



THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF NIWOT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JULY 2009

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

The greatest helpers of humanity have been its cross bearers. The leaders of humanity have suffered in loneliness; the prophets have learned their lessons in the school of pain. The corals in the sheltered lagoon grow rank and useless; those that are broken and crushed by the surf form the living rock and the foundations of the continents. Ease has not produced greatness. People who have had to struggle with an unfavorable environment, to fight cold, to buffet the storm, to blast the rock or wring a livelihood from a hardened soil, have won character by their pains.

The bird rises against a strong headwind, not only in spite of the wind, but also because of it.

The opposing force becomes a lifting force if faced at the right angle.

The storm may buffet ships and rend the rigging, but it makes strong hands and brave hearts.

Spread the sails to catch the favoring breezes of adversity. If the greatest person of all time, even the One who was the very touchstone of destiny, could be made perfect only through suffering, is it not probable that you and I must also face adversity?

Take the hardest thing in your life---the place of difficulty, outward or inward, and expect God to triumph gloriously in that very spot. Just there God can bring your soul into blossom. As you face the winds of change or adversity, know that God will lift you up and bear you in the palm of God's hand.

Grace and Peace,
Merlene

Lectionary Readings July 2009

Sunday, July 5th

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48 (UMH 782)
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

Sunday, July 12th

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24 (UMH 755)
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

Sunday, July 19th

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37 (UMH 807)
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sunday, July 26th

2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14 (UMH 746)
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

You can contact us at:

Niwot United Methodist Church
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Longmont, CO 80503
Email: office@niwotumc.org
Phone: 303-530-0241
Website: www.niwotumc.org

Outreach Crayons to Calculators

NUMC has committed to providing eight backpacks this year, fully loaded with supplies for children in grades 3-5, to **Crayons to Calculators** (crayonstocalculators.org). A sign-up poster with supplies and quantities needed will be in the back of the church starting on *July 12th*. You may also donate money to purchase supplies--please make checks out to Niwot UMC, and note School Supplies on the memo line. Deadline for turning in the supplies will be Sunday, **Aug. 2nd**.

Feel free to contact Brock Anderson at allandersons@yahoo.com or 303-665-0408 with any questions.

The NUMC Night at the Rockies Monday, July 20th 6:40 p.m.

The Rockies will be playing the Arizona Diamond-Backs (the Snakes, as we like to say--think Adam & Eve). Tickets are \$20 each, in the lower level, where lots of foul balls are hit. We need to have a group of at least 25, but we can get as many as 50 tickets. Deadline to buy tickets is July 8th. Please sign up in the back of the church. Checks should be made out to Left Hand Sports, LLC, and delivered or mailed to Biff Warren at P.O. Box 610, Niwot, CO 80544. We'll meet at the church at 5 p.m. to carpool to the game. By July 20th, the Rockies will be in first place in the Wild Card standings, with a record of 51-42. You heard it here first!

Did You Know? Mission Tidbits From 2009 UMW Prayer Calendar

In the Ukraine & Moldova Annual Conference: Helen & Bill Lovelace missionaries write: "Monday was a sad day for us in the street children ministry. Sergei, one of the children who was with us since the beginning and is now 18, was on trial for stealing a cell phone. He constantly had his arms around our necks, reaching out for the contact he did not receive on the street. But today those hands were in handcuffs as he was led to the 'cage,' the place where the accused is locked up in a Ukrainian courtroom. He was crying and so were we as the judge asked him, 'Where is your father?' "Dead," Sergei replied. He was sentenced to four years, two months. We didn't even get to wave goodbye."

If you would like to send words of encouragement or prayer to the Lovelaces, you may do so by email: whlovelace@aol.com

Praying in Color

Need help communicating with God? Do you need a new way to pray? Maybe one less word oriented and more visual? More colorful and less black and white? Come join us on July 26th at 10:45, following the worship service for an intergenerational event. If you are old enough to color, and not too old to hold a writing instrument, this class is for you. Bring your parents, your children, your grandchildren, your friends. This is a class for everyone. Remember, Colors Are Fun!!

Chautauqua Brunch

All ladies of the church: Please join the Fifty Something Singles for our annual summer luncheon at the Chautauqua Dining Room on Tuesday, July 14th at 11:30 a.m. Sign up so that we'll know how many to count on. We'll plan to carpool from the church at 11:00 a.m. Bea H.

