught by: Rev. Dick Stormont. This class meets April 12 through May 17 at 9:00 AM in Room 110.

55 ALIVE SAFE DRIVING

55 ALIVE SAFE DRIVING COURSE

55-Alive is a unique program for older drivers. This popular course is offered successfully at First UMC. This year it is a one day class will be offered Thursday, March 19 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm in the Fireside Room. (Please bring a sack lunch.) An instructor from AARP teaches this refresher course for drivers 55 years of age and over. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Make checks payable to: AARP and bring the payment to the class. Register soon since class size is limited to 30 students. To register call the church office at 503/228-3195 or by email at ltemple@fumcpdx.org




an invitation
A Newcomer Orientation



First Church Orientation for Newcomers

A First Church Orientation for newcomers will be held on Sunday, March 22. New to First Church? Longtime visitor looking to get more involved? We offer First Church Orientations just for you! We gather after Sunday worship for a light lunch (hosted by our Newcomers Team), presentation and Q&A with our clergy, and a guided building tour. Child care is provided and we conclude by about 1:30 PM. RSVP with Rev. Jeremy (jsmith@fumcpdx.org).

If you cannot attend the March orientation, another will be held Sunday, May 17.

Prayers of Sympathy

The family of Chet Thomas, his wife Judy and his sister Nancy Nordwall, on the death of Chet Thomas. Chet died on February 13, 2015. The service for Chet will be Friday, March 6 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Prayers of Concern

Vern & Betty Groves, are grateful to be home following a serious car accident ...

Shirley Blalock's daughter, Janet Blalock, had a recent surgery ...

Dorothy Perkins, mother of Phyllis Leonard, recovering from a fall ...

Marilyn Nelson, the aunt of Amanda Wilson Varner, is recovering from a brain aneurism ...

Prayers of Joy

Judy and Ted Tosterud, are now first time grandparents! Their grandson, Thomas Stephen Tosterud, was born March 1 to Steve and Heidi Tosterud.



In this *together*

First Church Birders

On Saturday, March 21, the First Church Birders will return to Oaks Bottom (Portland's first wildlife refuge) to catch the last of the winter waterfowl and get a jump on the breeding season. Meet at the refuge's south parking lot (corner of SE 7th and SE Sellwood Blvd.) at 9:00 am. Carpoolers can gather at the church parking lot at 8:30 am.

First Church Travelers

Join with First Church travelers and immerse into a true French experience. On Sunday, March 22, in the Fireside Room at noon, come for a media tour of France: 'Scenes along the Seine' exploring the gardens of Monet and the half-timbered villages of ancient Rouen and Les Andelys. Relive the history of D-Day that landed 160,000 troops in Normandy and feel the grandeur of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. This is a preview event for A Seine River Cruise: Paris & Highlights of Normandy on April 3-14, 2016. This event sponsored by the First UMC Travel Committee.

Parenting for a New Age

The first of our third Saturday Parenting for New Age Saturday Dinners will be March 21 at 5:30 pm. We'll start this quarter off with potluck at Rev. Donna's home in Beaverton. Being a parent is one of life's greatest joys. It also brings with it unique challenges at each stage of life. If your "kids" are in their 20s or 30s, living at home or on their own – join us for conversation, laughter and potluck supper, held in various homes. Email | dpritchard@fumcpdx.org





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



Super Sunday

Sunday, March 15 at 5:00 pm

Super Sundays are fun evening activity times for kids and an opportunity for parents to fellowship together. Children participate in planned activities at the church, hosted by Megan and other volunteers, while parents have dinner together at a restaurant of their choosing. Nursery is provided.



FIA:Y Project:

Plant Trees with Friends of Trees

Saturday, March 21

8:45 am – 1:00 pm

Youth and their families are invited to carpool from church at 8:15 am for our Families In Action: Youth project. We will work with Friends of Trees to restore green spaces and natural areas in and around Portland by planting native trees and shrubs. Gloves, tools, guidance, and breakfast treats provided. We will carpool to our work site in Happy Valley. RSVP by March 15.



Graceful Aging

Our next quarterly session of |Graceful Aging will be Saturday, March 14, at 10:30 am in the chapel. Our guest will be Angela Loerzel, a Social Worker with Legacy Health Systems. She will answer your questions about the Social Work she does and how it affects families like yours:

- End-of-life planning
- Hospice Care
- Care Giving Options
- Self-care
- Behaviors during Care Giving
- Grief and Loss
- And more!

If you have questions, please contact Mark Ohlson ...
mohlson@fumcpdx.org.