



the First United Methodist Church of Portland

CIRCUIT RIDER

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First Church Kids Camp

Let Your Light Shine

Shining a new light on Music, Art, Drama & Dance

August 17-21, 2015

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Children Pre K – 6th grade are invited to take part in this exciting summer event at First Church.

Come experience a journey of discovery as we learn, play, sing, and create!

If you are interested in receiving additional information about this event please contact Megan Jones:
mjones@fumcpdx.org



Restoring the Sacred Circle



A Report from the Annual Conference

JULY WORSHIP SERIES: YOU ASKED FOR IT!

Join us for Sunday worship in July with the return of our popular summer worship series, "You Asked For It!"



Sunday, July 12
"When Pigs Fly:
Do Miracles Really Happen?"



Sunday, July 19
"Why Do Bad Things Happen
to Good People?"



Sunday, July 26
"Faith in a Place Where Faith
is Suspect"

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 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM, Sundays.



a message from our Pastor... Rev. Donna Pritchard

In the midst of the latest “heat advisory” I headed out to the pool to cool off and to get some much needed exercise. Imagine my dismay when I walked by the outdoor fire circle and saw the gas fire was on! Checking in, I asked the front desk clerk why, when the temperature was nearing 100 degrees, the fire circle was adding to the heat! Her reply was, “Oh, for the ambiance”. Was it the “ambiance” of Hades they

were trying to create? Clearly, somebody hadn’t thought that through very well!

We all make this kind of unthinking mistakes from time to time. And it is easy to miss the obvious if we don’t take the time to reflect, review and reconsider our actions. So as we come to the end of our 3-year Strategic Plan for First Church, it is appropriate for us to do just that.

“First Fruits”... that is what we called our 3-year Strategic Plan for First Church when it was written in 2012. Over the past three years we have seen many changes as we have worked our plan. Average worship attendance is up, our Sunday School is bursting at the seams, small groups have formed and outreach ministries are drawing new volunteers. So now what?

In consultation with your Lay Leaders, we have scheduled an intentional review of our First Fruits Plan. It is important for us to close the loop on these efforts, evaluate the effectiveness

of our goals, and consider the direction our ministry needs to head in the next three to five years.

If you were a part of drafting this Plan, or if you are new to a leadership position here at the church, watch your mail for some preliminary reporting and some questions for you to ponder. And then join us Saturday, August 29th, from 9:30 am to Noon for our First Fruits review. This meeting is open to all members and constituents, because we believe in the power of our community.

And speaking of leadership...We recently elected folks to serve in a variety of capacities. On Sunday, July 19, all leaders are invited to an orientation session immediately after worship in Room 202.

Kendall Martin, our Director of Communications, will present a workflow for communications within the congregation and to the wider community, to help us all stay informed. You will also learn about scheduling building use, creating effective meeting agendas, fundraising policies, Safe Sanctuary practices, and the overall leadership structure of the church.

Staying cool – or at least not getting hotter – sometimes takes a little thought. And leadership is best when we think it through, together. See you in worship!

*Grace and Peace,
Rev. Donna*



STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING INFORMATION MEETINGS • JULY 19 AND AUGUST 16 11:45 AM, ROOM 110

Have you considered becoming a Stephen Minister? A Stephen Minister is a caring Christian lay person, trained to walk with a person during a time of need. Stephen Ministry training will provide you with the opportunity to develop practical skills for this one-on-one caring ministry. Using Christian resources, you will develop skills in listening objectively, understanding feelings, honest communication, crisis theory, and intervention, as well how to encourage steps of growth and change.

A new class to train Stephen Ministers will begin in September, 2015. Learn more about Stephen Ministry by attending an information meeting, Sunday, July 19, or Sunday, August, 16, at 11:45 in Room 110. If you want more information or cannot come to this class, contact Shelly Edwards at 202-471-0740 or Marge Terdal at 503-808-7438.

MISSION U - AUGUST 6-9, 2015 - ALTON L. COLLINS RETREAT CENTER, EAGLE CREEK, OREGON

The areas of study are Spiritual Growth: Leading Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God will be Rochelle Killett and Linda Scheirman.

We live in a time where people search for happiness, multiple techniques are shared, some Christians think happiness is unimportant compared to joy while early Methodist traditions used the language of happiness often. Geographic: Rev. Rhoda Pittman Markus will be leading Latin America: People and Faith.

The last day to register is July 13. All registration is online at <http://www.umoi.org/umw>. For more information, you may call Trudy Kayser at 503.292.7528 or Colleen Foster at 503.808.7389

CHRISTIANITY IN A CHANGING WORLD:

The Meaning of Human Existence, the works of biologist E.O. Wilson, will guide the conversation as we question meaning and the morality of our times. Room 202, 9 am.

“VACCINES AND THE COMMON GOOD” WILL BE A TWO-WEEK CLASS TAUGHT BY DR. ROBYN LIU BEGINNING ON JULY 26TH. 9:30 A.M. IN ROOM 110.

THE GATHERING IS ON SUMMER RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER

Highlights of Annual Conference

From Betty Cobb-Colgan:

The Conference theme “Restoring the Sacred Circle” set the tone for us to be thoughtful and reflective in decision-making.

