



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](mailto:mjones@fumcpdx.org)



### **THE CHALLENGE IS ON!**

GOOD NEWS! An anonymous donor has stepped forward and issued a “Challenge” Grant to help us pay for the Sanctuary Renovation project. They will match our gifts up to \$100,000! If you have not made a pledge yet – or are in the position to increase your pledge, please do so today! Pledge cards are available in the Fireside Hallway and in the office.

### **FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION, SUNDAY, JULY 26**

For newcomers and longtime visitors, our orientations offer a light lunch, presentation and Q&A with our clergy and ministry leaders, and a building tour. We begin at noon in Room 202 and conclude by 1:30 p.m.

### **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

## *Where are you from?*

That was a common conversation starter at Kenyon College (Gambier, Ohio) during last week's spiritual writing workshop, "Beyond Walls".

It was so common, in fact, that one of our instructors gave it to us along with five minutes to write a response. Here is what I wrote:

*I am from camping trips in the rain And the sweet smell of evergreens guarding the night. I am from silence escaping chaos and exhortations to "be your best" which really meant be perfect in every way. I am from high mountain glaciers and rumbling seas, desert sunsets and always, always, the evergreen sentinels guarding my heart. I am from cribs and diapers, bathtub conversations of middle school minds, sweet teenage activism, and now – thank God – oh yes – independent strong women Who shout into the chaos "Justice and love!"*

It is helpful to stop and consider, from time to time, how to answer that question of identity. It is good to recognize the communities and experiences which form us, challenge us, and encourage us.

This past Sunday at 10:30 I watched one of our middle-school youth sing the opening hymn without ever looking at the words. As she sang "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing", I was touched by the ways that her faith is being formed. Clearly, this is someone who has been guided by the love of her parents and her church. Memories of hymns and Scriptures and stories of faith are the things which ground us in God's love. And they do not come to us out of nowhere.

Which is why it is so important that we help create those memories for all the children and youth of our church. My young singing friend did not just absorb that hymn from the atmosphere. She learned it through Sunday School and church camp and worship. Somebody helped teach it, somebody helped inspire in her a desire to know it. Somebody just like you.

You've heard us talking about the growth of our Sunday School. You've seen the crowd of children in worship. Please, pray about your role in helping to form their identities as people of faith, beloved children of God. And then give Megan Jones a call or shoot her an email ([mjones@fumcpdx.org](mailto:mjones@fumcpdx.org)) and volunteer to help.

And maybe you'd like to take the next five minutes to complete this prompt, "I am from...."

Grace and Peace,  
*Rev. Donna*

### **SANCTUARY PLUS UPDATE...**

Thank you for your support of the Sanctuary Plus remodel. The old windows and lights have been removed and the cross has been raised! Through your generous giving, we have been able to order the new lights and windows which arrive next week. We look forward to seeing these installed over the next few days. You may have noticed the new ADA doors near Fireside, and several more sets of doors will be installed before the end of this project. We are steadily progressing with these upgrades to our beautiful sanctuary.

Through gifts and pledges we have collected \$46,173 towards meeting the Challenge Grant of \$100,000. Please make your pledge today to help us secure funding to complete this project.





**VACCINES, IMMIGRATION AND LGBT CONVERSATIONS: JOIN THESE SUMMER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

The Adult Ministries Council announces three short-term classes for the next six weeks on a variety of topics:

“Vaccines and the Common Good” will look at the vaccines question from a medical and ethical viewpoint. Dr. Robyn Liu, July 26 & August 2.

“Unaccompanied Minors: How Immigration Affects Families” will examine immigration in a class suitable for youth and adults. Megan Jones, August 9 & 16.

“Seeing LGBTQ in the Bible” will look at how to read Scripture with support of LGBTQ persons. Rev. Jeremy Smith, August 23 & 30.

All classes are in Room 110 on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. (except LGBTQ which begins at 9am). Please contact Rev. Jeremy for any questions.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING INFORMATION MEETING • AUGUST 16, 11:45 AM, ROOM 110**

Have you considered becoming a Stephen Minister? A Stephen Minister is a caring Christian lay person who is 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. For more about Stephen Ministry, there will be an information meeting, Sunday, August, 16, at 11:45 in Room 110. Contact Shelly Edwards or Marge Terdal for further information.

**DRIVE OUT MALARIA EVENT AT ORCHARD HILLS GOLF CLUB**

Saturday, August 1st at 1:00 p.m., Orchard Hills Golf Club in Washougal, WA. Take part in the Drive Out Malaria golf tournament! 1PM tee time. Your \$125 donation/entry fee includes golf, prizes, and an awards banquet. Enjoy a beautiful August day of sunshine and fresh air on the golf course and support Imagine No Malaria August 1st. For more information and to register, go to: [driveoutmalaria.org](http://driveoutmalaria.org) or contact Julia Frisbie through the Church Office.

**AUGUST SERMON SERIES: P SUMMER OF PSALMS SUNDAYS, AUGUST 2, 9, 16 AT 9AM AND 10:30AM**

The first three weeks of August worship will focus on “A Psummer of Psalms”, as each week we consider two of the Psalms and their themes of praise, thanksgiving, lament, struggle, and hope.

**GLOBAL MISSIONS PRESENTS! MISSIONARY FROM CAMBODIA**

Sunday, August 2nd, after worship in Room 202 Clara Biswas, a United Methodist missionary to Cambodia, will speak to us about her work with the street children of Phnom Penh. Global Missions Committee will provide a light lunch.

**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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE NEEDED!**

Sunday School teachers are needed for our Summer months. If you would like to teach 1-3 Sundays during the summer (June 21 – September 6), please sign up via email or on the sign up sheets located outside Megan Jones’ office. If you would like to learn more about our Sunday School program and the role of a Sunday School Teacher, please email Megan or call to arrange a time to chat. The next training is August 23rd at noon in room 202.



*Prayers of Support*

Prayers of support for Brittney Brown who is serving at an orphanage in Zambia for the Summer.

*Prayers of Sympathy*

To the family of Darlyn Howard Drigger. Darlyn is a former member, who has been living in Washington State and who passed away July 14th

Gladys Shaw, her niece and her niece’s family in the recent death of Gladys’ great nephew. Benjamin Kane Darab was 21 months old.

*Prayers of Concern*

Jim Mann is in ICU following heart surgery.

Roger Carlson is in rehab after breaking his leg on July 3rd.

David Jenkins is now home following a hospital stay this last week.

Kim Bender is now home after breaking her wrist and shoulder in a fall.

Bea and Dick Readel’s youngest grandson, Kristian, who is 6 years old and scheduled for surgery in August.

Carrie Saito who had hip surgery this week.

**Stay Connected This Summer!**

**Friend Us on Facebook**

<http://facebook.com/fumcpdx>

**Follow Rev. Donna on Twitter**

<http://twitter.com/revdonnafumc>

**Download Our Weekly Podcast**

iTunes: <https://goo.gl/IVkK9L>  
Android: <http://goo.gl/PxuDI6>

**THE GATHERING IS ON  
SUMMER RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER**



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

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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.