Thanks to all who attended the ordination ceremony for (now we can say it) Rev. Susan L. Warren, June 21, 2009, in Grand Junction at the historic Avalon Theater (built 1923), with Bishop Elaine Stanovsky presiding over a congregation of over 1000. Rev. Merlene Barner, Fred and Liz Smith, Joanne Long, Ted Barna, Jennifer Hayes and Alice Haverstock were present, as well as Susan's 3 children, Randi Willemsen, Katie Warren, Michael Warren, and his companion, Carrie Diehl. Other family members attending included her mother and step-father, Madeline and Gene Rowbotham, and her father and step-mother, Frank and Lois Beck, as well as Susan's granddaughter, Jenna Willemsen. Susan's husband, Biff Warren, and her daughter, Katie Warren, were the two family representatives who presented her stole at the ceremony, representing the old and the young, or, in Susan's words, "the two people who had to put up with me and the process the most during the past six years." The ceremony was over two hours long, and featured a sermon by retired Bishop Roy Sano entitled "Gifted for Service." Live music was provided by the Loveland Bell Choir, and by a band known as Altar Ego, which performed a U2 selection as well as "The Summons." An altar call at the end of the service for those called to enter the ministry resulted in an overwhelming response, during which the band played on and on, and on.

The road to ordination as an Elder for Susan was not an easy one, as the prevailing view in the conference is that Chaplains should be Deacons, rather than Elders. (The biggest differences are that Deacons serve specialized ministries, are not appointed as pastors, and cannot give communion.) Susan was fortunate to have the support of several people who helped convince the conference that she was on the appropriate path. She is now able to serve a local church, if called, but plans to continue in her present position with Hospice Care of Boulder and Broomfield

Counties.

The support from the Niwot United Methodist Church, both at the ceremony, and over the past six years, or rather, the past 30 years, has been extraordinary! Susan came to Niwot in 1978 from Denver, having grown up as a Methodist in Littleton, Colorado. Her daughter, Randi, actually deserves the credit for bringing her mom to Niwot to a 4-year-old birthday party for Matthew Young, son of Rev. Greg and Rev. Carolyn Young. Greg was pastor at NUMC at the time, and Carolyn's mother, Lydia Rice, was Randi's day care provider in Denver. (They also invited Biff Warren to the party, and as they say, the rest is history.)

In her time at NUMC, Susan has served as Choir Director, choir member, Youth Group Leader, Sunday School teacher, and Guest Preacher. She has also served on and chaired several committees and campaigns. Susan entered college at the age of 40, and earned her undergraduate degree from Regis University while continuing to work full-time in the high-tech industry, where she became a Human Resources Director for several companies. In 2003, she felt called to enter Iliff School of Theology, following in the footsteps of her Great-Grandfather Beck, and her step-father, Rev. Gene Rowbotham. She completed her Master of Divinity degree at Iliff in 2006. During her studies, she served as an interim pastor at Cheyenne Wells and Kit Carson in the summer of 2005, and also served as a volunteer chaplain for Hospice Care of Boulder and Broomfield Counties. Following graduation, she was hired as a chaplain for Hospice Care of Boulder and Broomfield Counties, and was appointed to the chaplaincy as a probationary member of the Rocky Mountain Conference in 2007. She continued on the path to becoming ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church, which culminated in her ordination in Grand Junction. She is currently Director of the Longmont office of Hospice Care of Boulder and Broomfield Counties.

Electronic Giving

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account, as you may already be doing for other routine payments? Well, we now have an electronic giving option for those of you who wish to have your regular contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. When you travel, this can be particularly helpful in keeping up with your pledge payments.

To participate, simply fill out an authorization form, attach a voided check, and either give it to, or mail it to, Fred Smith, Financial Secretary. The form allows you to specify the donation amount, when it is to start, and how often it will be repeated. Once started, the donations will continue automatically until you instruct us to stop. Forms are available at the back of the church, near the sign up lists, or on our church web site (www.niwotumc.org – click on the “Contributions” link). The form and the web site includes information that will probably answer most questions you may have.

LongNet

Here is the updated list of job search support group meetings in the Longmont/Boulder area. Each meeting is a little different and they can be quite helpful in finding the next job.

LongNet

Time: Monday afternoon 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Location: Central Presbyterian church - 4th Ave & Kimbark 303-776-6833 (<http://www.centralpres.net>)

Website: <http://www.fortnet.org/longnet/>

Contact: Clark Anderson <anderci@indra.com>

LongsPeakNet

Time: Tuesday mornings 9:00 - 11:15am (new member orientation at 8:30)

location: Fellowship Center at LifeBridge Christian Church, (west of US287off Highway 66)

website: <http://www.lpnet.org>

Contact: membership@lpnet.org

If you would like more information about groups meeting in the Front Range area, please contact Clark Anderson email: anderci@indra.com