I was especially taken by two events which unexpectedly made a powerful convergence in my mind. The first was the dynamic and profound address given by Rev. Glen Chebon Kernell, Jr, Executive Secretary of Native American and Indigenous Ministries at the denomination’s General Board of Global Ministries. Rev. Kernell reminded us that in just 250 years the percentage of population in North America who are indigenous peoples has gone from 100% to 1%. He told us that if we harm one community we harm all, and called for us to repent and work toward reconciliation with our Native American brothers and sisters. This set the stage for our Act of Repentance as a Conference, a meaningful beginning for our journey toward re-establishing respectful, loving relationships with Native peoples.

I was struck by an obvious parallel between Native American experiences and those of the native Palestinians. I am encouraged that many in our Church are refusing to allow this same injustice to happen again. All four of the legislative items from the Holy Land Task Force were approved with an eye toward aligning our investments with our values.

I left Conference feeling uplifted as a part of our church family that puts people and relationships first, cares about our planet and is not afraid to grapple with hard issues – a family truly working to “do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.”

From Dee Poujade:

For me, the highlights of Annual Conference were (1) the focus on reconciliation for past wrongs perpetrated on Native people and (2) the passage of resolutions that ask our Church to support the requests of the indigenous Palestinian people by divesting from companies who perpetrate the continued illegal Israeli Occupation of Palestine. In both instances, prayerful consideration, as well as practical work, will be needed to carry forth the work that was begun at Annual Conference, but I believe it is vital that we – as individuals, as a church, as a denomination – keep sight of that work as we follow God’s call to care for our brothers and sisters.

From Alyson Inouye:

It was inspiring for me to see examples of how First Church members are working hard to make the world beyond Portland a better place – not just in the present, but also for future generations. Dee Poujade eloquently responded to questions about legislative proposals from the Holy Land Task Force. Our own Planet Church submitted three petitions to General Conference aimed at combating climate change. After considerable debate, all of these legislative proposals were approved by the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

From Paul Nickell:

Would it surprise you to know that First UMC people are providing leadership to the regional (conference) and worldwide (general) levels of the United Methodist Church? In addition to sponsoring key pieces of “legislation” (standing resolutions and petitions on important social issues), First UMC members at Annual Conference played other pivotal roles. For example, in preparation for our denomination’s General Conference, which will be held here in Portland next spring, Bill Haden, who heads the local planning efforts for General Conference, called upon the conference members to not only attend the event but to offer the many-needed volunteers that

this worldwide event is expected to require. Pastor Donna also serves on a high-level committee planning for General Conference. Bill and Donna both deserve our thanks and appreciation for their leadership.

Of special note at Annual Conference was the election of delegates who will represent Oregon-Idaho United Methodists at General Conference. Pastor Donna was elected Oregon-Idaho’s clergy delegate to General Conference – our conference’s only clergy delegate. It’s a high honor, and First Church can be rightly proud of her election. Also, Pastor Jeremy Smith and Josh Hauser were elected alternates to General Conference; they will also represent Oregon-Idaho at the Jurisdictional Conference in July 2016.

A highlight of every Annual Conference is hearing the bishop’s appointments for the coming year (July to June). I’m delighted to report that Bishop Grant Hagiya has again appointed the Rev. Donna Pritchard to be our senior pastor, and the Rev. Jeremy Smith as our associate pastor, and the Rev. Dick Stormant as our minister of visitation, once again for the coming year.



Prayers of Celebration

Shannon and Matt Newbery welcomed Theodore (Theo) McNeil Newberry their first child, on June 23rd. Shannon is the daughter of Grant and Elaine Jones and Matt is the son of Lyn Jenks.

For the marriage of Megan Scott and Adam Faust who were married in Illinois in late June.

Prayers of Sympathy

To Laura Mason’s family in the death of her mother, Carol Ruckman.

Prayers of Concern

Rosalie Humphrey, wife of Clare Humphrey, has been placed on hospice care.

Renee Harber is recovering from a broken hip.

Staff Sargent Layne Short, son in law of Paul Ingram, who was deployed to Korea on July 4th for one year. Please remember Layne and his wife Lindsay Short in your prayers.

Tami Lazzaro recently had carpal tunnel surgery.



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Upcoming Activities

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM IN THE CHAPEL

Are you curious about trying something new? Our early Sunday service continues to provide an engaging and enlightened experience. Come see what all the fuss is about and get an earlier start to your day!

FIRST CHURCH BIRDERS VISIT JACKSON BOTTOM

Join the First Church Birders August 8th for a trip to Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, 2600 SW Hillsboro Highway in Hillsboro. We'll meet at the Jackson Bottom parking lot at 10am, and those who wish can gather at the church at 9:15 AM for ride sharing. (The walk should last about two hours.)

FIRST CHURCH GOES TO THE FOOD BANK!

Join fellow First Church volunteers at the Northeast Portland location of the Oregon Food Bank on Saturday morning, July 25th. We'll be repacking bulk foods into family size portions for hungry children and adults in the Portland metro area. A sign-up sheet (required to participate) will be available in the Fireside Room during coffee hour on Sundays through July 19.

