



# THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF NIWOT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2009

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

## Rough or Polished?

I was dusting the other day and to do so I had to shift my display of rocks and shells. I recalled that when on vacation one often stops to pick up gifts to take home. One time I remembered a store filled with many treasures and among those treasures were some polished stones of varying colors and shapes. I picked them up and marveled at the smoothness and beauty of the stones. There was rock in its original form, rough edges and dull appearance, hiding the polished beauty "inside." It seemed to say that life is also like those rocks, we are rough and plain and life seems to polish away the hardness.

When we are "polished" it is because our faith makes us that way. In our lives we have that "center" of love and caring, of sharing and lending a hand to others. We have always had the beauty within through God's grace. It is only when we allow ourselves to expose our "center" that the hardness and rough edges fall away.

I think our Creator sees past the rough exteriors and wills us to become "polished" stones. There is a western song that says "some days are like a diamond, some days a stone." I hope we have more "polished" times in our lives than we have "rough" times.

Enjoy life for it is given to each of us each day, hour, and minute. May we become the beautiful creations which God created us to be.

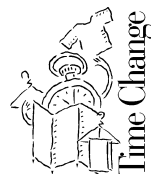
Grace and Peace,  
*Merlene*

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING LET THERE BE HOPE

*"For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat." Isaiah 25:4 NRSV*

You can be a part of the United Methodist Church's worldwide humanitarian aid through United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Gifts to this special offering underwrite UMCOR's cost of doing business. That helps us keep our promise that 100% percent of gifts to specific UMCOR projects goes directly to that project and is not spent on in home office costs.

UMCOR's specialized ministries reach out in responding in disaster, fighting hunger, alleviating poverty, providing relief supplies around the world and offering hospitality to immigrants and refugees--all assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest. **The One Great Hour of Sharing offering on March 22nd**, provides for those basic needs that make the rest of UMCOR'S work possible.



Next Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>,  
spring forward 1 hour.

Lectionary Readings  
March 2009

*Sunday, March 1st*

Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10 (UMH 756)  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

*Sunday, March 8th*

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31 (UMH 752)  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

*Sunday, March 15th*

Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19 (UMH 750)  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

*Sunday, March 22nd*

Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (UMH 830)  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

*Sunday, March 29th*

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12 (UMH 785)  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33



**Heifer International**

NUMC Elementary Sunday School has chosen Heifer International for our Outreach Project this year. During March we will be collecting coins to fill our glass pig. We hope to raise enough money for a goat and more. Please save your coins to help fund this program. Coins will be collected March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Heifer's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the earth. For more than 60 years, Heifer International has provided livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily for reliable sources of food and income. And since 1944, they have helped 48 million people through training in livestock development and livestock gifts that multiply.

Every gift of an animal provides direct benefits such as milk, eggs, wool, fertilizer, as well as indirect benefits that increase family incomes for better housing, nutrition, health care and school fees for children. Recipients "pass on the gift" of offspring of their cows, goats and other livestock to others in an ever-widening circle of hope.

Heifer currently works in more than 57 countries, including the U.S.

## HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?

The Masai tribe of Africa are said to be the fiercest warriors throughout all of Africa. Interestingly they greet each other not with "Hello," "How are you?" or "How goes the life of a warrior?", but with "How are the children?"

They wisely know that if the children are well, all is well. They know that the well being of the community's children translate into the prosperity of the tribe as a whole.

What if we heard that question and passed it along to each other a dozen times a day? Could we truly say, without any hesitation. "The children are well, yes, all the children are well."

So...How are the children?

## DISPOSAL OF PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION

We will be collecting all unused medications (including herbal) in a "bucket" at the back of the church. All medications will be taken to three pharmacies in Boulder who will dispose of them properly. The Longmont United Hospital collects medications twice a year. Last year the hospital collected 800 pounds of drugs. If you cannot get there this is another way of keeping these drugs out of our streams and waterways.

