



CIRCUIT RIDER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PORTLAND

JANUARY 24 2018 | VOLUME 24 | ISSUE 2



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.

WORSHIP TIMES

8:30 AM CHAPEL

10:30 AM SANCTUARY

COMING UP AT FUMC!

31 **UMW PLANNING TEAM**
JAN WEDNESDAY | 10 AM | ROOM 110

3 **FAITH • JUSTICE • RECONCILIATION**
FEB SATURDAY | 9:45 AM | FIRST UMC PDX
...for details see back page

4 **CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE**
FEB SUNDAYS | 10:45 AM | SUNDAY SCHOOL
...for details see inside

10 **PATHFINDERS**
FEB SATURDAY | 11:30 AM | ROOM 202
...for details see inside

11 **STEPHEN MINISTERS INSTALLATION**
FEB SUNDAY | 10:30 AM WORSHIP
...for details see inside

14 **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**
FEB WEDNESDAY | 6 PM | FIRESIDE

WORSHIP SERIES - LENT: READING THE FINE PRINT

SUNDAYS FEB 18 - MAR 18

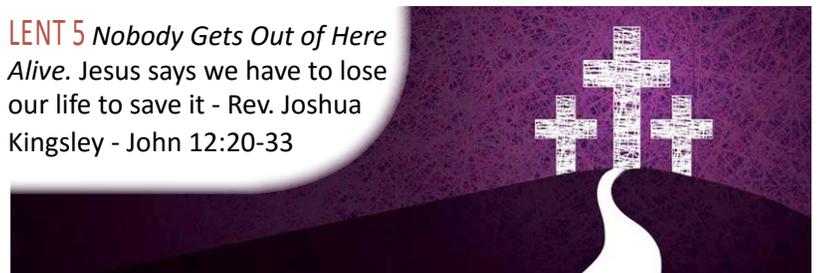
LENT 1 *Side Effects May Occur*
Exploring the wilderness of the Holy Spirit - Rev. Donna Pritchard - Mark 1:9-15

LENT 3 *What Will the Neighbors Think?* World's understanding and God's Vision are different - Rev. Donna Pritchard - 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

LENT 5 *Nobody Gets Out of Here Alive.* Jesus says we have to lose our life to save it - Rev. Joshua Kingsley - John 12:20-33

LENT 2 *This Might Sting a Little* Suffering happens and can be redemptive - Rev. Donna Pritchard - Mark 8:31-38

LENT 4 *Necessary Exposure* God's light shines into the dark spaces of each of our lives - Rev. Donna Pritchard - 1 Corinthians 1:18-25



FROM THE MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

Our community is filled with socio-economic diversity, almost all of it coming from a faith perspective, filled with love.



I am still thinking about Donna's sermon last Sunday. Have you heard it, yet? In describing our Brave New World Donna took on wealth inequality. She described our world, one in which as few as 400 people control more capital than over half of our United States. She said that the working poor are the true philanthropists of our age, underwriting much of our access to food, child care, elder care, and clean facilities. If you didn't hear it, please find it on the website.

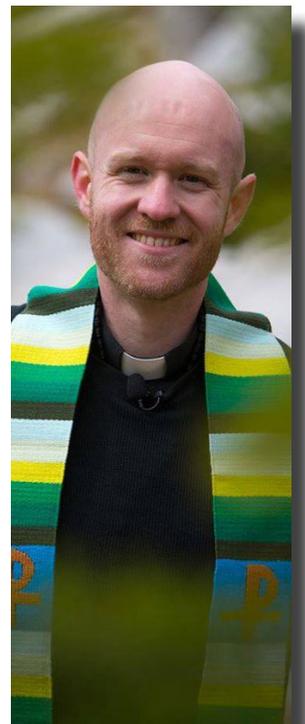
This sermon hit me very close to home. I come from a family of working poor. I understand the liberation and oppression that comes with that life. They are my people, I hear their cry. Like a young Moses, I no longer live with them in their life yet wonder constantly, "where does our mutually beneficial path lie"?

This is meant to condemn no one. We are all born into our social positions without our consent and work to make the best of them. Our community of First Church is filled with socio-economic diversity, almost all of it coming from a faith perspective, filled with love. I see people at First Church who are managers, executives, and laborers using their gifts for God's work in this world.

One gift people of our faith use is the gift of love in relationship. The early Christians in Acts practiced radical communal living, sharing money and housing between rich and poor. John Wesley brought people from a variety of backgrounds together to share intimately in each other's lives through his study groups. In our own 20th century, spiritual leaders like Dr. King and Henri Nouwen have intentionally mixed people of different abilities and social positions to create justice where none existed before. God's justice is birthed when people from different backgrounds spend time together, learn each other's stories, and see that we all share one common story.

Lent begins February 14th with Ash Wednesday. This is a day that Christians have set aside for thousands of years to reflect on our shared fate: we all come from the same elements, we will all return to the same elements. None of us is truly better than another, for we share the same fate. I invite you to take a few quiet moments to reflect on this truth in preparation for Lent. Where do we see Reconciliation, Peace, and Creation Care? How can we collectively be agents of these values in a hurting world? May God be with us all.

