



THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF NIWOT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JULY 2008

WE ARE CALLED TO HAVE OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS AND OPEN DOORS

Melissa has reminded me that it is once again time to be thinking about items for the newsletter. As I look at the calendar, I see that June has a lot of days yet to be lived. There are meetings, music director interviews, Rocky Mountain Annual Conference, birthdays, and the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year.

All through history, this has been a day of celebration. For centuries, people believed that on Midsummer's Eve all the fairy folk would gather for the Festival of Fairies. Even today some children leave out tiny bits of fruits or sweets for the fairies on Midsummer Eve, just as on Christmas Eve they leave cookies and milk for Santa Claus or Father Christmas.

In the Christian tradition, 21 June is John the Baptist's day. John's two symbols are fire and water--the "refiner's fire" and the "cleansing water" of purification. In many countries, people light bonfires on this day. In Puerto Rico, people build fires on the beaches, then at midnight, they all rush into the ocean--many still wearing their street clothes--to "wash away their sins".

In the US, there are few advertised celebration on this day, but we do have our private ones. Sometimes we even celebrate John the Baptizer's day without knowing it. Isn't it interesting that two symbols of summer fun are--fire and water? We send up fireworks into the sky on the Fourth of July. We travel to mountain campsites and build campfires--when it's safe. We sit around the fire and sing songs, or tell stories. We look up at the stars and somewhere inside ourselves, we remember for a moment, the One who placed them there. We gaze into the fire and feel its warmth and mystery.

We head to the lake or splash around in the local pool and the water refreshes us--making us feel clean all over. We travel to the seashore and are awed at the power of the waves.

At these moments, we are making summer days into holy days. The refiner's fire and the water of baptism are present, though we may forget them next to the hot dogs, the fishing poles, water skis, and beach towels.

In these long summer days and nights, may all your moments be holy moments.

Grace and Peace,

Merlene

Thanks For All You Do

- ♥ Thanks to Susan Warren for leading worship in June.
- ♥ Thanks to the FUN Ministry Team and everyone who helped with the Church Picnic. What a great day of fellowship.
- ♥ Thanks to Gayle Weiss and Carol Anderson for planning and leading the Taize service
- ♥ Thanks to Jennifer Hayes, Dixie Piland, Clark Anderson, Frank Landis, Carol Anderson, and Alice Haverstock on the gift of their time and skills in looking at job descriptions for the Child Care Attendant and Music Director and interviewing applicants. And to Mike and Gayle Weiss for being a part of the Music Director interviews to represent the choir.
- ♥ Thanks to Donna Darland for setting up for the BUMMP meeting. And for all the many ways you take care of us.
- ♥ Thanks to Diana Neff for serving as our delegate to Annual Conference
- ♥ Thanks to Don and Mary Davidson, Mike and Gayle Weiss for special music in June.

Lectionary Readings July 2008

Sunday, July 6th

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17 or Psalm 72
(UMH 795)
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday, July 13th

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112 or Psalm 25
(UMH 756)
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 20th

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
(UMH 854)
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 27th

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b (UMH 828)
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

KNOW YOUR CHURCH The Work of SPR

Staff Parish Relations Committee shall be elected annually by the charge/ church conference in each local church. The members are to be full or associate members of the local church. They should be engaged in and attentive to their Christian spiritual development so as to give proper leadership in the responsibilities with which the committee is entrusted. It shall identify and clarify its values for ministry, engage in biblical and theological reflection on the mission of the church, the primary task, and ministries of the local church.

The committee shall reflect biblically and theologically on the role and work of the pastor and staff as they carry out their leadership responsibilities. They shall assist the pastor and staff in assessing their gifts and setting priorities for leadership. The committee is to have not fewer than five nor more than nine members. One is to be a young adult and one may be a youth. In addition the lay leader and a lay member of the annual conference shall be members. Members are elected for a three year term and voted in by classes.

