



the First United Methodist Church of Portland
CIRCUIT RIDER

December 6, 2017 ■ Volume 23, Issue 25 ■ www.fumcpdx.org

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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

A BABE IS BORN

Sunday, December 17 during the 10:30 am service



Children ages 3 - 4th grade will be presenting the Christmas narrative **A BABE IS BORN** through a modern *Lessons & Carols* during the 10:30 AM worship service. Contact Megan at mjones@fumcpdx.org to get involved.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

Sundays, Dec 10 and 17, Collins Hall

Alternative Christmas allows you to take a break from giving "things" and instead support a charity. This year the charities are:

- Maternal & Child Health Initiative
- Embrace Oregon
- Portland Homeless Family Solutions
- Sexual & Gender Minority Youth Resource Center
- Friends of the Columbia Gorge
- Unalaska United Methodist Church

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.

From The Pastor



Our sermon series this Advent, “The Art of Christmas”, has us exploring some of the gifts of the season, along with our response as people of faith. The first two weeks we are focusing on “hospitality” (acts of love reflecting and anticipating God’s welcome), and “hope” (that which perches in our souls to offer life meaning and grace).

Recently I came across a brilliant way to share both hospitality and hope. It comes from an organization known as “Big Table” which originated in Spokane, Washington. According to their website (www.big-table.com):

The largest single employment group in the United States is restaurant workers. Add in hospitality workers and that number of people employed is close to double that of any other industry in the country. Many employed in restaurants or hotels live on the very edge, working multiple jobs. It is the industry in the United States with the highest rates of drug and alcohol abuse in the country, and the hours required often strain relationships past the breaking point.

Big Table responds to this reality by building relationships that begin literally around a “big table” – a quarterly dinner for 48, catered by top chefs and served by community members, at the end of which each diner is given the opportunity to write down the name and circumstances of someone else in the industry with a special need. Then, in the time between dinner parties, the organization matches those who can help with those who have need of help.

It’s a great idea, and a big way to meet even small needs. And yet, hospitality and hope can also be offered in much smaller ways. Again, taking inspiration from Big Table, I invite you to join me in their Christmas blitz:

Hundreds of people will be working for minimum wage this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in fast food restaurants. We are asking you to take a few minutes away from your celebrations to show up at fast food counters or in drive-through lanes, and hand out \$20 bills – enough for the whole crew (typically 5 to 10 people), inside specially marked envelopes

(which you can get right here at church!)



It is amazing the hope this kind of hospitality can provide for someone just trying to get by! And it is amazing the depth this kind of giving can add to your Christmas. Can’t come up with an extra \$100-200 yourself? No worries. Find a friend or two to partner with you – or ask each of your holiday guests to bring along a \$20 bill to join the fun. Stop by the church office to pick up a few envelopes and then, let us know what fun you have as you share hope and hospitality, and practice the art of Christmas!



PRAYERS UPDATES



United
Methodist
Women

PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION

- For the remission of Ruth Green's Lymphoma in her lungs.
- For the Advent Festival following the service on Sunday, December 3, and for this season of renewed expectation for Christ's return and joy of Christ's presence in our world.

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY

- For Paul Schipper and family upon the death of his father.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN

- Prayers of safe travel and homecoming for Moses Wambalaba as he returns to Kenya to visit his father.
- Ruth Wright's mother, Patricia Fischer, who was diagnosed with terminal cancer.
- Prayers for Elaine Croft's son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Katie as they seek final approval to adopt a child.
- Healing for Jeanne Teisher who fell last week.
- Healing for Tami Lazzaro from foot surgery.

CONTINUED PRAYERS

- Robert Newman
- Rosemary Dodds
- Bill Birge
- Joanne Ruyle

MTI MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC COMES TO FIRST CHURCH

Monday Dec 11 | 8am | Parking Lot

The Mobile Dental Clinic is returns to First Church! The Church & Society committee wants to emphasize that this service is available to members of the First Church family, too! If you, or someone you know, are in need of dental care and can't afford it or lack insurance, please contact Matt in the Front Office to schedule an appointment. Thanks again to everyone who has contributed to making this a reality – and for enhancing First Church's profile as an invaluable resource of love, concern and action in the Portland community!

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Wednesday, December 13

Fireside Room - 12:00 PM

Program: Bring your contributions for HUGS (Hats, Underwear, Gloves, Scarves).

Bring your own brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverage is provided. Chair: Nancy Muir 503.789.6970

RUTH CIRCLE

Wednesday, December 20

Room 202 - 12:00 PM

Program: Please bring your favorite Christmas decoration to place on the tables. Also, this is our Christmas gift exchange. Bring your own brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverage is provided. Chair: Marilyn Weber 503.241.4081



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, Dec 16 6 pm - 8:30 pm
Fireside Room

All youth are invited to the Fireside Room for a Christmas Party. Plan to eat, play games, and participate in a white elephant gift exchange (\$10 or less). Tacky Christmas sweaters are always welcome!



WINTER RETREAT AT SUTTLE LAKE CAMP

January 13-15, 2018

Middle and High School students are invited to attend a fun, possibly snowy, weekend at Suttle Lake Camp! Youth will be carpooling together on Saturday morning from the church and staying in cabins over the weekend, participating in both indoor and outdoor activities. This event fills up fast!

Cost: \$99



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E-mail the church office at office@fumcpdx.org
to request it by e-mail.

Address Service Requested



Join us on
CHRISTMAS EVE

MORNING WORSHIP

10:30AM - *Holiness*
Revs Donna Pritchard, Joshua Kingsley &
Andy Oliver, preaching
Festival of Carols

FAMILY CHRISTMAS
5PM - *Our Christmas Story*
Rev. Joshua Kingsley preaching

COMMUNION - 11PM
Chapel Service

CAROLS & CANDLELIGHT

7PM - *Practicing the Art of Christmas*
9PM - *Hospitality, Hope, Harmony & Holiness*
Rev. Donna Pritchard, preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir, Organ
& Festival Brass
featuring Anthems
Glory to God by Randol Bass
Cradle Hymn by Kim Arnesen