



THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF NIWOT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2008

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

What is Easter?

Easter is also known as the Great Fifty Days, it begins at sunset Easter Eve and continues until the Day of Pentecost. It is one of the most joyous seasons of the Christian year. It focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and on the giving of the Holy Spirit. The ancient Christian name for the festival is "Pasch" derived from the Hebrew name "pesah", deliverance or Passover, thus connecting resurrection to the Exodus. The English word for Easter may have come from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eastre and her festival.

The liturgical colors for Easter are white and gold. A large freestanding candle called a paschal candle maybe used at services during this time.

The promise and hope for Easter is that there is joy and new life for all who believe in Jesus the Christ and in the love and grace of God.

Easter people, raise your voices,
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;
heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Easter people, let us sing.
William M. James.

Grace and Peace,

Merlene



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 16th

Procession of the Palms

Worship 9:30 am

"For Remembrance"

Maundy Thursday, March 20th

Family of Faith Party

Activities starting at 5:00 pm

Potluck starting at 6:00 pm

Communion Following

Good Friday, March 21st

Worship 7:00 pm

"The Voices of Calvary"

Easter, March 23rd

Sunrise Service 7:00 am

Worship 9:30 am

"Risen This Day"

A Cantata for Easter

See Inside for Details

A TIME APART May 8-11

Come away and join us in the still, quiet beauty of the mountains to reflect, to rest, and join in fellowship. Those who wish to go to the St. Benedict's Monastery Retreat Center in Snowmass will find a sign up sheet at the back of the church. Anita Fisher with assistance from Walt Gehring is organizing this special time away. Cost is \$60 per night. Plus we take turns providing and preparing the meals. Registration deposit is a \$60 non-refundable fee. There are registration forms at the back of the church by the Pastor's Office.

MAUNDY THURSDAY March 20

Family of Faith Event beginning at 5 p. m. for those who can come then. You are invited to arrive during the evening as your time allows. Starting at 5 p.m. there will be activities: making pretzels and coloring Easter Eggs (donation of hard cooked eggs is appreciated). 6 p. m. or 6:15 p.m. will be the **Potluck**. Following the potluck, around 7 p.m. will worship around the table and have communion. Please come and join us for this time of fellowship and worship.

GOOD FRIDAY March 21

Worship is at 7 p.m. and Bill Yoh's five character poem, *The Voices of Calvary*, will be presented. Speakers will be Barabbas, Mary the mother of Jesus, Peter, Judas, Mary of Magdala, Roman Centurian. The service will include scripture and music. Please join us for this meaningful time of preparation for Easter morning.

EASTER March 23

Sunrise Worship at 7 a.m. for those who like to greet Easter morning with worship.

Worship at 9:30 a.m. Easter Cantata and Celebration

Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck Brunch following worship

EASTER EGG HUNT

The youth are requesting your help with our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. There is a box at the East entryway for the collection of plastic Easter Eggs, candy, and small toys that will fit into the eggs. The youth will fill the eggs and hide them. Thank you for helping us.

**Lectionary Readings
March 2008**

Sunday, March 2nd
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Sunday, March 9th
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130 (UMH 848)
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Sunday, March 16th
Liturgy of the Palms
Matthew 21:1-11
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16 (UMH 764)
Phillippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Sunday, March 23rd
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839)
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, March 30th
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16 (UMH 748)
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

**Christianity's Family Tree:
What Other Christians Believe and Why
Sundays March 30 – May 18
10:45-11:45 in the Library**

Have you ever wondered what the differences are between different Christian denominations? What makes Methodism different from Presbyterian or Lutheran? .

March 30th, the Sunday after Easter, we will start a new study which will take eight weeks, finishing *May 18th*.

We will learn about the history, theology, and distinctive emphases of eight different Christian denominations and faith traditions. There will be a brief history, outline of major beliefs, the Scriptures that have shaped that tradition, a video interview with a religious leader from that denomination, and a description of ideas we can learn from that tradition to strengthen our own Christian faith.

The eight sessions are:

- Orthodox: Mystery, Liturgy, and Tradition
- Catholic: Sacrament and Mass
- Lutheran: Word and Faith
- Presbyterian: The Sovereignty of God
- Anglican/Episcopal: Common Prayer
- Baptist: Baptism, Conversion, and Scripture
- Pentecostal: The Power of the Spirit
- United Methodist: People of the Extreme Center

Please sign up on the clipboard in the Fellowship area or call the church office, 303-530-0241, to reserve your study guide. The study guide is \$8.00. Payment is due when you receive your copy. The books should be available before Easter. If you have any questions, please contact Diana Neff at 303-651-1743.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sunday, 2 March, is when we mark this special offering for mission outreach. It is a time when we reach out as United Methodists everywhere as well as with Christians of other denominations to support emergency relief around the world following natural disasters and wars.