The committee shall meet at least quarterly or at the request of the bishop, the district superintendent, the pastor, or SPR chair. The minister is to be present at all meetings unless the pastor voluntarily excuses himself or herself.

The duties are: to confer with and counsel the pastor and staff on matters pertaining to the effectiveness of ministry, relationships with the congregation,

conditions that may impede the effectiveness of ministry; to provide evaluation at least annually for the pastor and staff; to communicate and interpret to the congregation the nature and function of ministry in the United Methodist Church regarding itinerancy, the preparation for ordained ministry, and the Ministerial Education Fund; to develop and approve written job descriptions for staff members; and, to confer with the pastor if it should become evident that the best interests of the church will be served by a change of pastor.

The committee shall cooperate with the pastor, the district superintendent, and the bishop in securing clergy leadership. The relationship shall be advisory only.

Rocky Mountain Conference Church-wide School of Christian Mission

Living the Sacred, August 7th-10th
St. Andrew UMC

Registration due by July 7th. The \$100 fee includes meals and textbooks for two of the following studies:

- "I Believe in Jesus" led by Rev. Keith Watson,
- "Israel/Palestine " led by Rev. Don Bleyle & Brenda Moland, and /or
- "Native American Survival" led by Donna Jacobs and Rev. Bud Rousset

If you are interested, see the flyer and registration forms at the back of the church.

Music Sunday July 20th

Worship for July 20th will be a service of music. If you have a favorite hymn(s) that you would like sung, please drop a note with the name of the hymn(s) in the church office or email office@niwotumc.org. We will include a brief story of the hymns chosen as a part of worship. We will be listening to the message that God is everywhere and with us always. Our special music will be Kate Warren playing an Euphonium.

If you would like to sing or play an instrument as a part of that service, please contact Jennifer Hayes (303) 588-1881 or Alice Haverstock (303) 678-7450.

Family of Faith Special Events

July 13 Crosses Galore
10:45 to 11:45

Bring your favorite cross to share and come learn about different types of crosses, why they are different, who uses which type, and more. Everyone is welcome, whether you are 3 or 30 or 300. Bring a friend. Or two. Or three. We will be meeting in the fellowship area.

Aug 10 Plants of the Bible

We will meet 10:45 to noon. Everybody of all ages are welcome. Kids, parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors.

Taize

Please invite a friend to experience the wonder, the joy, the peace and serenity we share together during our Taize worship *Wednesday, July 2nd at 7:00 pm*. Together, we can have a ripple affect on our world as we pray and sing together.

NUMC Hospitality

During July and August the Hospitality Committee takes a summer break. Please volunteer while they are vacationing. This involves making coffee and juice and providing a few munchies. Please sign up on the sheet at the back table. Thanks for your help.

NUMC Night at the Rockies

Join us for the Rockies vs. Arizona Diamondbacks game on *Tuesday, August 12th, 7:05 p.m.* You can sign up on the sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Tickets are \$16 for upper level behind home plate (section 329). Handicapped seating is available. Make checks payable to Left Hand Sports, LLC and send to Biff Warren, P.O. Box 610, Niwot, CO 80544 by *July 27th*.

NUMC Youth

The NUMC and Louisville youth groups had 19 people join the Peaks Sub-District's trip to Boondocks last month. They enjoyed pizza and fellowship with other youth groups including Greeley and Longmont and had a great time playing laser tag, miniature golf, video games and riding go-carts. We may be joining the Louisville group for a trip to Elitch's on July 27th, so check your calendars.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Alissa McNeal
- 5 Kellie Butler
- 6 Dennis Knowlden, Greg Ford
- 9 Karen Simpson
- 12 Fred Smith, Susan Warren
- 17 Katie Warren
- 20 Mary Perry, Diana Parkes
- 21 Mary Byrne
- 29 Gail Mills

- 4 Dana & Mark Ford
- 16 Kim & Ed Freymiller
- 29 Chuck & Sue Schoonover

