



THE MESSENGER

A Publication of Niwot United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER 2008

We are called to have open minds, open hearts and open doors

REST AND BE THANKFUL

The first year the Pilgrims spent in North America was brutally hard. They were worn out from the long and cruel voyage, a trip they barely survived on a diet of pickled beef, cheese and wormy bread. By winter only half of the group was still alive on the shores of Plymouth.

They were living on roots, wild birds, and shellfish. It looked as though none of the 102 people who had left England on the Mayflower would be left to settle in the new country. But some did survive the winter.

When an Indian walked into the settlement, they were all terrified, but they said "Welcome." He was Samoset. He had learned English from sea captains when he was a slave. The next day he brought Squanto, who also spoke English.

Squanto stayed to live with the Pilgrims and taught them to survive by hunting deer. He helped them build warmer houses and how to trap fish in the streams, and showed them where wild berries and herbs grew. In the spring, he taught them to grow corn, a new crop for them.

The 20 acres of corn flourished and the settlers gained strength that summer. They were grateful to have food, shelter, and the friendship of the Indians. A start had been made in the beaver trade. There was much for which to be grateful.

So these austere and religious settlers decided to have a harvest feast and invite their new friends who had saved their lives. Edward Winslow wrote of that time, "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that we might...rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors."

As the feast day dawned in 1621, Massasoit, an Indian chief with 90 Indian braves, walked into the settlement. The Pilgrims were worried that there would not be enough food. The Indians went into

the forest and bagged five deer to feed the multitude. The food was prepared, a prayer was said, and the feast began. History does not say, but they may have feasted on some of the wild, long-legged turkeys which roamed the forest.

Three days of feasting and merrymaking followed. The Indians performed ceremonial dances and demonstrated their skill with bows and arrows. There were games, singing, and shooting matches.

Years later, Sarah Hale, editor of the women's magazine, "Godey's Lady's Book," began trying to interest people in a national Thanksgiving day. In an editorial in 1861, during the Civil War, Mrs. Hale begged the nation to "lay aside our enmities on this one day and join in a Thanksgiving Day of Peace."

President Lincoln, after reading Mrs. Hale's editorial, proclaimed Thursday, November 26, 1863, "a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent God." That made the U.S. the first nation to declare Thanksgiving a public, legal holiday.

The warmth of thankfulness and sharing, the blessings of freedom, and gratitude for abundant blessings are still the marks we remember and celebrate today on Thanksgiving. So Nov. 27, rest and be thankful for all the many blessings which God has given you.

Grace and Peace,

Merlene

Helping God's Family

- Attend Consecration Sunday, November 9th
- Attend NUMC Church Conference Sat., Dec. 6th
- Contribute to Student Offering on November 30th
- Sign up to serve dinner at the Boulder Homeless Shelter
- Help fill Thanksgiving Baskets
- Buy King Soopers grocery coupons
- Donate something from the Trustees Wish List
- Help prepare the church for Advent, Sat. Nov. 29th

Lectionary Readings
November 2008

Sunday, November 2nd

Joshua 3:7-17

Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday, November 9th

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, November 16th

Judges 4:1-7

Psalms 123 or 76

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, November 23rd

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, November 30th

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-27

NUMC Conference Sat., DEC. 6th

District Superintendent, Rev. Eric Smith, will be conducting our meeting. We will gather at 2 p.m. **All** members of the church are invited and encouraged to come to this meeting. This is the time when we elect the church leaders for the coming year, look at our ministry past and future.

Committees which need to meet and have reports ready are:

- Lay Leadership/ Nominations– Chair Rev. Merlene
- Finance-
- SPR-Jennifer Hayes & Frank Landis
- Trustees-Doug McCallum
- Worship, Christian Education-Diana Neff
- Outreach-Mary Byrne & Minetta Knowlden
- Age Level and Family Ministries-Bea Hill
- Membership-Biff Warren

Reports are due in the church office no later than Nov. 21st.

TAIZE

Thursday, November 6th 6:30 pm

Come join us for a quiet service of meditation, prayer, and song

Consecration Sunday November 9th

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

We aim to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year. This is a biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. We will encourage people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship. We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Conse-

cration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

New Member Class

If you would like to know more about Niwot UMC, or are thinking about joining NUMC, you are invited to come to the class on Sunday, Nov. 30th 10:45 a.m. in the Library with Rev. Merlene.

Peace with Justice

Dear Niwot United Methodist Church---The Church and Society Network, advocates for peace with justice, thanks you so much for your contribution of \$196 through the offering on Peace with Justice Sunday. You were one of 92 churches around the RMC that contributed and are in the top 20! Check our website umc.gbcs.org for more information about Church and Society. Linda Gertenbach, Co-Chair Church and Society Network

United Methodist Student Day November 30th

This special offering goes to enable students attending United Methodist schools to achieve their potential through scholarships and loans.

