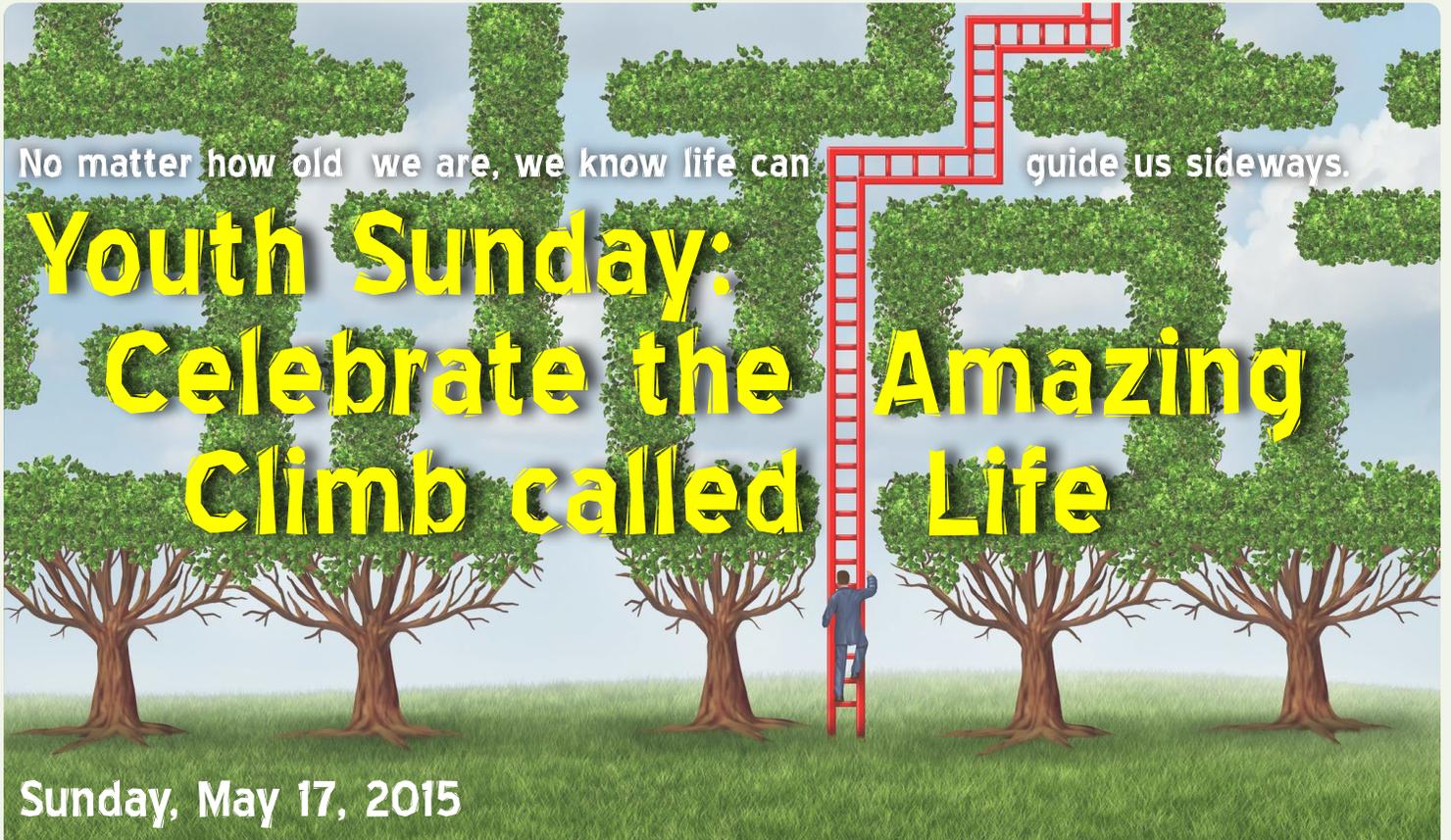




the First United Methodist Church of Portland
CIRCUIT RIDER

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Let the song and celebration of our youth help us find our way up. Join us Sunday, May 17 for a special worship service, prepared and orchestrated by our 7th – 12 grade students.

Our youth will kick things off in our new worship space for the summer months by guiding the congregation through music, prayer, and reflection in Collins Hall.



Palestine: What's Going On, What Can We Do?

Final Sunday is May 3

Noon | Fireside Room | Light Lunch Available

May 3 | Boycott/Divest/Sanction

A presentation by the Conference group on the Boycott/Divest/Sanction (BDS) movement, a global response to demand that Palestinian civil rights be recognized.

**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

In Psalm 137 the people of God who lived through the Babylonian exile ask:

How could we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

The discomfort one feels when worshipping in a new place – even temporarily – is nothing new. And yet, we know it is possible to praise God and to grow spiritually in unfamiliar surroundings and without all the usual trappings. To one degree or another faith is always singing its song in the midst of strangeness.

Think about this ... if Jesus could sing a hymn with his friends just before his betrayal and arrest; if Paul and Silas could sing in a jail at Phillippi; if African slaves could sing under the tyranny of servitude; if countless martyrs and reformers throughout history could sing their praises wherever God called them... surely we can do the same! Worship comes from the inside out, not from the outside in, and it belongs to every person and it thrives in all kinds of space.

