



the First United Methodist Church of Portland
CIRCUIT RIDER

November 23 ■ Volume 22, Issue 23 ■ www.fumcpdx.org



MOMENTUM

CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 | 5:00 PM COLLINS HALL

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS!

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 MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP



Ah, the Season of Advent leading up to Christmas is upon us! There are two words that I think of at Advent: "Possibly" and "Certainly."

We hear these words often, don't we?

- "Are you going to do your homework?" *Possibly*.
- "Will the bridge be closed on a Sunday in the summer for a marathon?" *Certainly*.
- I will *possibly* come home early from work. If not, I will *certainly* be at happy hour.
- It's *possible* that Jeremy's sermon is going too long. I *certainly* see people asleep.

"Possibly" sits between affirming (YES, I'll do it) and denying (NO, I won't do it). For some of us, these ambiguous responses elicit a similar response: "well, will you or won't you?" Make a decision. Our culture sometimes sees "possibly" as a cop-out or easy answer,

like saying "I'm Interested" on a Facebook event. I sometimes get annoyed at "possibly" as opposed to knowing "yes" or "no" and you might too. I prefer certainty to know where I stand and what to expect.

But that's not what Advent is about, is it? Advent and Christmas are all about possibilities: possibilities wrapped under a tree, ambiguities about family plans, and uncertainty about why the church isn't singing Christmas carols. Advent's assigned scriptures and hymns are about Christ's return to earth, though we are uncertain about the timing. And in our current political climate, uncertainty is in the air as both our nation and our denomination swirl with possibilities.

Maybe Advent is about *both* certainty and possibility. As Christians, we are certain that Christ will be made known to us

in a new way, but we don't know all the possibilities of how that will happen. Christ *might* be made known to us this year, through acts of charity to our neighbor and the stranger, and seeking reconciliation within our families. In fact, I'm certain that if you participate in acts of service, prayer, worship, and study in this season that you'll find something new.

My hope for you is that you navigate these two words in your life and decide which parts of the holidays you can be assured of your experience and expectations, and which you can hold more lightly to see what new thing may happen. And I hope you *certainly* make it to church for Christmas Eve services--either here or on your travels. And after this Christmas season, we *possibly* may make New Years Resolutions, that we will *certainly* break. Ha!

See you Sunday
~Rev. Jeremy

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

FAIR TRADE SUNDAY

Sunday, Dec 4, Collins Hall
Global Missions Committee is offering Guatemalan fair-trade handicrafts and Canaan Fair Trade olive oil, Freekeh, and Za'Atar for sale in Collins after 8:30 and 10:30 services.

FAMILY GIVING TREE SUNDAYS

December 4, 11 & 18
Support refugee families who are now living in Portland this Christmas season by visiting our Family Giving Tree and purchasing a wishlist item for a children or adult. The Giving Tree will be located in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 11 1pm
Location: TBD
Join Children & Families as we Christmas Carol at a local Portland Nursing Facility. Carolers are welcome to have lunch on their own and then meet or carpool to our caroling location. RSVP at mjones@fumcpdx.org.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

Sundays, Dec 11 and 18, Collins Hall
Our supported charities this year are:

- Maternal and Child Health Initiative
- New Avenues for Youth
- Portland Homeless Family Solutions
- Q Center
- Shade and Fresh Water
- WildAid

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.

SMALL GROUPS

UMW UNIT

Wednesday, December 7
Fireside Room | 10:00 AM
Program: This is a Christmas celebration with special music by soloist Joanna Meline, a member of the FUMC choir. A lunch of ham and potluck side dishes will be served with the church staff as guests.

Contact: Judy Moon
503.543.2220

TABITHA CIRCLE

Monday, December 12
Room 202 | 10:00 AM
Project: Sew baby jackets and gowns for UMCOR relief kits. Create lap robes designed for men for the Prayer Shawl Ministry.
Chairs: Kay Ward 503.915.7974 and Erin Riley 503.709.5469

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Wednesday, December 14
(please note change in date)
Fireside Room | 12:00 PM
Program: Cookie exchange plus HUGS event (Hats, Underwear, Gloves, Scarves).
Chair: Peg Cook 503.452.7298

FROM THE COVER

All are invited to attend our Momentum play (with help from a few of our confirmation and high school students.) This year's play will be a night of entertainment, music, food, improvisation, laughter, and fun for all ages. Tickets will not be sold this year. Donations will be accepted at the door. Please bring 1-2 cans of food to be donated to our local pantries.

PRAYERS

Prayers for Peace & Justice

Cynthia Peachey, daughter of **Tom and Joanne Rannells**, has traveled to North Dakota to work with the medical team at the **Standing Rock Protest**. We pray for her and all of those who care for and work with those who seek justice for our all citizens.

Prayers of Thankfulness

Dear Methodist Family,
Thank you all for your cards and prayers. I am on the mend and doing quiet well. A very special thanks for the beautiful Prayer Shawl. It is so soft and warm. I love it. - Margaret Bove.

Prayers of Concern

Rev. Donna had a planned heart procedure and is home and doing well.

Jean Holznagel had a stroke and a brief hospital stay is now in a rehabilitation facility.

Annie Calhoun has also had a trip to the hospital but is now home.

James Johnson and Meg Clark reports that **James' mother Laurie Newcomer**, is doing radiation treatments for 6 weeks following brain surgery.

Continued Prayers for

Pomeroy, Andre Flynn, Margret Bove, Marian Poindexter, Patricia Enriquez, Richie Muckridge, Jim Manuel, and Virginia Townend.



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Oregon Repertory Singers Presents
GLORY OF CHRISTMAS
with Jonas Nordwall

Join ORS for *Glory of Christmas*, an annual holiday concert featuring beloved carols and hymns both old and new. You'll hear excerpts from Handel's *Messiah*, Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass*, and much more. Special guests include local middle school choirs and the Union High School Chamber Orchestra. Whether for the first time or 43rd time, audiences will be delighted by this Portland Tradition.



OREGON
REPERTORY
SINGERS

Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 4:00 pm
Friday, December 9, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 4:00 pm
First United Methodist Church

Tickets at brownpapertickets.com or (800) 838-3006