This Special Offering goes to the United Methodist Committee on Relief so that the church can be present immediately following violent storms, floods, fires, famines, or other catastrophes. Your gift to UMCOR enables the church to be present before we even hear about other televised appeals and it also enables the church to be present in the long term of rebuilding communities after the disaster is no longer headline news.

As Christians, we accept Christ's call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort those in need. One Great Hour of Sharing allows us to unite in this common mission: to be God's people in the world.

Adult Sunday School

March 2 & March 9th: We will show a documentary film about the "Lost Boys" from Sudan, with follow-up discussion time. This story closely parallels stories of the "Lost Girls" from Sudan, who (via CSAW) will be the recipient of the UMW tea proceeds in April. The film chronicles the boys' five-year flight from their homeland due to civil war, life in a U.N. refugee camp in Kenya, and their relocation to the U.S.

**UMW High Hattin' Tea
Sat. April 19, 2-4 p.m.**

Seats for the tea will go on sale in March! Reserve yours before they are gone!

This year we are donating for the "privilege of having a seat" at the tea. ALL tea proceeds will go to our charity CSAW (Community of Sudanese & American Women/Men). This is a local non-profit which relocates "Lost Girls" from Sudan (many of whom are in refugee camps in Kenya now) to Boulder to further their education. The "girls" (i.e. young ladies) are in school and also working trying to make ends meet. Please carefully consider what level of financial participation you would like to be at for your privilege of a seat. Keep in mind that we are not having the silent auction this year. Donation levels follow, with the minimum being \$20:

How Would Your Donation Help "Lost Girls" from Sudan Living in Boulder?

**DONATION AMOUNT/
MONTHLY EXPENSE**

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| \$20 | Internet Access |
| \$25 | Medical Insurance |
| \$40 | Heat for Apartment |
| \$50 | Books for College |
| \$100 | Food Bill |
| \$150 | Rent |
| \$250 | College Tuition |
| \$1000 | Plane ticket from Sudan to USA |

These expenses are for each girl attending school. The girls share apartments and share the above costs. They are also responsible for paying a portion of their rent to encourage independence and responsibility. Thank you for your kindness and generosity for this great cause! One by one, we can promote world understanding and peace.

OUTREACH

OUTREACH NEWS:

A small group served dinner to grateful residents at The Boulder Homeless Shelter on Wed Jan 30. Our last volunteer evening for the season is on WED APR 30th. Executive Director Greg Harms gave a wonderful presentation to the UMW group on Thursday, Feb 14th.

Mary Byrne
720-299-7822

HUNGER HURTS

Please join the Daily Times Call and Community Food Share is their 20th Annual Hunger Hurts the Whole Community. They are needing greeters at the area grocery stores. The food drive starts March 12th and continues through March 25th. Volunteers needs to work a 2 1/2 hour shift. To sign up, please call: Sue Ericson at Community Food Share (303) 652-3663 ext. 202 or sericson@communityfoodshare.org

Have a new and exciting international experience this summer!! Host a Japanese girl (14-17 years old) for three weeks in your home. Program dates: July 21-August 11, 2008. Learn about Japan and the Japanese culture while she learns about living in an American family! Students participate in a program of field trips and classes held during the weekdays at Colorado University. A wonderful experience for families with children of all ages! This Japanese program has been coming to this area for 30 YEARS!! Contact Kristy Shine (303) 661-9170 or email: richardkristyshine@q.com

We are looking for ideas on how to make the downstairs space more inviting and friendly to our children and youth. If anyone has suggestions, please let Doug McCallum know or drop an email to trustees-chair@niwotumc.org. We would love to hear ideas from our children, youth and parents as well as anyone else who may have ideas.

Young at Heart We will be enjoying a light lunch and a narrated video of India from Mumbai to Kolkata (Calcutta) presented by Marian and Dick Walker March 12th at 11:30 and we'd like to invite the Free Thinkers to join us after their meeting. Please contact Bea Hill (303) 651-1498 with any questions.

50 Something Singles Our group has decided to meet for brunch the 4th Sunday of every month after Sunday School. We'll keep you posted on the place each month. It's a great way to share experiences and to get to know each other better. The Group

YOUTH NEWS

We hosted the Louisville Youth in January. There were eighteen youth and six adults. We did a movie and popcorn night. The movie was "Evan Almighty". On March 16 the Youth Group will be providing the meal for the students at the Wesley Fellowship, CU and attending their worship service. We have invited the Louisville Youth to participate.

2008 CONFERENCE CAMP BROCHURES

are in the back of the Sanctuary. The foundations of these camps are to provide intentional places and experiences apart; extend genuine Christian hospitality and community; nurture Christian faith and discipleship; develop Christian spiritual leaders; teach Creation Care and Appreciation; collaborate with UM churches & agencies; and inspire and equip All Guests to Do Love and Service.

