



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

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WORSHIP  
 @  
 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.

**FOSTER CARE  
 FORUM**

*Featuring*

**BROOKE GRAY**

Director of **Embrace Oregon**  
 SUNDAY OCT 8 | NOON | FIRESIDE ROOM



In March Church & Society initiated a new focus on the needs of Portland's children and teens in the foster care system. In May First Church members contributed 15 Launch Boxes to support young adults aging out of foster care, tripling our goal. Building upon this success and indication of interest, we have invited Brooke Gray, Director of Embrace Oregon, to return and advise us on how we as a church and as individuals can get more actively engaged in supporting foster children and their families. Come prepared to roll up your sleeves and get involved! A light lunch will be provided by Church and Society for Social Justice.

*Looking  
 to get more  
 connected?*



**FIRST CHURCH ORIENTATION  
 October 8 | Noon | Room 202**

We offer First Church Orientations just for you! We gather after Sunday worship for a light lunch (hosted by our Newcomers Team), presentation and Q&A with our clergy, and a guided building tour. Child care is provided and we conclude by about 1:30 PM. RSVP with Rev. Josh at [jkingsley@fumcpdx.org](mailto:jkingsley@fumcpdx.org) by Wednesday, October 4.

# From the Pastor

*Bonjour mes amis! Hallo, meine Freunde!*

Hello, my friends! I am happy to have returned safely from some vacation time in the south of France, followed by a week of meetings with the Commission on a Way Forward in Berlin, Germany. As always it was great to have the experience of travel – learning new things, seeing new sights, having grand new adventures. And it was also good to return home to this community of faithfulness and hope.

I've been thinking a lot about hope lately. The news has been full of suffering and despair. We've heard about one natural disaster after another, we've prayed for victims of hurricanes and earthquakes, we've fretted over international conflicts and political posturing which lead us away from peace, we've grieved the divisions in this nation, and even in our denomination.

So I've been thinking a lot about hope, and when someone read these New Testament words they really caught my attention: *"But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you..."* (1 Peter 3:15)

How do I defend the hope that I feel in the face of suffering around the world, and here at home? What possible rationale can I offer for an optimistic outlook, or a trusting attitude about the future? For me, the defense comes down to relationship. First, the relationship between God and the world gives me great hope. God has not only created, but has invited us to participate in the ongoing act of creation. God has not abandoned us to this moment in time any more than God has ever checked out and left us alone. We have an ongoing relationship with the One who creates, redeems and sustains us.

Secondly, my hope for the future is defensible because of the relationships of love which exist between people. In a very small way, my hope is defended when I think of the two weeks of vacation I was able to take, knowing the staff and congregation here at First Church would continue our work in my absence. In a very big way, my hope is grounded in the goodness of millions of people around the world actively working to care for the earth, to end human suffering, to wage peace instead of war, to create understanding in the midst of conflict.

The Rev. Casey Orr, in her sermon for the Commission's meeting last

week, said this about hope: *Each of us is broken. We have each been shaped by a different cast of imperfect communities and imperfect people and imperfect experiences. But each of us has also been molded by a perfect God, with perfect love for each of us, making each of us more perfect in love every day.*

*The challenges before us do not own us. The paranoia and anxiety and fear about what is next do not own us. These things do not own us, nor do they define us, because we are defined by Jesus Christ. We are defined by his gospel of love. We are defined by the promise that God is making all things new. We are defined by the mission to follow Jesus and to change the world. We are defined by the hope in us and the hope before us.*

We have been molded by a perfect God, and we continue to be defined by God's love. What better defense could we make for the hope we carry within us?

Grace and Peace



# PRAYERS OUTREACH



United  
Methodist  
Women

## PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION

- We are thankful for Rev. Donna Pritchard's safe return back to Portland, and for the work she is doing with the Commission on the Way Forward.
- Over 20 youth were at the first joint youth gathering with First Presbyterian

## PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY

- Continue to remember our administrator, Liz Temple and her family upon the passing of her step-father Michael Meriwether. A memorial service will be on Sunday at noon, October 1 at Tualatin UMC.
- For Bill Guyer, who's wife Betty recently passed away. There will be a gathering at Terwilliger Plaza on Saturday September 30 at 2pm.

## PRAYERS OF CONCERN

- For all those living in the path of the recent hurricanes and earthquakes, specifically for Puerto Rico, and all those impacted by Hurricane Maria.

## CONTINUED PRAYERS

- Robert Newman
- Rosemary Dodds
- Jenny Anderson
- Dave Mills
- Ramey Wolf

## PILLOW DRIVE

**Sundays Oct 1 - 15 | Narthex**  
First Church is hosting an on-site pillow collection to help Community Warehouse with their annual pillow drive. Please bring your new or gently-used (sleeping pillows, not decorative) pillows and place them in the purple bins located in the Narthex and the Chapel lobby. Our goal is to collect 60 pillows here at First Church, so let's make it happen!