FAITH FULLY



Rev Josh

FROM THE COVER

PATHFINDERS

SATURDAY FEB 10 | 11:30 AM
ROOM 202 | CONTACT: TOM &
COLLEEN FOSTER 503.808.7389

Cheryl Bittle will weave themes and data from personal thoughts and knowledge, including recent United Methodist Women guides. She will share her perspective on Native American health and social issues and what is happening in Portland.

CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

FEB 4 - 25 | 10:45 AM | SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the month of February, children's Sunday School classes will be collecting new or gently used books for the Children's Book Bank in NE Portland.

"The mission of The Children's Book Bank is to increase the chances for children to succeed as future readers, learners, and citizens by filling their homes and lives with quality books."

All church members are welcome to participate in this drive! Orange collection buckets will be located in children's classrooms, or books can be dropped off in the sanctuary narthex. The Book Bank

cannot accept activity or coloring books.
Suggested book types are:

- BABY BOOKS
- BOARD BOOKS
- SPANISH BOOKS
- PICTURE BOOKS
- STORY AND CHAPTER BOOKS

STEPHEN MINISTER INSTALLATION

SUNDAY FEB 11 | 10:30AM SERVICE

After receiving 50 hours of intensive training, we will be commissioning four new Stephen Ministers. These individuals are seeking our blessing and prayers as they embark on a ministry of care and kindness.

Stephen Ministers extend the love of Christ to folks who are experiencing spiritual, physical, and emotional difficulties in life. They are lay people who work in concert with the pastoral staff so that our mission of service is lived out more effectively.

If you are interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry contact Shelly Edwards at shellyedwards226@yahoo.com: or Pastor Andy Oliver at aoliver@fumcpdx.org.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

...OF CELEBRATION

- For the joint Youth Group created between First Methodist, First Presbyterian, and InTown Presbyterian Church.
- For the commissioning of four new Stephen Ministers after their completion of 50 hours of intensive training. They are now able to partner with the pastoral staff in providing care for folks in difficult situations.
- For Richard Rannells upon successful kidney transplant surgery.

...OF CONCERN

- For David Poindexter and his family. David suffered a stroke on the 16th of Jan and is in Critical Care Unit at St. Vincent's.
- Kayla Carruth recovering from virus in her inner ear.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR ...

- Robert Newman
- Jenny Anderson
- Tami Lazzaro
- Jeanne Teisher
- Patricia Fischer



FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

UMW UNIT

WEDNESDAY FEB 7 | 10 AM
FIRESIDE ROOM
CONTACT: JUDY MOON
503-543-2220

Our Rev. Donna will share the latest information on **Commission On the Way Forward**. She is one of the 32 members who are working to present to the Special General Conference in 2019 regarding inclusion of all into the total life of the church. Bring a sack lunch. Dessert and beverages are provided.

TABITHA CIRCLE

MONDAY FEB 12 | 10 AM
ROOM 202 | CHAIRS:
KAY WARD | 503.915.7974
ERIN RILEY | 503.709-5469

We will be working on School bags for UMCOR, quilts for Linus Project (children recovering from cancer), prayer shawls. Knitters, crocheters and sewers are welcome - even non-sewers to help cut fabric.

SUBMIT A PRAYER

REV. ANDY OLIVER
503.228.3195 x233
AOLIVER@FUMCPDX.ORG

If you have a prayer request, and/or are in need of pastoral care, please contact our Minister of Pastoral Care, Rev. Andy Oliver for support.



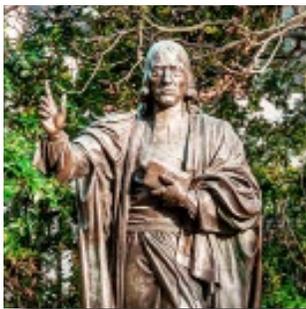
CIRCUIT RIDER

THE CIRCUIT RIDER is a publication of First United Methodist Church,
1838 SW Jefferson St, Portland, OR 97201-2496

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PORTLAND OR
Permit No. 1719

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

Address Service Requested



NEW STUDY CLASS
WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE?
DISCOVERING OUR ROOTS
& WINGS AS **FUMC**
SUNDAYS FEB 4 - MARCH 11
9:30 AM | ROOM 110

Ever wonder just what those Wesley brothers were up to in 18th century England? Or how the movement changed when it made it to the US? Or what theological emphases have guided the people called Methodists through the years? Or where we might be going as a Church in the present or future? Or what “schism” would mean for us? Or just what the Commission on a Way Forward is all about? Or why any of this matters at all?

Join Revs. Donna and Andy for a little bit of instruction and a lot of lively conversation centered on who we are as Methodists, where we are going and what difference we might make in the world.

**FAITH · JUSTICE
RECONCILIATION**
WITH DR CHRISTENA CLEVELAND
SAT FEB 3 | 9:45 AM - 5 PM | FUMC
REGISTER: [WWW.UMOI.ORG/
EVENTDETAIL/9711401](http://WWW.UMOI.ORG/EVENTDETAIL/9711401)



We live in a divided world, surrounding ourselves with people and news sources that reinforce our belief systems. What if we could see through a new lens - a lens of reconciliation and hope?

Join us for a discussion with Dr. Christena Cleveland, social psychologist, minister, and author of the perspective-changing book, *Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart*.

This event is **FREE** and open to the public (suggested donation \$20). Registration includes one copy of *Disunity in Christ*.