FINANCE

We would like to thank the entire congregation for their responses to the recent Stewardship drive. We feel the drive was very successful on at least two levels. First we received more pledges for more dollars than last year, which allows us to open up the budget slightly and provide more support to the various missions that are dear to all of us. Secondly, thanks to the excellent leadership of Pete and Mary Byrne, I believe the campaign was carried out in a way that was very "congregation friendly". The bottom line is a big THANK YOU to our entire congregation for helping to make the "Stewardship Season" a big success. As we go through the current year, we would like to hear from anyone who has any thoughts or comments on the past campaign, or on ideas for next year's campaign.

This is also a good time for all Ministry Team Leaders to start thinking and planning for 2009 and getting an idea what you would like to have in the budget for your team. Obviously we cannot guarantee what will be possible for next year's financial plan, but very few goals are attained without a bit of dreaming in the early stages -- so dream on!

Again, thanks to everyone for your help and involvement!

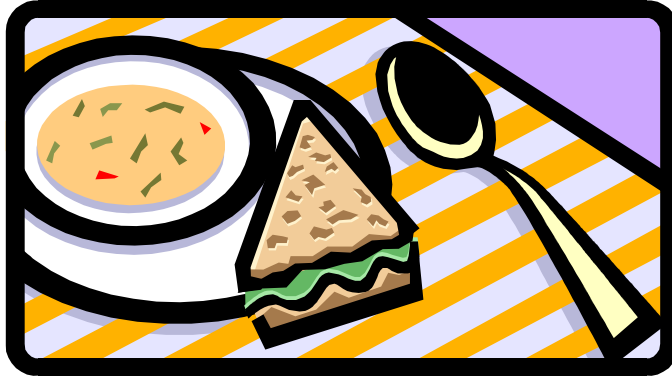
Ron Kiel

NUMC BOOK CLUB

Monday, March 10th at 6:30 P.M. to discuss History of the World in 6 Glasses, by Tom Standage.
Dixie Piland dlpiland@aol.com

Twelfth Annual

Soup, Soup & More



Homemade

Soups, Chowders, Chilis

With Bread, Salad, Drink, Dessert

Saturday, March 8

Serving 4–7 pm

Niwot United Methodist Church

7405 Lookout Road (Gunbarrel)

Between 71st & 75th

303-530-0241 or www.niwotumc.org

Takeout or Adult: \$6.00

Child (4-10 years): \$3.00

Your Church Family Bea Hill


I attended the Des Moines UMC in Des Moines, Washington before coming to this area. My family (2 daughters, a son-in-law, and two grandchildren) was the most important reason for my settling in this area. After visiting two Methodist churches in Longmont and Niwot United Methodist Church, I felt most at home at Niwot. I've been a member for 31/2 years. I feel that the caring, friendly atmosphere in this church is its greatest attribute. suggestion: having Sunday School for all children after the children's sermon might bring in more young families.

I enjoy getting people together who are in a similar time in their lives, i.e. recently widowed, divorced, other singles and of course, those of us who are older who have like needs and problems.

My interests revolve around exercise, hiking, snowshoeing and taking advantage of the beautiful area we live in. During quiet times, I like to read and do counted crosstitch and play games.

Spending time with my family is a top priority with me and I try to help when needed. They make me feel that I'm an important part of their lives. (what a gift!!!!)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Suzanne Givler |  |
| 5 | Joanne Long | |
| 9 | JoAnn Burton | |
| 14 | Jennifer Hayes | |
| 16 | Cindy Butler | |
| 17 | Tim Liston | |
| 19 | Shanlie Anderson, Sarah Burton | |
| 20 | Nathan Anderson | |
| 21 | Gayle Weiss | |
| 28 | June Eastin | |
| | | |
| 13 | Richard & Nancy Jenke | |
| 18 | Minetta & Dennis Knowlden | |
| 28 | Clark & Judy Anderson | |

Thanks For All You Do

- ♥ Thank you Jennifer Hayes for the wonderful Valentine's Day surprises. My office door is so cool. And the candy has been a delicious treat to share.
- ♥ Thanks to UMW for providing the meal to the Wesley Fellowship at CU.
- ♥ Thanks to the Age Level and Family Ministries for the FUN Pajama Party Movie and Game Night.
- ♥ We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, phone calls, and cards that we received after Ray fell. It has been a slow process, but he is improving. Olive and Ray Baucom
- ♥ We thank you very much for the many ways you have expressed your caring. Judy's surgery and follow up testing have found no further signs of Cancer. Judy is doing well and on warmer days we get out for walks. Again, thank you very much, Clark and Judy Anderson