## STYROFOAM RECYCLING

**October 15 ONLY | 11:30am | Collins**  
Do you have styrofoam packaging, and don't know what to do with it? Recycle it with Planet Church! Drop off your styrofoam blocks and peanuts in Collins Hall after service on October 15. We'll take any size or shape (but, not the cornstarch type that melts in water). Please bag your peanuts separately.

## MTI DENTAL VAN

**Wed Oct 18 | 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
**Narthex & Parking Lot**  
Church & Society will be hosting the first of 6 bimonthly visits from Medical Teams International's Mobile Dental Van. If you know anyone in need of dental care but lacks adequate access, contact Matt in the office 503-228-3195.

Volunteers are also needed to provide welcome/reception in the Narthex on the day of the visit. Please contact Bill Liddicoet at [wtlidd@gmail.com](mailto:wtlidd@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer for this or future dates!

## TABITHA CIRCLE

**Mon Oct 9 | 10 am | Room 202**  
Project: Prepare school bags and layette items for campers to sew for UMCOR at Kit Kamp held October 26-29.  
Chairs: Kay Ward 503.915.7974 and Erin Riley 503.709.5469

## RUTH CIRCLE

**Wed Oct 18 | 12 pm | Room 202**  
Program: Members have written a short autobiography about themselves and will assemble a "Ruth Circle" scrapbook. Bring a sack lunch. Dessert and beverage are provided.  
Chair: Marilyn Weber 503.241.4081



## AFTER WORSHIP

This fall, our middle and high school students will be combining with the youth at First Presbyterian Church for after worship youth group. Over 15 adult volunteers from both FUMC and FPC have shown interest in helping to create a fun and interesting youth group experience. Mark your calendars with these October dates below and plan to participate in youth group!

- Oct 1 @ FPC – 12 pm – 2 pm
- Oct 22 @FUMC – 12 pm – 2 pm



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to request it by e-mail.

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## A BIBLICAL LOOK AT THE PALESTINIAN/ISRAELI CONFLICT

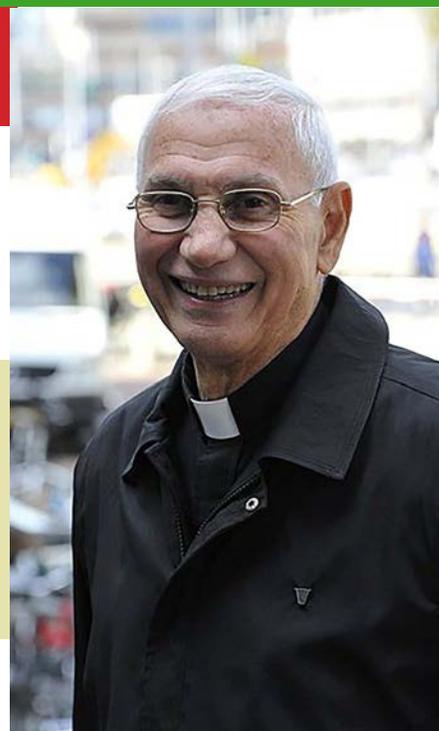
With Rev. Naim Ateek

Wednesday, October 11 in Collins Hall

5:30 pm - Dinner (\$25 per person)

7 pm - Presentation (Free)

Rev. Naim Ateek, a Palestinian Christian and Founder of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center (Sabeel) will share his views on maintaining a Christian presence in the Holy Land in the face of the Israeli occupation.



**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT**  
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3096873>

Practicing  
Compassion



A Retreat  
for Women

Ignighting  
The Fire



A Retreat  
For Men

**NOVEMBER 10 - 11**

**Alton Collins Retreat Center**

This year we will explore compassionate practices inspired by Jesus' teachings which lead to a lifestyle of inner peace and reconciled relationships. Registration is limited to 30 participants. Cost TBD.

**NOVEMBER 4**

**Mark Mason's Home in Rhododendron**

Don't go it alone! Join with your brothers and nature as we play games, break bread, and ignite what gives us passion for living! Space is limited so register now!

CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 503-720-8172 OR [OFFICE@FUMCPDX.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@FUMCPDX.ORG) TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

# OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

## *BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE LETTER*

- 10/1: *Remembrance*  
Deuteronomy 6:1-12
- 10/8: *Repentance*  
Isaiah 30:1-3, 9-11, 15
- 10/15: *Revelation*  
1 Corinthians 2:1-4, 9-11
- 10/22: *Revitalization*  
Ezekiel 37:1-4
- 10/29: *Reformation*  
Matthew 22:34-46



# PLANNED GIVING WORKSHOP

## THE REST OF THE STORY

Would you like to get involved and support your local United Methodist church or agency in exciting ways?

Come be inspired by stories of planned gifts that have created lasting legacies here at First Church!

Do you have questions about year-end giving? We can answer those too.



**BEGIN YOUR PHILANTHROPIC JOURNEY**

LET US HELP YOU WITH A PLAN THAT'S CUSTOMIZED  
FOR **YOU** AND **YOUR** GOALS.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 - 12PM - 1:30PM** *(lunch provided)*

**PORTLAND FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - FIRESIDE ROOM**