



the First United Methodist Church of Portland
CIRCUIT RIDER

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OCTOBER 31, HALLOWEEN 5K RUN & 1 MILE FAMILY WALK



RACE TO END CHILD HOMELESSNESS

See page 4 for details

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES: iDOUBT: QUESTIONS OF FAITH



Walking on Water
October 11



You've Got to be Kidding!
October 18



**Why Does it Always
Have to be Snakes?**
October 25

**WORSHIP
AT FIRST
CHURCH**

As a Peace Church, we declare that we will be an advocate for peace in our local communities and world.

As a Reconciling Congregation, we have pledged to welcome and support all who want to worship with us, regardless of race, gender, class or sexual orientation.

As a Creation Care Congregation, we advocate for lifestyles and social policies which bring healing and renewal to our precious Earth.

FROM THE PASTOR

Lately I've been thinking a lot about rivers. At this end of a long dry summer, it seems as if our rivers are showing their age. Where we are used to seeing the movement of water we now see stagnant mud or even dry ground. We see the detritus of trees long submerged exposed to the sun and we feel unsettled as we wait for the rains to return.



I am reminded of an old Bob Dylan song – which was before my time, I'll have you know – but which I found on iTunes recently. The song is entitled “Watching the River Flow”, and in it Dylan belts out a bluesy longing ...

*Wish I was back in the city instead of this old bank of sand
With the sun beating down over the chimney tops
And the one I love so close at hand.
If I had wings and I could fly I know where I would go...
But right now I'll just sit here so contentedly
And watch the river flow.*

He goes on to lament the pain in the world – *People disagreeing on all just about everything...but then gives us this assurance, Oh, this ol' river keeps on rollin' though, no matter what gets in the way and which way the wind does blow.*

It seems to me Dylan is giving us a new tune for a very old song. Consider these words from Psalm 65: *You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water...*

In a time of drought – natural or spiritual – it can be hard to imagine rivers full of water. That is why we need each other. That is why we need the Church – a community that remembers sitting by the river of God, watching it flow, dipping our toes in tentatively, or jumping in all at once.

But of course, it is not enough just to watch it flow, or even to jump in and swim. We also have to share the river. We have to help others to see it flow in their lives and we have to unleash its power for the sake of a thirsty world. I am grateful that we can do that work together, in the dry season and even when the rain finally returns.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Donna

PS... Want to learn more about the river of God as found in the New Testament? Join me for DISCIPLE Bible Study II – an in-depth look at Luke and Acts – every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8:00, beginning October 14 and running through the end of February. Sign up by calling or emailing me or Megan Jones.

JOIN US FOR A WORK PARTY TO MOVE BACK INTO THE SANCTUARY!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 8 AM - 12 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 12 PM - 3 PM

CHURCH & SOCIETY



FIRST CHURCH GOES TO THE FOOD BANK Saturday, October 24 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. / Beaverton Food Bank

Several times per year, our Church and Society team organizes trips to volunteer at the Oregon Food Bank, serving in the food re-packing room with other community minded volunteers. Bulk food received by the Food Bank is packaged into family sized portions to be distributed to hungry Oregon families. If you'd like to join us for this, check the sign-up sheet at the Outreach Table in Collins Hall after worship starting Sunday, October 4th. Or you can email Mark Ohlson, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator at: mohlson@fumcpdx.org. See you at the Food Bank!

DEATH PENALTY FORUM

Church and Society is presenting another FORUM on Sunday, October 25 at noon in room 202 with information about alternatives to Oregon's Death Penalty.

Our last Forum featured Frank Thompson, former Director of Oregon's Penitentiary System and his thought provoking "real world" observations on why Oregon's death penalty system is significantly flawed, expensive, and still doesn't guarantee justice be done.

Present at our October Forum will be Ron Steiner, OADP board chair, special guest speakers Jeff Ellis, a nationally known Portland defense attorney, and Becky O'Neil-McBrayer, a murder victim family member.