I am grateful for this program. As a student at Iliff, I received the Georgia Harkness Scholarship from the United Methodist Church.—Rev. Merlene

Sunday, November 2nd
Daylight Savings End



OUTREACH

Boulder Homeless Shelter

NUMC enjoyed our first shift serving dinner on Wednesday. We are scheduled to serve every fourth WED 5:30-7:30 through APRIL, and there are VERY FEW spaces left!. Please see Mary Byrne ASAP, e-mail her at ptmarybyrne@comcast.net, or call her at 720-299-7822.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Gayle Weiss will chair the Thanksgiving Baskets project as she has done in the past. Her contact is Sister Carmen in Lafayette and we will once again fill 15 baskets. Gayle needs people to sort and fill the baskets and drive the baskets to Lafayette.

King Sooper Coupons

Did you know that the church receives 5% of every dollar you spend at King Soopers for groceries, prescriptions and gas? All you have to do is buy a gift card from Joanne Long at church in either \$50 or \$100 denominations. It is that easy! We have taken in thousands of dollars over the past 20 some years to be used for special projects.

UMW

UMW will host Church Women United, **"World Community Day" on Friday, Nov. 7th, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**

UMW will have its November meeting **Thursday, 13 Nov. 9:30 a.m.** Donna Darland will present a program entitled "Icing on the Cake." Refreshments will be served. Mary Byrne is the hostess, Elinor Soreson will have the devotional, and Gayle Weiss will conduct the business meeting. All women of the church are invited to attend. Hope to see you there!

Also, please note on your calendar that the Christmas covered-dish luncheon will be on *Friday, December 12th* at the home of Liz Smith.

BUMMP News

Annual meeting Monday, Nov. 3rd 4 p.m. at Niwot UMC

So far the BUMMP Salmon Dinner and Silent Action has received \$5,891. This amount does not include the deduction for expenses. This income assists BUMMP in supporting our mission trips. Thank you Elinor Sorenson for baking cakes, Dorinda Dembroski for the great UMCOR Sager Brown display and selling tickets, and thanks to all who bought tickets on made a donation.

Upcoming BUMMP Mission Trips:

UMCOR Sager Brown--April 19-24, 2009, contact Merlene

Kenya--July 2009 contact Jon Kottke.

NUMC Thanksgiving Dinner

Come join your church family for Thanksgiving dinner at the church. Dinner will be served at 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving afternoon. The turkey, mashed potatoes, and gravy will be provided by your hosts, and we request that you bring a side dish or dessert. There will be a sign-up sheet so you can let us know how many people to expect so we can set up tables. But if you forget to sign-up, or your plans cancel at the last minute, please come anyway. Have you ever seen a dinner at the church where there wasn't more than enough food for everyone? This dinner at NUMC was first hosted by Joe and Anita Fisher for those of us who do not have family in the area and would like to celebrate this dinner with friends. Please contact Doug or Diana if you are interested. We hope to see you at the church on Thanksgiving - Diana Neff and Doug McCallum!

PREPARING FOR ADVENT

This year to prepare the church and ourselves for the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we will have an Advent Worship Service on **Sun., Nov. 30th 9:30 a.m.** The theme for this service is "Harold Angel. The youth will be leading this service as we decorate the sanctuary and sing Advent/Christmas music, and a time of learning about the symbols we use in the wreaths, tree, chrismons, crèche, etc. Please come and join us for the time of preparation for the Birth of Jesus.

We will need people to come and help set up on Sat. 29 Nov. 2 p.m. Look for the sign up sheet!

Wish List Items

The Trustees have a list of items that are "*things we wish the church had*". The current list is not complete and we would like to know of any additional items that should be on the list. Some items may be candidates for memorials, while others are more general. Before donating one of the items, please talk to a trustee in order to make sure no one else has already signed up to provide one. This list will be published from time to time.

- Elevator (there is an elevator fund)
- Projector: A computer/video projector with at least the following specifications: 2500 or more lumens
1280x800 or better resolution
Portable
Cost of replacement bulbs should be taken into consideration
- Banner: A second banner is needed to complete the sign at the street
- Paging system for the nursery:
Expandable
Relatively quiet vibration (intended for church use)
Need 3-5 units in the initial system
New playground equipment
Laptop for Sunday School
Wireless, over-the-ear microphone (specific model TBD)

The Connectional Giving Presentation is Coming

Have you ever wondered how the United Methodist Church spends the money you send to and through the Rocky Mountain Conference office? Are you curious about where your Tithe + one or "mission" dollars go? Well, have we got a deal for you! Here is your chance to learn how your giving supports ministries of the United Methodist Church throughout the world, ministries that "Advance," the realm of God, and ministries funded by the six special offering taken each year.

Ken Sloan, the director of the Communications Ministry Group, United Methodist Communications, will be traveling throughout the RMC telling the story of the global work and ministry of the people of the UMC. It is easy to forget that as United Methodists we do not just serve the people in our local communities, but we are a connected, global church. Everyday our connectional ministry serves millions of people throughout the world. Through our cooperative ministries in the United States and around the world we change peoples lives by helping to make them better. Ken is joining us to tell us "OUR" story.

His presentation will be a little less than two hours in length. Highlights include:

- Understanding how the mission of the United Methodist Church is being accomplished throughout the world.
- Learning about the four new focus areas of the church for the next quadrennium.
- Understanding the General Church Budget, where our apportionments come from and how are they spent.
- Interesting facts about what percentage of all local church funds go to support General and Annual Conference ministries.
- Information about the six special Sunday offerings and the Advance.
- And some brief information about our conference "tithe + Mission" plan and how it supports General Church Apportionments.

Locations and Times of some area churches which we can attend:

Thursday Nov. 6th 2:00 pm Christ UMC Fort Collins, CO

Thursday Nov. 6th 7:00 pm Arvada UMC Arvada, CO

Monday Nov. 10th 1:00 pm Phillips UMC Lakewood, CO

First Presbyterian "Go For Baroque" Friday, November 21, at 7:30 P.M.

Concert goers will experience an exciting combination of musicians, instruments, and compositions. Martha will perform on both the organ and harpsichord, and Ginger on the flute. Other musicians include Kim Neely, soprano vocalist. During the intermission, a Habitat homeowner will speak, an offering will be taken, and refreshments will be served. Proceeds from the offering will go directly to the church's sponsorship of a home at the **Harmony Haven Habitat for Humanity** community in north Boulder.

Niwot Church History

This quote from Beverly Newton's Niwot Church History (1991) gives us a look at our church in earlier times:

"Those were good years for the church (late thirties and early forties). The men of the church would meet in the fall for 'wood chopping.' Someone would donate a tree that he needed to have cut down and the men of the church would come and spend the day chopping it up for firewood for the church. Usually it took more than one tree. The women served them a meal.

When someone died the men of the congregation were the ones who dug the grave (and filled it) in the Niwot Cemetery. Evan Gould remembers one time in the thirties a child died and the men thought, 'It's a small grave. It won't take long to dig.' They started at 6:00 a.m. and didn't finish 'til afternoon just as the funeral procession arrived at the gates. The ground is hard because some hardpan lies just below the soil. It took pickaxes to dig some of those graves. Evan also said, 'The smartest thing my daddy ever did was give that land to the church.'

The thirties also gave the little cemetery another story. After the irrigation ditches were dug the local farmers began planting sugar beets. Beets are a labor intensive crop so migrant labor was imported to do the hoeing. During the thirties there was a diphtheria epidemic that ran through the valley. The migrant workers lost children as did everybody else. But they didn't have money to bury those children. So they went to the cemetery at night and buried their children. Today there is a tacit agreement that no graves are ever dug in the northeast corner of the cemetery. How did migrant workers dig their graves? I don't know. Maybe the hardpan begins a little deeper in that area."

NUMC Book Club

Monday, November 10th, at 6:00 pm.

Our fiction selection is *The Shack* by William Young followed by:

Dec. 8th: *Three Cups of Tea* (non-fic.) by Greg Mortensen

Jan. *Change of Heart* (fic.) by Jodi Picoult

Feb. *Complicity* (non-fic) by Anne Farrow

Mar. *Fatherland* (fic) by Robert Harris

April non-fiction to be decided later

May fiction to be decided later

Thanks For All You Do

- ♥ Thanks to all who are working on the retaining wall.
- ♥ Thanks to Gayle Weiss and Alice Haverstock for organizing the Progressive Dinner and the Dinner Groups.
- ♥ Thanks to Diana Neff for bringing the representative from the League of Women Voters to speak to us.
- ♥ Thanks to Karen Simpson for seeing that the sanctuary is tidied up each week after worship.
- ♥ Thanks to Mark Weiss who replaces light bulbs, so we have light.
- ♥ Thanks to Jennifer Hayes for your help in the office during this busy fall season!

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Bea Hil
- 3 Jean Wagner
- 5 Janet Smith
- 7 Tracy Breithaupt
- 8 Kevin Anderson
- 15 Anika Levinson
- 18 Dawn Ryan
- 21 Drew Hinton
- 25 Dixie Piland
- 26 Jeff Smith



- 22 David & Sharon Hinton