



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

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*November 6*

*All  
Saints  
Sunday*

**WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH**

8:30 AM | Chapel

10:30 AM | Sanctuary

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

**As a Reconciling Congregation,**  
all are welcome to participate in the full life of the  
church, including all races, abilities, ages, classes,  
gender identities, and sexual orientations.

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

# from the PASTOR



By now most of you have heard that I have been named to serve on the United Methodist Church's "Commission on a Way Forward". This 32-member commission was created in response to the deep divisions apparent among us at the General Conference last May. According to the Council of Bishops, the mission of the Commission is to *"bring together persons deeply committed to the future(s) of The United Methodist Church, with an openness to developing new relationships with each other and exploring the potential future(s) of our denomination... The matters of human sexuality and unity are the presenting issues for a deeper conversation that surfaces different ways of interpreting scripture and theological tradition. The Commission is meant to inform deliberation across the whole church and to help the Council of Bishops in their service to the next General Conference in finding a way forward."*

There is no question the work of the Commission will be challenging as we engage in difficult and often contentious conversations with each other. I will appreciate your prayers for me as I seek to bring

as much grace to this work and remain as grounded in God's love as I can.

Again, in the Bishops' words: *"The Commission will design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible, and that balances an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible. This unity will not be grounded in our conceptions of human sexuality, but in our affirmation of the Triune God who calls us to be a grace-filled and holy people in the Wesleyan tradition.... we should consider new ways of being in relationship across cultures and jurisdictions, in understandings of episcopacy, in contextual definitions of autonomy for annual conferences, and in the design and purpose of the apportionment. In reflection on the two matters of unity and human sexuality, we will fulfill our directive by considering new forms and structures of relationship and through the complete examination and possible revision of relevant paragraphs in the Book of Discipline. We will give consideration to greater freedom*

*and flexibility to a future United Methodist Church that will redefine our present connectionality, which is showing signs of brokenness... If we do this work with complete surrender to God's unlimited imagination and kingdom purposes we will be blessed beyond our limited human imagination. God remains God; God is with us; God will never let us go."*

Participating in the work of the Commission will take me away from Portland for meetings in Atlanta, Washington DC, Philadelphia and Chicago, about nine or ten times in the coming year and a half. Rev. Jeremy and I have already looked at the dates for those meetings and have begun planning to minimize the impact on First Church's ministry. I will share with you what I can of the Commission's work and will benefit from your perspectives on it along the way, because this is important for all United Methodists and all of our churches.

Finally, I would echo the Bishops' hope for the Commission, and for all of us: God remains God; God is with us; God will never let us go, however strained our relationships may be, and however challenging the work may become. Thanks be to God!

*Grace & Peace*  
~Rev. Donna

**FIRST CHURCH BIRDERS**



Saturday, November 12  
 First Church Birders venture out to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. We'll be focusing on raptors and wintering waterfowl. Meet at the refuge at 9:30am; or for those wishing to carpool, meet at the church at 9am. We will be out for two to three hours, so bring water, a snack, and binoculars of you have them. For questions please email [planetchurch@fumcpdx.org](mailto:planetchurch@fumcpdx.org).

**TABITHA CIRCLE**

Monday, November 14  
 Room 202 | 10:00am  
 Project: Costume preparation for upcoming Christmas Pageant. Parents of pageant participants are welcome!  
 Chairs: Kay Ward 503.915.7974 and Erin Riley 503.709.5469

**RUTH CIRCLE**

Wednesday, November 16  
 Room 202 | 12:00pm  
 Program: Shelly Edwards presents - Teepa Snow's Gems: another way to understand people with dementia.  
 Chair: Marilyn Weber 503.241.4081

**NAOMI CIRCLE**

Thursday, November 17  
*change in date)*  
 Terwilliger Club Room | 2:00pm  
 "Thankfulness for Health and Happiness; Taking a Moment to Wonder at the Gift of Life"  
 Chair: Colleen Foster 503.808.7389

*Prayers of Celebration*

We appreciate all the **police and fire personnel** who handled the gas explosion this last week. We are mindful of those **persons injured as well as those persons who were displaced**. We also recognize the damage and loss to businesses but are grateful no lives were lost.

*Prayers of Concern*

**Marian Poindexter** has returned home after a stay in a rehabilitation facility.

**Margret Bove** fell and broke her hip and the following surgery is in a specialty care facility for a short stay.

We pray for **pace and civility** during these last weeks before the Presidential election.

*Continued Prayers for*

**Annie Calhoun, Andre Flynn, Patricia Enriquez, Richie Muckridge, Jim Manuel and Virginia Townend.**

**RAKING OF THE LEAVES**

Saturday, October 22: On my way to the FUMC campus this morning, I wondered if I would be the only one to show up for our first leaf-raking party of the year. I mean, after all, people are busy... the cool fog hung close to the ground... and, rain threatened. But, that was not to be the case! Not only did the fog burn off into a glorious, sunny day, but over 15 people turned out to help!



We finished both parking lots in record time, and at the end of the morning, two of our youths found the "needle in the haystack" – a lost hearing aid!

Thanks to members of Planet Church, Shovel & Rake, Reverend Donna and Megan Jones for showing up to corral those leaves! We love our trees for many reasons, but one of them should surely be that they give us the opportunity to come together in community.



Renee Harber - Planet Church Chair

*Fall Back!*



**Daylight Savings ends!**

Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour Saturday, November 5 before you go to bed!



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**SPECIAL GUEST PREACHER**

Sunday, November 13 Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, our newly assigned bishop for the Greater Northwest Area, which includes our Annual Conference, will be preaching here at both our 8:30 and our 10:30 worship services, and will be happy to meet you in Collins Hall following the second service.



Bishop Elaine writes *“I’m thinking of this year as a threshold. Throughout the year I will travel to a variety of places for ‘threshold events’ where we will meet and bless one another. In June, we’ll cross the threshold into new relationship with a service of installation during the joint Annual Conference session of the Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences, with representatives from Alaska joining us as well. God’s at work in the world, sending us to new places to meet new people. We are blessed to be a blessing!”*

At 2:00 pm on November 13th you are invited to our local “Threshold” event with Bishop Stanovsky, at Montavilla United Methodist Church (232 SE 80th Street in Portland).

**PLANET CHURCH PRESENTS**



**NOVEMBER 6 | COLLINS HALL**

God’s Creation is bursting with beauty, as well as life-giving forces. Join Planet Church as we celebrate the amazing gifts of nature with some fun craft-making and other activities. All ages welcome. Collins Hall after 10:30 am worship.