*Worship at First Church
will be a little different in coming months.*

Beginning May 17th, our 10:30 Sunday morning worship will move to Collins Hall while the Sanctuary is renovated with new LED lighting, new carpet, refinished cork floors, new windows onto Beckham Courtyard, and a new video wall up front. There is a lot of work to be done to ensure that our primary worship space will serve our needs and provide a welcoming place for others for years to come.

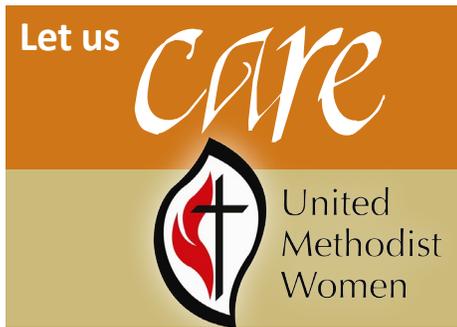
Worship will feel a little different in a different space. And yet, all the essential elements will still be there: sermons which bring Scripture and spirituality into everyday life, children's messages which delight kids of all ages, congregational singing accompanied by organ music, and outstanding choir anthems. We will still be able to pray and praise, learn and love and live as people of faith.

Our Parish Conference recently approved a plan to add an additional 9:00 am worship service in the Chapel during the months of June, July and August.

This will ease some of the Collins Hall crowding, will offer a more informal worship style, and will give you an earlier start to your summer day. It's your choice – 9:00 am, 10:30 am, or both! While the renovation work goes on in our physical plant, the work of renewal continues in our community. Plan now to join us to "sing the Lord's song" from the inside out – together!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Donna



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.

**UMW QUILT SHOW & LUNCHEON
"THANK YOU!"**

A big thank you to everyone who helped with our 2015 Thirteenth Annual Quilt Show and Luncheon. First, we thank all who purchased tickets, because \$15.00 of each one will go directly to our UMW mission projects here in our local community plus projects in the United States and around the world. Another big thanks to FUMC staff for their help with this event. Thanks also to the 35 plus volunteers who handled tickets, decorated the tables, prepared and served food and beverages, and cleaned up. Finally, a big thank you to the fiber artists for again sharing their creative art which is on display in Collins Hall.

UMW UNIT GATHERING

The UMW Unit will meet Wednesday, May 6 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside room. Julia Kayser Frisbie, Field Coordinator in the Northwest for Imagine No Malaria will describe the challenges that malaria presents to communities and aid workers, explain Imagine No Malaria's strategy, and share success stories from a few of Imagine No Malaria's key projects.

Bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

**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 503.652.5068.

TABITHA CIRCLE

The Tabitha Circle will meet Monday, May 11 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in Room 202. The group will continue working on school bags for UMCOR and will also look at patterns and yarn for knitting UMCOR baby sweaters. All sewers, knitters, and crocheters are invited to come to the meeting. Non-sewers are always welcome to help cut fabric. Co-Chairs: Kay Ward 503.915.7974 and Erin Riley 503.709.5469.



PATHFINDERS FELLOWSHIP

The next Pathfinders Fellowship is Saturday, May 2 at 11:30 AM in Room 202. All adults are invited to join in for an old-fashioned potluck with program to follow. Jerry and Marilyn Outslay will be showing a DVD of one of the choir shows at the Aloha United Methodist Church where Marilyn was the choir director for many years.

Please call our host, Judy Moon, at 503/543-2220 to let her know if you'll be there and the dish you will provide. All are welcome.



Congratulations to Brigitte (Charboneau) and Bailey Lake on the birth of a baby boy, Rory Bleu-Charboneau Lake. (April 13th)

Prayers of Sympathy for:

Vidhya Sathyaraj and her family. Vidhya's uncle died in India We ask travel mercies for her parents, Asha and VJ, as they return from India. The family of Karen Mackin, who died of cancer. Her sister is a good friend of Martha Connell. For the family of Luke Brown, a student of Anne Kayser, who passed away last night.

Prayers of Concern for:

Joyce Hulse who had a fall and has been in the hospital. Scott Gratton who had surgery this past week and is now home. Beth Iverson is following a fall that sent her briefly to the hospital. Joanne Weiss who is now home following a brief hospital stay. Pat Rieke had surgery on her broken wrist Frances Adams returned to rehab following a hospital stay this week. Travis and Jaquetta Purtle, former members of FUMC, have been living in Warrenton OR and are experiencing declining health issues. Services for Betty Stover, Kaylene Kirchem's mother, will be held May 24 May 3:00 at in the Chapel

First Church Orientation on Sunday, May 3rd, after worship in Room 202

Orientations are held every other month and offer a time for newcomers and longtime visitors to our community to get to know the clergy, get answers to any questions, and find out more ways to connect beyond Sunday worship. There will be a light lunch served, a presentation by our clergy, and a building tour by our lay leader. We already have folks attending so you will have a good crowd of people to get to know. Nursery is provided for young children.



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DONATIONS FOR BOOK SALE

First Church Library Book Donations

The Church Library is now accepting donations for its May 10 Used Book Sale. All proceeds will benefit First Church Library.

We accept fiction and non-fiction books in good condition for adults and children, as well as books on tape/CD, music CDs and DVDs. Please do not donate condensed books (e.g., Reader's Digest condensed novels), old textbooks, out-of-date computer software manuals, or multi-volume reference sets like encyclopedias or Bible commentaries. If you have a question about whether your items might be suitable for our sales, please ask one of the library volunteers. Donations can be dropped off on Sundays in the library or during the week at the church office.

