



the First United Methodist Church of Portland
CIRCUIT RIDER

December 2, 2015 ■ Volume 21, Issue 24 ■ www.fumcpdx.org

Sunday December 20 3:00 PM

CHRISTMAS POPS CONCERT
FEATURING



JONAS NORDWALL

AT THE MARY L COLLINS PIPE ORGAN

See page 3 for more details

Adults \$15 | \$20 at the Door | Students & Children \$10 | \$12 at the Door

**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

In all three of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 16:13-23, Mark 8:27-33, Luke 9:18-22), Jesus asks his followers “Who do people say that I am?” And in all three versions of this story, the disciples tell him that some people think Jesus is John the Baptist, while others have confused him with Elijah, and others wonder if he is a resurrected prophet from ancient times.

It doesn't seem to matter that much to Jesus what the crowds think of him, because he immediately goes on to ask the disciples, *But who do you say that I am?* It is as if Jesus wants to make sure his followers get it, that they understand Jesus' identity, and by extension, they understand something of their own identity.



I suspect Jesus might be similarly concerned with our answers to that question today. How we see Jesus – how we imagine his life story – influences how we live our own.

If we see Jesus as John the Baptist, we will forever consider him a forerunner of something yet to come, and we may not pay attention to the here and now. If we see him as Elijah, we might insist upon a recitation of an established prophecy and totally miss the new world order he initiates. If our primary image of Jesus comes from hymns like “In the Garden”, where he walks with *me*, and he talks with *me*... we might never get beyond the intimacy of Jesus and me against the world. And then we are going to be hugely challenged when the Jesus of liberation theology or the Jesus of social justice or the Jesus of missionary zeal shows up and calls us by name!

How we see Jesus and how we imagine his life story, influences how we live our own. It is easy to fall back on a limited perception of Jesus or to thoughtlessly repeat our own cultural assumptions as if they were the sum total of God-with-us. But the season of Advent, this time of Christmas preparation, asks us to look a little further, to think a little deeper, and to experience a little fuller image of Jesus.

Who do you say Jesus is? This is not only a quandary, a word problem to be defined and categorized into a solution for modern minds, it is also an invitation. When Jesus asks you *Who do you say that I am?*, he is inviting you into a question which can only be answered through relationship. He is inviting you into a faith which can only be defined through your own lived experience.

Who do you say Jesus is? It's the question of the day, but more than that, it is the question of the season. This Advent, God is asking you that question. This Advent, God is inviting you into a deeper relationship with Jesus, and into a faith which can only be understood- really understood- through your own life experience.

There are many opportunities throughout this season to join with others here at 1st Church as we explore this question and respond to this invitation. Please join us for worship every Sunday at 8:30 am in the Chapel or at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. And don't forget about Gratitude Sunday Dec. 6; Alternative Christmas Dec. 13 and 20; Children's Christmas Pageant Dec. 20; Longest Night Worship Dec. 21; and all 4 Christmas Eve services (5:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00).

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Donna

General Conference 2016

COMING TO OREGON and to the NORTHWEST

Be a part of welcoming our brothers and sisters from around the world!

Volunteers are needed to:

GREET ARRIVALS
at the airport

STAFF WELCOME TABLES
in hotels

REGISTER
delegates and guests

PROVIDE DIRECTIONS & ASSISTANCE
throughout the convention center

DEMONSTRATE
radical Northwest
HOSPITALITY

Get the latest info:
www.gc2016pdx.org

CHRISTMAS POPS CONCERT

Tickets for the Christmas Pops Concert featuring Organist Jonas Nordwall are available after Sunday Worship now through December 20 in Collins Hall. You can also purchase tickets at the front office Monday through Friday, 8:45 am - 4:45 pm. The concert will feature a sing along, holiday pops classics including Charlie Brown's Christmas, selections from The Nutcracker, and special guest Edmund Stone as narrator courtesy of All Classical Portland, KQAC 89.9



A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS COFFEE HOUR.

You are invited to bring one of your favorite Christmas treats to coffee hour on December 20th. Your Coffee Hospitality Team will be providing coffee, hot cider and festive decorations.



PRAYERS



Prayers of Sympathy

For the **persons and nations** around the world who continue to suffer because of the terrorist attacks. We particularly remember all the Syrian refugees and others displaced by conflict.

On **World AIDS Day** let us not forget all of those we have known who have lived with and suffered because of Aids and related diseases. Let us also remember those who continue to struggle and suffer this day.

Prayers of Concern:

Mary Louise Ott was recently diagnosed with cancer and she is now on Hospice Care at home.

Continued Prayers For:
Marion Hollenberg, Rebecca Piros, Karla Meyers, and Ed Pittaway.

Jim McManus, Duane Paulson and Melba Rizzo are now all home.



**UNITED
METHODIST
WOMEN**

CALENDAR

Monday, December 14
Room 202
10:00 am Tabitha Circle
Chairs: Kay Ward 503.915.7974
and Erin Riley
503-709-5469

Wednesday, December 16
Fireside Room
12:00 am Circle of Friends
Program: Cookie and gift
(scarves) exchange plus HUGS
event (Hats, Underwear, Gloves,
Scarves).
Chair: Sandra Howard
503-652-5068

Wednesday, December 16
Room 202
12:00 pm Ruth Circle
Christmas Gift Exchange and
Gifts for Home Bound Members
Chair: Marilyn Weber
503-241-4081

Thursday, December 17
Terwilliger Plaza - Club Room
2:00 pm Naomi Circle
Bring along your favorite
memory, and your teacup, for
this hour of reflection and
Christmas delights.
Chair: Colleen Foster,
503-808-7389

RECONCILING MINISTRIES

CHRISTMAS WHITE ELEPHANT & COOKIE GIFT EXCHANGE

December 20, 2015 / Room 110





the FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PORTLAND
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THE CIRCUIT RIDER is a publication of First United Methodist Church,
 1838 SW Jefferson St, Portland, OR 97201-2496

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The Circuit Rider can be e-mailed to you.
 E-mail the church office at office@fumcpdx.org
 to request it by e-mail.

Address Service Requested



Coming up on Sundays at First Church

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

December 13 & 20

Alternative Christmas allows you to take a break from giving "things" and instead make a difference. Our supported charities this year are:



- UMCOR Layette Kits
- Goose Hollow Family Shelter
- Brazil Medical Supplies
- Macdonald Center
- GBGM Caretakers of God's Creation

With your donation you will receive a card you can use to send to friends and loved ones to let them know of your donation in their honor.

SPECIAL MUSIC 10:30 AM SERVICE December 13

Gloria from The Masque of Angels
 by Dominick Argento
Gloria from Missa Brevis
 by Jonathan Dove.
Variations on 'In Dulci Jubilo'
 arr. by Julie Turner
The Virgin Mary Had a Baby
 Sung by a "Men's Quartet"

