



*the* First United Methodist Church of Portland

# CIRCUIT RIDER

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LENT BEGINS



# ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 10 | 5:30 PM | FIRESIDE

## 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

Lent is a season of forty days, (not counting Sundays) which begins on Ash Wednesday – February 10 this year – and ends the day before Easter. The word “Lent” comes from an old English word “lencten”, which means “spring”. We take 40 days of preparation for Easter to remind us of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his own ministry.

Traditionally Lent has been a time of repentance, fasting, self-reflection and renewal. Early Christian communities used this time to prepare new converts for baptism at Easter. You may wonder why Sundays aren’t included in the 40 day countdown... that is because every Sunday is meant to be a reminder of Easter as we celebrate resurrection every week!

Here at First Church we will use this time of preparation for Easter by hearing the stories of the season in some new ways. The Sunday morning sermon series “Off the Record – Lent from the Backside” will offer a little different perspective as we go “Off the Record” with:

- The Devil (looking at the story of Jesus’ temptation) February 14
- Herod (learning how Jesus challenges the established powers) February 21
- Lazarus (considering Jesus’ power to bring life out of death) February 28
- The Woman with the alabaster jar (focusing on compassion) March 6
- Judas (finding that fine line between zealot and betrayer) March 13
- The Celebrating Crowd (Palm Sunday) March 20

Each Wednesday (February 10-March 16) come to the Fireside Room for a light supper from 5:30 to 6:15, followed by a time of singing, praying and reflecting “On the Record” as several of our own members relate their personal faith stories and answer the question “Who is God – and what difference does God make to me?” We will be finished each Wednesday by 7:00 pm.

I hope you will take advantage of this season set apart for your own spiritual growth and development. Traditionally many have found it meaningful to “give something up” for the season. Why not “take something on” instead this year – and find new ways to connect to God through your own community of faith – either “On the Record” Wednesdays, or “Off the Record” on Sundays?

**GRACE AND PEACE,**  
*Rev. Donna*





**FIRST CHURCH TRAVELERS PRESENTS: Backstage Tour Washington County Sheriff Department**

**FEBRUARY 29**

Join the First Church Travelers for an indepth look into the Washington County Sheriff Department, which features:

- Daily operations; special equipment; and criminal justice facilities.
- Seminar on "Identity Theft".
- Role of the Chaplain in the Sheriff Department.

Register at the Church Office by Monday, February 15. The cost is \$12.00 per person (does not include lunch). Lunch will follow the tour at the Venetian Bistro. Gather at FUMC at 8:45 am to take the MAX ride to the event.

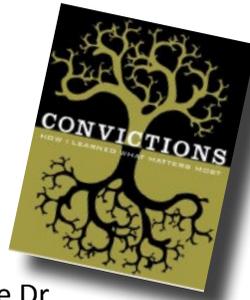
**"LOVE TO STAY" SMALL GROUP BEGINS FEBRUARY 7**



For married or partnered couples of all kinds and ages, this small group will read through the book "Love To Stay" by Adam Hamilton. This is the second time we've offered this small group and the first one was very well received--couples today still reference some of the conversations! Rev. Jeremy will be leading this class. which is open to a maximum of six couples. Please call or email Rev. Jeremy to reserve a spot. Class meets Sundays in February 12pm-1:15pm, child care is provided and a light lunch will be served.

**NEW SUNDAY CLASS STARTING FEBRUARY 7**

"Convictions" taught by Rev. Dick Storment 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 Powells, Amazon, & Cokesbury. | February 7 – March 20, 9:15am, Room 110



**PRAYERS**

*Prayer Concerns*

**Bruce Hendrickson** is recuperating at home after a fall which created a hairline fracture in his most recently replaced hip.

**Elaine Jones** has been hospitalized in Hawaii with pneumonia.

**Hazel Balcomb** is now on hospice care.

**Annie Calhoun** is undergoing medical tests.

**Amilie Vandenberg's boyfriend Tom Merchant** had open heart surgery and has had complications from the surgery.

*Continued Prayers*

**Paul Ingram, Jim Manuel, Doris Lavelly, Richie Muckridge, Marion Hollenberg, Ellen Zeller, Rebecca Piros, Karla Meyers, Ed Pittaway.**



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CALENDAR**

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.

Monday, February 8  
Room 202  
10:00 am Tabitha Circle New Projects: School bags for UMCOR to be sent to Syrian refugees, and Scarves for 2016 General Conference.  
Chairs: Kay Ward 503.915.7974  
Erin Riley 503.709.5469

Wednesday, February 17  
Room 202  
12:00 pm Ruth Circle  
Program: Tea Party  
Chair: Gladys Shaw  
503.239.3374

**PATHFINDERS Saturday, February 6 Room 202 11:30 am**



Program: "A Year in the Garden: The History and Care of Portland's International Rose Test Garden". 2017 is the Rose Garden Centennial. Please call Lois Cameron 503.764.9069 if you plan to attend with the dish you will provide.



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**CIRCUIT RIDER**

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Address Service Requested



# FORUM *featuring*

## MACDONALD CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# JON ULSH

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 | NOON | FIRESIDE ROOM



# macdonald

C E N T E R

*"Hope in the Heart of Portland"*

