



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

January 13, 2016 ■ Volume 22, Issue 1 ■ [www.fumcpdx.org](http://www.fumcpdx.org)

## GROUP MINISTRY

*WINTER*

*TERM*

*2016*



## SIGN UP BEGINS JANUARY 17

### **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,*

We don't have a United Methodist pope... so who makes decisions for The United Methodist Church? Good question. The answer is – the General Conference. General Conference is the only body that can set official policy and speak for the denomination.

The General Conference meets every four years. Delegates – this year numbering 864 - are elected by annual conferences based on the number of United Methodists in each annual conference. (In our Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, we get two delegates – Jan Nelson from Salem, Oregon and me, and several alternates including Josh Hauser and Jeremy Smith. General Conference delegates represent United Methodists around the world and half of them are laity, while the other half are clergy. This year General Conference will be meeting right here in Portland, Oregon, May 10-20!

The General Conference serves as the legislative branch of our church's governance. During those ten days in May delegates will discuss and vote on petitions proposed by United Methodists around the world, in order to revise The Book of Discipline (our book of church law), and The Book of Resolutions (policies related to current social issues). This is when we will discern together the direction our church will take in common ministries of compassion, justice, discipleship, and care for the world.

General Conference will also be a time for worship and celebration of our connection as United Methodists. The theme "Therefore GO" is based on Jesus' Great Commission, found in Matthew 28:19-20 *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

The logo for General Conference, pictured here, is meant to convey the action of the theme while bringing in Mt. Hood (at our own Josh Hauser's suggestion) to make it uniquely "Oregon", reflecting our part in hosting the Conference. Want to learn more about General Conference? Join us for a special Forum on Sunday, January 24th, noon-1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. We will hear from special guests – Directors of Connectional Ministries from the conferences of the Western Jurisdiction – who will lead us in consideration of the social issues, the structural (church) issues and the impact of General Conference on the West.

Want to see the Conference close up and personal? This is a unique opportunity to have it in our own backyard! Don't miss this chance to volunteer a little time and share in this historic event right here at home. You can volunteer by going to this website: [www.gc2016pdx.org](http://www.gc2016pdx.org) It will take all of us working together to make sure that the nearly 5000 people who come to General Conference will leave knowing that Portland, Oregon, is a great place of hospitality and vision and hope.

Grace and Peace,  
*Rev. Donna*



**UNITED  
METHODIST  
WOMEN**  
**CALENDAR**

Wednesday, January 20  
Room 202  
12:00 pm Ruth Circle  
Program: Aromatherapy and  
Essential Oils  
Chair: Judy Moon  
503.543.2220

Wednesday, January 27  
Fireside Room  
12:00 pm Circle of Friends  
Program: UMW Legacy Fund  
Chair: Sandra Howard  
503.652.5068

Wednesday, January 27  
Room 110  
10:00 am Planning Team

Wednesday, February 3  
Fireside Room  
10:00 AM UMW Unit  
Program: UMC General  
Conference 2016

Wednesday, February 3  
Fireside Room  
1:00 PM Book Chat  
Chair: Sandra Howard  
503.652.5068.



**PRAYERS**

*Prayer Concerns*

**Doris Lavelly** is now on Hospice care at Willamette View.  
**Paul Ingram** recently had surgery and is now home  
**Jim Manuel** is in Medcalf Rehab unit at Terwilliger.  
**Richie Muckridge** is now home following hip surgery.

*Continued Prayers*

**Janet Switzer, Duane Paulson, Marion Hollenberg, Ellen Zeller** (Paul Ingram's mother), **Mary Sagara, Rebecca Piro, Karla Meyers, and Ed Pittaway.**

*Prayers of Sympathy*

**Gary Howarth and his family** in the death of **Gary's wife, Mary Louise Ott** in late December.

**SMALL GROUPS WINTER SEMESTER HAS BEGUN!**

Join together with folks of similar interest this Winter and Spring! Go to [www.fumcpdx.org/groups](http://www.fumcpdx.org/groups) to learn more about each group and sign up! Or pick up a pamphlet outside of the Sanctuary.



**MACDONALD  
CENTER FORUM**

There will be a forum presented by the new Macdonald

Center Executive Director, Jon Ulsh on **February 7** after the 10:30 am worship service in the Fireside Room. Jon will be here to give you firsthand knowledge of the work Macdonald Center does in the heart of inner Northwest Portland.

The Macdonald Center offers shelter, activities, and hope to the members of this low income community. In 2012 Macdonald West opened offering residents of Old Town 42 brand-new studio apartments. MacWest, as it is preferred to be called, fills the underserved niche for affordable housing for people who are independent but, for various reasons, cannot earn the amount of money required to pay standard rents. The Center offers more than housing: it offers the chance at new and hopeful chapters of their lives.