Please make a date to join us. See details on Page 4 for times and location.

SHELTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Our Goose Hollow Family Shelter guests and staff could use your help! If you have interest in volunteering to bring an evening meal, or help with the kids and families some evening or overnight, there will be an information and orientation meeting before worship, from 9:30-10:15am on Sunday, 10/25. This is offered so that the required orientation happens on a Sunday, saving you another trip to FUMC! There will be more information and help with volunteer registration at coffee hour after worship on Sunday, 10/11 and 10/18. Thank you!

PRAYERS

Prayers of Celebration:

Rev. Jeremy and Chelsea welcomed a 7lb 6oz baby girl on Friday, September 25. Her name is **Caeli Joy Smith** (Pronounced Chay-Lee, Caeli is Latin for "Heaven"). The family is doing well and Rev. Jeremy will be on paternity leave until October 25.

Alexandra Sherise Scott (Lexi) and Alexander David Scott (Xander) were adopted by Kate and Warren Scott. We celebrated Lexi and Xander's baptism Sunday, October 4.

Prayers of Sympathy:

For **Susan Duncan and her family**. Susan's father, Dr. Elmore Duncan, died in Washington recently.

To **Laura Mason and her family** in the death of her father **Stan Ruckman**.

Prayers of Concern:

Duane Paulson, Marian Hollenberg, Francis Lefever, Richard Pomeroy all have had surgeries and/or procedures and are now home from the hospital.

For **Rebecca Piros**, a mother of close friends of Cameron and Claire Backus, who is presently struggling for health and remains in the ICU.

Continued Prayers for:

Hazel Balcomb, Karla Meyer, Ed Pittaway, and Virginia Townend.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



TABITHA CIRCLE

The Tabitha Circle will meet Monday, October 12 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in Room 202. They are sewing for school bags and layettes to take to Kit Kamp at Camp Magruder which is October 16 - 18. These items will then be transported to UMCOR. Co-Chairs: Kay Ward 503-915-7974 and Erin Riley 503-709-5469

THE RUTH CIRCLE

On Wednesday, October 21 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 Jeanette Chardon at 503-866-3192 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, October 22 at 2:00 PM in the Club Room. The program is from the Mission U study-Latin America: People and Faith. This study emphasizes the richness of Latin America and its people. It also explores the current challenges of nations, culture and the ongoing contribution of women and the role of religion. Chair: Colleen Foster, 503-808-7389

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, October 28 at noon in the Fireside Room. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Sandra Howard 503-652-5068.

OREGON-IDAHO UMW ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 24 - TIGARD UMC

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker is Bishop Grant Hagiya - "Feeding the 5,000: Physically, Emotionally, Spiritually. Registration fee and completed form is due October 10. Form is available via umoi.org/umw and then click on "our two cents".



the FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PORTLAND
CIRCUIT RIDER

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 E-mail the church office at office@fumcpdx.org
 to request it by e-mail.

Address Service Requested



RECONCILING MINISTRIES

Pride Parade 2016
 Update & Planning
 Sunday, October 18, Noon, 202



**2015 FAMILY REUNION
 FUNDRAISER**

Friday, October 16th, 5:00 PM
 The Melody Ball Room (SE)
 Tickets: \$100 | Purchase at
www.pdxhfs.org | Includes
 Dinner & Hosted Beverages

Race to End Child Homelessness Continued ...

Join the First Church team on Saturday, October 31 in the Race to End Child Homelessness! An even organized by New City Initiative. Sign up as an individual or a family for either the 5K or Family Fun Walk by registering with our First United Methodist team on the following website: <https://www.crowdrise.com/racetoendchildhomelessness>. All proceeds from this event will be used as direct action to keep families in their existing housing. For more information about New City Initiative, how to get involved in the race, or how to give, please contact Megan Jones, mjones@fumcpdx.org.



**Oregonians for Alternatives
 to the Death Penalty**

Sunday, October 25

Noon – 1:30PM, Room 202

Sponsored by Church & Society/

Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty