



the First United Methodist Church of Portland  
**CIRCUIT RIDER**

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Renewing

Our Home



**Reconciling Forum**

**Sunday, May 31 after worship in the Fireside Room**

Rev. Jeremy Smith will lead us through "How Did We Get Here? A Brief History of the LGBT Debate in the United Methodist Church." This is an effort to prepare us for General Conference in May 2016.

Enjoy a delicious lunch and learn about the continuing story of our church's struggle to grow into a more inclusive, fair and just community. Will we be prepared to help write the next chapter as it takes shape at the gathering of United Methodists from all over the world at the General Conference right here in Portland next year? Let's get ready! Open to the public. 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 Word from the Minister of Discipleship ... Rev. Jeremy Smith

# Make a joyful noise in a new place!

*Note: Donna is on vacation so I am on deck with the message for this week!*

This past Sunday, the congregation did a “Leave-taking of the Sanctuary” as we begin a Sanctuary Plus renovation project that will continue through early Fall. We made sure this last Sunday in the Sanctuary was a big one. The Sanctuary Bells rang out the music, the Cherubs Children’s Choir performed, the Chancel Choir rang out a heartfelt anthem, and we celebrated the baptism of Pete and Allison’s third child, Colin Klimecky. It was a terrific day.

We ended the day by taking out the Bible, the Hymnal, and a few other items from the sanctuary while reciting a liturgy that brought to mind an image of “Temples and Tents.” I thought I would write a bit more about the difference:

When the Hebrew people in the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) were in transition or traveling, their holy place was a tent. You can read all the details of the tent in Exodus 25-31...yes, seven chapters of dimensions and preparations! That’s how important this tent was. But unlike an IKEA furniture, it was to be taken down and put back together each time the Hebrew people moved. I’m reminded of my days in Boy Scouts where each pup tent and cooking utensil had to be put away in “just the right order” or they all wouldn’t fit in our backpacks.

When the Hebrew people found a home for an extended amount of time, they built a Temple to the specifications found in only four chapters of 2 Chronicles 2-5. And when the Temple was destroyed and the people forced into Exile, they went back to the tents until they could build a temple again.

Friends, we do not often hold the same sentiment of holy places that the Hebrew people did. But many of us do know what it means to be without a spiritual home for many years of our lives. We know what it means to wander in the wilderness, unsure of our future, carrying with us the items and stories that mean a lot to us.

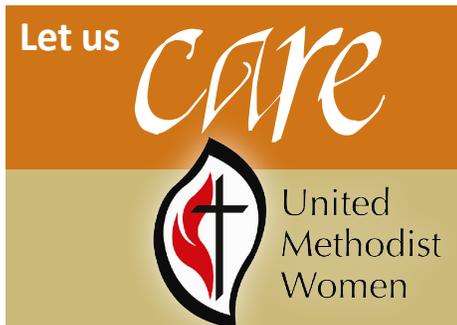
Over the years, many of us have found our way to First Church and have made this a permanent place where we experience spiritual growth, share inspiration with others, and live out the call to discipleship through charity and seeking justice in our communities. The Sanctuary may not be a Temple, but it is a permanent place where we feel connected in many ways.

I’m excited about this summer in the Tent as we worship in Collins Hall. It’ll have some rough edges at first, but we’ll continue to have the Choir, we’ll have the organ, and our sound engineers in our congregation have given us lots of ways to make the sound work in there. There’s a huge carpet square for the children to sit on for Children’s Time. It’ll be the same worship you expect, but in a new place with coffee hour very close by and fun outside in the playground when the weather is nice.

I hope you join us at 10:30 a.m. in Collins Hall from now on to see what new spiritual experiences you can get from the Tent, and what new perspectives or appreciation you may get from a new place.

*Blessings and see you Sunday,*

*~Jeremy*



*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**

On Wednesday, May 20 we will be travelling to Seaside to visit our good friend and past president of Ruth Circle, Betty-Lou Hare. We will meet at the church to be ready to leave via car-pool at 10:30 AM. Betty-Lou is providing lunch for us. Please call Marilyn Weber at 503-241-4081 to reserve a place in one of the vehicles or let her know if you will be driving yourself.

**NAOMI CIRCLE**

The Naomi Circle of Terwilliger Plaza will meet Thursday, May 28 at 2:00 PM in the Club Room. Members will look at "Life's Lean-to's," revealing the kinds of shelters which we all seek and need along life's way. Both the Psalms and New Testament stories reveal many ways that shelter and protection are near, when facing inevitable difficulties. All are welcome. Chair: Colleen Foster, 503-808-7389

**PLANNING TEAM**

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, May 27 at 9:30 AM in room 110.

**Christianity in a Changing World is discussing The Meaning of Human Existence by biologist E.O.Wilson as we question meaning and the morality of our times. 9:00 AM, Room 202**



**RUTH CIRCLE**

Vi Ricci and Jim McManus hosted members at their home in Sandy for the April meeting of Ruth Circle. Vi prepared a delicious lunch and dessert was provided by Dora Luckert which was enjoyed as members admired the spectacular view of Mt. Hood. Pictured here (front row left to right): Dora Luckert, Vi Ricci, Marion Hollenberg, Karla Jones, Gladys Shaw, Colleen Foster. (Back row left to right): Kiko Kimura, Sharon Tsuruta, Norma Winemiller, Jeanette Chardon, Lois Cameron, Marilyn Weber.

**A NOTE ABOUT DAVE JENKINS**

Early in May, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee received a notice of retirement for David Jenkins, our longtime administrative assistant. Many of you have come to know First Church over the past decade from David's presence in the front office, the phone, and most of the publications of the church. We are thankful for his years of service.

David is retiring due to health concerns, so we will be collecting get-well cards as well as cards honoring his years of work here at First Church. You can bring them to the church office on Sundays or during the week, and we'll get them to him. A reception celebrating his commitment to our church will be planned at a later date.

The SPRC has already begun the process of filling this position. Emily Wright has been hired to work in the office on a temporary basis until we find a permanent replacement--Emily is heading to law school next term, so we're thankful to have her in the

meantime. Look on the website for the job description to share with people in your life who may be interested.

Thank you for your encouraging thoughts for the SPRC during this time, and be sure to keep David and his health in your prayers. Thank you.

~Martha Connell, Staff-Parish Relations



*Prayers of Sympathy for:*

Chuck King whose father Johnny King who recently died.

Samantha Cerling-Marks and her family in the death of her grandmother.

*Prayers of Concern for:*

David Jenkins who recently had surgery.

Bart Eberwein, husband of Jill Collins who is undergoing chemotherapy

Marilyn Schuberg who is now in hospice care at Terwilliger.

For Grace Sathyaraj, Mother and grandmother of Vije Sathyaraj and Vieta who is having a difficult time following the death of her husband Ranjit Sathyaraj who passed away recently in Karnataka India.

Darcy Miles, sister of Catherine Kerrigan, who has been struggling with cancer.

Gwyneth Rochlin, who also had surgery this week.

Services for Betty Stover, Kaylene Kirchem's mother, will be held Sunday May 24th at 3:00 pm in the chapel



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## Summer Small Groups

Sign up for a Summer experience with other folks through our Group Ministry. Sign-up through the month of May for our variety of fellowship, service, common interest, and study groups.

Our special focus this summer is on Supper or Lunch groups: we have seven of them that meet in variety of regions in the greater Portland area.

Sign up for the one closest to you and you'll get the meeting times!  
[www.fumcpdx.org/groups](http://www.fumcpdx.org/groups)