Since 2011, First Church members have been financially supportive of the Macdonald Center mission. We have also sent a summer intern to work at the Center via our Greathouse Summer Internship Program.

Come and meet Jon and find out more about Macdonald Center's unique community ministry!



**RUTH CIRCLE CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Back L-R: Judy Moon, Lila Palmiter, Marilyn Weber, Norma Winemiller, Middle L-R: Gladys Shaw, Marion Hollenberg, Melba Rizzo, Colleen Foster, Lois Cameron, Sharon Tsuruta. Front L-R: Dora Luckert, Jeanette Chardon.



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to request it by e-mail.

Address Service Requested



**Fiction**

**Non-Fiction**

**Children's**

**Crafts**

**COOK books**

**...And More!**

**First Church Library**

**Used Book Sale!**

**Sunday, February 7, 2016**

**Before and after the  
10:30 am Worship Service**

**All proceeds go towards the First Church Library**



# **BRAVO YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 | 10:30 AM**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | 1838 SW JEFFERSON ST**

We're excited to welcome students from BRAVO Youth Orchestras at Rosa Parks Elementary School led by Artistic Director, Mark Woodward. They will be joining with the Chancel Choir during the 10:30 Service on Jan. 31st.

BRAVO Youth Orchestras is an afterschool program that transforms the lives of children through intensive orchestral education. It is part of a worldwide movement of social change through music. Selections for the Sunday worship include Mozart's, "Ave Verum Corpus" and "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Black American National Anthem.

Join us after the service at noon in the Fireside Room for a light lunch and an interactive presentation led by BRAVO Executive Director, Seth Truby, to learn more about the work of BRAVO Youth Orchestras and its effects on the lives of children in our community. This event is sponsored by the FUMC Music Committee. For more information about BRAVO visit their website at [www.oregonbravo.org](http://www.oregonbravo.org).

## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS EXCEED \$6,000!



At FUMC we not only take pride in open hearts and open minds, but during this year's Alternative Christmas giving program, we also opened our wallets to the total of over \$6,000 in compassionate giving!

The actual grand total of giving was \$6,020.00 for this year's gifts. The giving benefitted the following programs:

- UMW Midwives Training in Africa
- Goose Hollow Family Shelter
- Planet Church "Caretakers of God's Creation" Care Teams
- Global Mission "Brazil Medical Supplies" Volunteer Medical/Dental Team
- Church and Society support for Portland Macdonald Center community services

Our Christmas Eve Offering raised a total of \$5,287 for Imagine No Malaria!

Each of our Outreach Groups thanks you for your generous support during this Advent Season. Peace and Blessings for the New Year!

### FROM IMAGINE NO MALARIA

Dear Portland First UMC,  
I just had to send you a love note and tell you that your church is AMAZING. As of December 30th, you've given \$10,596 to Imagine No Malaria! Wow! You're sending

a clear message that no child should die from a mosquito bite. Because of your above-and-beyond contributions to the cause, your church is now listed as a Rock Star on our campaign website at [greaternew.org/INBM](http://greaternew.org/INBM). Thank you for your support!

Julia Frisbie  
Imagine No Malaria Field  
Coordinator

### New Sunday Class starting February 7



*Convictions* taught by Rev. Dick Storment is a short-term study in Room 110. The class will use the late Dr. Marcus Borg's book *Convictions* to guide class conversations on what matters to one another and how do we hold those convictions in a diverse world. Book not required for conversation, but it is encouraged and available at Amazon and Cokesbury. | February 7 – March 20, 9:15 am, Room 110

### ANNUAL EARTH CARE SUMMIT

Oregon Interfaith Power and Light, a project of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, will hold the seventh annual Earth Care Summit on

Sunday, January 31st, from 2:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the University of Portland. This year's event, titled "Renewing Creation from the Ground Up" will focus on soil. In addition to numerous breakout sessions, it will feature a keynote address from the Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley, a Ketoowah Cherokee, distinguished professor of faith and culture and director of Intercultural and Indigenous Studies at George Fox Seminary.

The cost for the Summit, which is co-sponsored by Planet Church, is \$35 (including dinner). If you would like to sit at our table, please send—or drop off—your registration at the church office (or at a Planet Church table in the Commons). If you would like to attend the program and dinner, but are uncomfortable affording the \$35 price, we can arrange low-or no-cost seating. (Register as above, and we will be happy to arrange for seating at our table.) Another option would be to attend the Earth Care Summit program only for \$15. Program-only registration is available at the Ecumenical Ministries website.

An optional "Climate Arts" presentation featuring Kim Stafford and Anna Fritz will be held at the U of P on Saturday, January 30th, beginning at 8:00 pm. More information on this event can be found at the FUMC website or the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon website.

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