



THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF NIWOT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2009

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

Love One Another

One day when Jerrod was a small child he came in and slammed the door. As he ran into the room, he shouted, "I don't like Chris! I don't like him!" I reminded him that only the day before he had said that Chris was his best friend.

"I know but I had a fort built and he knocked it down with his ball and scattered it all. He wanted some blocks and I needed them all. He didn't have to knock them down! I don't like him!"

"Jerrod, do you really mean that?" He was quiet for a moment. "Well, I don't like the things he does sometimes."

"Jerrod, you have said something very important and I want you to remember it. As you grow many people will do things you don't like. But you don't want to be saying, "I don't like that person." While we don't always like the things people do, we must love each person as a person God has made. Jesus said, "Love one another." It is hard to do sometimes.

Jerrod left saying, "Guess I'll go get Chris and we can build together. He probably didn't like the way I acted either."

Valentine's Day is a celebration of love. We often focus on the "romantic" part of love on February 14. We know that there are other parts to love; faithfulness in times of trouble, the willingness to be present with the other when they are hurting, and living for honesty even when it hurts.

We also know that love is more than loving that "someone special." It is about "loving one another, as I have loved you." Or from Matthew, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Let us all learn to love others over their words and actions and hope they will love us in spite of our words and actions.

Grace and Peace,
Merlene

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a time for us to focus on our relationship with God. It is a time of seeking for the well-being of our spirits. A custom of the early church, which is still followed today, was to practice self-denial. One denied oneself through fasting, abstinence from eating meat, milk, cheese, etc., or by denying one's self something you enjoy as a personal sacrifice: going to the movies, chocolate, etc. I prefer looking at Lent as a time of growing, of giving. I encourage you to take time to read scripture, or a spiritual guide, and spend time on reflecting on your relationship with the Holy One. I would also invite you to add to your spiritual journey by reaching out to others with a gift of your presence in their lives. It may be going for a walk with your children or playing a game with them. You might choose to volunteer at OUR Center in Longmont. You might choose to participate in Sunday School. There are so many ways in which we can reach out that will not only enrich the lives of those around us, but enrich our own lives, as well.

Joint Ash Wednesday Worship

February 25th @ 7 p.m.

We will be worshipping at Louisville UMC, 741 Jefferson Avenue, along with Lafayette UMC and Erie UMC. It will be a service of music and imposition of ashes. There will not be any service at Niwot UMC.

They will be joining us for Good Friday services. There will be other joint services during Holy week.

Christian Education

Sharing the Lord's Bounty

Remember to bring a can of food for the Middle School Sunday School Class' collection on the first Sunday of the month – February 1st. The class has collected over 75 pounds of foods so far to share with OUR Center and EFAA. Please continue to share the Lord's bounty as you come forward to share in the Lord's Supper.

Serving From the Heart Workshop

On Saturday, February 21st, Susan Warren will be leading a day-long workshop on assessing our spiritual gifts, talents and abilities, resources, individual styles, dreams and experiences...all adding up to an enhanced capacity to serve God and our neighbors. Exact hours to be announced, but the workshop will be about 8 hours plus lunch. Sign up at the back of the sanctuary or contact Diana Neff at 303-651-1743 or email www.christianeducation@niwotumc.org to reserve your space.

What Do Other Faiths Believe?

Come join us for a new adult Sunday school class beginning February 8th. We will explore the beliefs and practices of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Baha'i B'rith. We will learn how each faith tradition views topics such as sin, forgiveness, salvation, future after death, ethics and more, comparing them to our own Christian beliefs. Each faith tradition will be studied for two weeks. The first week we will learn the basics by using the book, *What Do Other Faiths Believe? A Study of World Religions*. The second week we will hear from a guest of that faith tradition.

New Library Books! The list of the new library books can be found on the Christian Education Board. We have some wonderful new selections, coming every week through March. Be sure to check it out and check out the books.

Lectionary Readings February 2009

Sunday, February 1st
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111 (UMH 832)
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Sunday, February 8th
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (UMH 859)
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 15th
2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30 (UMH 762)
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

Sunday, February 22nd
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6 (UMH 783)
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Walter Brueggemann In Boulder

Walter Brueggemann, retired professor of old testament, will deliver the 11th Annual MacKenzie Lecture at First Congregational Church in Boulder (Broadway and Pine Streets). His lecture will be Friday, February 13, at 7:30 pm, in the Sanctuary. On Saturday, February 14, a potluck luncheon with Dr. Brueggemann will be held in Plymouth Hall beginning at 11:30 am, followed by a workshop on the Psalms from 1:00 - 3:30 pm. On Sunday, February 15, Dr. Brueggemann will lead the Adult Education class at 9:00 am and preach at the 10:15 service.

Books to read in preparation for Dr. Brueggemann's visit include: *Prophetic Imagination*, *Mandate to Difference*, and *The Word that Redescribes the World*. He also has a video available entitled *Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption System Today*, available from LivingtheQuestions.com. Read more about Dr. Brueggemann: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Upcoming Mission Trip Opportunities

Philippines - May 28 - June 10. Contact liwliwa_robledo@yahoo.com

Sierra Leone - June 24 - July 29. Contact Hope & Les Law 303-642-3693

Cuba - June 27 - July 10 ngvl@charter.net

Russia - dates to be decided. Contact Donna Ralston mngmntplus@qwest.net

Louisiana - hurricane relief
<http://la-umc.org>

Pacific Northwest (recent floods) -
pmccutcheon@pnwumc.org or
r_cordill@hotmail.com

OUTREACH

At the Christmas Eve Service all money collected through the offering was donated to the Post-News Season to Share Program. This is a fund of the McCormick Foundation and all donations are matched at 50 cents for each dollar. 100% goes directly to the agencies. Anyone can apply for a grant. Last year they gave \$2.1 million to 65 agencies. Our offering totaled \$730 of which an additional \$365 will be added by the McCormick Foundation. A list of all the agencies served last year is posted on the Outreach bulletin board. Some include the YWCA of Boulder (\$45,000), The Tiny Tim Center, Longmont (\$30,000), The Parenting Place, Boulder (\$30,000), Boulder Shelter for the Homeless (\$40,000), OUR Center, Longmont (\$35,000), Sister Carmen Community Center (\$25,000), and Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Non-violence, Boulder (\$30,000). These are just a few of the many served.

**"Wine into Water!"
Saturday, Feb. 21 from 2-5 PM.
St. Ambrose Episcopal Church**

Come join us for some live music, wine tasting, and lots of items to bid on!! The proceeds of the event will help support the work of the Wesley Foundation.

Some of the exciting work includes alternate Spring Breaks to impoverished areas across the globe. This year, these young people will be installing a water tank and distribution system at a children's school and community center in Portoviejo, Ecuador. Currently, the water generally stops running in the middle of the day, leaving the school without water for the afternoon.

Please consider any sort of donation of a gift or a service **which YOU might provide** for people to bid on!

Please *RSVP* on the "black tie" link at the bottom the page at www.wesleyf.org

Did You Know?

Wesley Community Center, Phoenix, AZ is a United Methodist Women Mission Giving-supported center which has been in mission with that community since 1950. Wesley works specifically with women, children, and youth, providing employment training, child-care, life skills, and a health clinic. From UMW Prayer Calendar

2009 Mission in Liberia: (info from UMW 2009 Prayer Calendar) "With the end of the civil war, the new government in Liberia, headed by the first female African president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, has made rapid strides in rebuilding the collapsed infrastructure in Liberia. For the first time in years electricity and piped water have returned to parts of Monrovia, the capital city. However, we still rely on generators for electricity and bore holes for water at the mission compound. It will take some time before the entire city of Monrovia is fully functional again. We are however thankful that under the inspired leadership of Ellen, a United Methodist, much has been achieved in a relatively short period." Written by George & Nancy Carew, missionaries, Monrovia, Liberia.

If you would like to offer words of encouragement or support to these missionaries, their email address is: gncarew@yahoo.com George's birthday is Feb. 18th, if you would like to send him birthday greetings via email.

Your Church Family
Jennifer Hayes

I attended church at St. Paul's UMC until I moved to Niwot. A friend asked me if I had heard of Edwina Ward Burton and I should go to hear her preach. So, I trotted along one Sunday morning to Niwot UMC and loved Edwina on sight. I was so shy that I sat near the door and just slipped out without meeting anyone. I came the next Sunday and was a little braver. I sat in the middle, still close to the door, but definitely more near the middle of the church. There Susie Banks nailed me and I was hooked. I just kept coming back and I loved the congregation and loved Edwina. I came the last three/ four years of Edwina's ministry. I joined the church about eleven years ago.

I like best the ministry of Merlene BARNER and her sermons based on scripture. One thing I learned from her was the lectionary readings which I use for my own spiritual growth. I enjoy my friends that I have made at church and their openness to accepting all kinds of believers.

I would like the church to have an extension so the different meetings would have more privacy, we could make the church more handicapped accessible, the minister and office manager would have more privacy to get their work done. The minister would have a room she could use for counseling.

I enjoy reading, researching, and studying the Bible both as a historical document and as one source for spiri-

tual growth. I love teaching and I would so love to teach the Bible that I thought about having a class out of the church just for people who hunger like me to learn more about the book that changed the world.

My special interests are reading, writing, spiritual beading, walking, camping, and traveling. I take my spiritual prayer beads and walk the labyrinth at First Church in Boulder. I find that a powerful prayer experience for me. I made prayer beads for Susan Moi, the Sudanese young woman who was burned, and walked the labyrinth with them in my hands praying for her. I have recently been creating labyrinth cards that I send to people

UMW

Thursday, February 12th 9:30 AM

Rev. Merlene will present the program. Refreshments will be served. All women of the church are invited to attend.

The following have been elected to serve as officers for 2009: Penny Landis, President; Elinor Sorenson, Vice President (programs); Donna Darland, Secretary; and Ilona Weiss, Treasurer.

Head's Up!

We are planning a baby shower for Jamie Grigsby for either Feb. 8th or 15th.

We'll keep you posted as plans are finalized.

NUMC Bookclub
Please join us at our new time, 6 PM.

Feb. 9th (Non-Fic.):
Complicity by Anne Farrow

Mar. 9th (Fic.):
Fatherland, by Robert Harris

April and May have not yet been decided.


Mardi Gras

Let's celebrate Mardi Gras on February 22nd after Sunday School with a potluck lunch. Please sign up and let us know what you'd like to bring. The Fun Committee

Soup, Soup, and More...2009!

Mark your calendars now for our annual Soup, Soup and More potluck and community dinner, scheduled for March 14 from 4-7 pm. Sign up sheets will be in the back of the sanctuary, and we'll remind you again in next month's Messenger. In the meantime, see Donna Darland for details.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

3	Dan Radostis, Liz Smith	
4	Donna Sinor	
6	Ruth Whitehead	
9	Diana Neff	
13	Brock Anderson	13 Rick & Susan McNeal
15	Susan McNeal	
17	Charlotte Gates	18 Bob & Bev Strand
21	Craig McNeal	
26	Bob Strand	

Thanks For All You Do!

- ♥ A big thank you to all who helped with the Undecorating Party and Potluck.
- ♥ Thank you Diana Neff for organizing the many different and interesting learning options for adults.
- ♥ Thank you Liz Smith and Christine Heidebrecht for teaching on Sunday mornings.
- ♥ Thank you Kris Green for leading the Monday evening study.
- ♥ Thanks to Bea Hill, Chair of Age Level and Family Ministries for organizing the 50 and Something Singles Lunches each month.
- ♥ Thanks to the Age Level and Family Ministries Ministry Team for setting up the Pajama Party Game and Movie Night.

Do You Know?

- You can use your King Sooper gift card at King Sooper gas pumps just like a credit card? Now you can buy groceries and gas and help support NUMC.

Ministry Team Leader Contact Information:

Ad Council	Fred Smith	fls@ieee.org	303- 530-3356
SPR	Gayle Weiss	g.b.weiss@comcast.net	303- 530-1208
Trustees	Doug McCallum	dougmc@3acres.org	303- 651-1743
Finance	Mike Weiss	m.a.weiss@comcast.net	303- 530-1208
Worship	Jennifer Hayes	gordonsark@netzero.com	303- 442-2402
Outreach	Mary Byrne Kris Green	ptmarybyrne@comcast.net kris@tkpress.com	303- 673-9983 720.318.5638
Christian Ed	Diana Neff	neff@3acres.org	303- 651-1743
Membership	Biff Warren	bwarren@niwotlaw.com	303-746-2900
Hospitality	Donna Darland	debbiedarland@msn.com	303- 530-2523
Age Level & Family Ministries (FUN)	Bea Hill	coloradobea@netzero.net	303- 651-1498
Lay Leadership/Nominations	Rev. Merlene Barner	mbarner@niwotumc.org	303-530-0241
Communications	Janet Smith	janetsmith_niwot@yahoo.com	303-525-6483

LongNet

Helping People Find Great Jobs

LongNet is a network group for jobseekers and potential employers. Everyone is welcome. Our meetings are designed to:

- *Offer tips on job searching, resumes, interviewing.
- *Share job leads.
- *Provide networking information: private websites, Collectivenet, yahoo groups.
- *Offer Various programs with recruiters, companies, and career consultants.
- *Friendship!

When: Mondays 4:30 to 6:00pm (except holidays)

Where: Central Presbyterian Church 402 Kimbark, Longmont, CO. 80501
(4th and Kimbark, one block east of main)

Sponsors: Central Presbyterian Church <http://www.centralpres.net>

To learn more, please feel free to attend a meeting.