## UMW

Niwot United Methodist Women will meet at 9:30AM at the church on Thursday, March 12th. Donna Darland will provide a program with information on Echo House and Church Women United. Both of these organizations have been supported by UMW over the past several years. All women of the church are invited to be a part of United Methodist Women.

## Confirmation

We have five youth participating in Confirmation. We are meeting on the fourth Sunday of the month. One of our activities at our first class was to make candles to use in our worship time at the end of each session. We are looking at different spiritual practices so they are keeping journals and will be trying a day of fasting during Lent.

## 2009 Rocky Mountain United Methodist Camps

Ready for adventure? Check out the camping brochures at the back of the church. Camp locations are listed and you can go to the web for all the information you need for each Conference Camp site.

## Upcoming Mission Trip Opportunities

Philippines - May 28 - June 10. Contact [liwliwa\\_robledo@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:ngvl@charter.net)

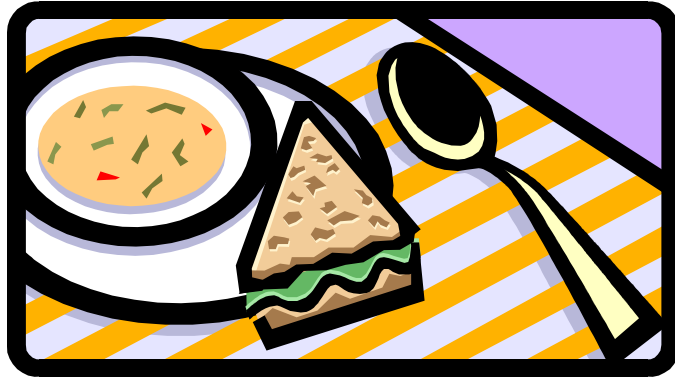
Russia - dates to be decided. Contact Donna Ralston [mngmntplus@qwest.net](mailto:mngmntplus@qwest.net)

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

Pacific Northwest (recent floods) -  
[pmccutcheon@pnwumc.org](mailto:pmccutcheon@pnwumc.org) or  
[r\\_cordill@hotmail.com](mailto:r_cordill@hotmail.com)

Thirteenth Annual

# Soup, Soup & More



Homemade

Soups, Chowders, Chilis

With Bread, Salad, Drink, Dessert

Saturday, March 14

Serving 4—7 pm

Takeout or Adult = \$6.00

Child 4-10 years \$3.00

Niwot United Methodist Church

7405 Lookout Road (Gunbarrel)

Between 71st & 75th

303-530-0241 or [www.niwotumc.org](http://www.niwotumc.org)

## **PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE BENEFITS CSAW**

There will be a UMW-sponsored Bake Sale after church on Palm Sunday, April 5. Everyone is asked to provide goodies--baked items, casseroles, cookies, etc.--to make this a successful event.

There will be no Annual Tea in 2009, so bring your funds to support this effort and in return secure special food items for your Easter week guests!

## **Fifty Something Singles**

Let's get together for a concert by the Timberline Symphony at Niwot High School on Saturday, March 28, at 7:30 pm. We will be hearing Mendelssohn: Elijah performed with the Golden Concert Choir. Tickets for seniors are only \$10. This will take the place of our fourth Sunday brunch. We can buy the tickets at the door, but please sign up so that we can carpool.

## **OUTREACH**

We are truly blessed with such a generous and creative church community! The monthly food drives which the youth and teachers have organized are helping the OUR Center and EFFA, respectively, every other month. Collection days are each Communion Sunday.

We also continue to support the Boulder County Homeless Shelter with donations of supplies (towels, hygiene items, gloves, hats, and coats) and time. Kevin Schoonover helped serve dinner in January and remarked how rewarding it was!

Outreach now has an information and comment board in the Fellowship area. We also have a bulletin board with photos and bios of any individuals we know who are serving their country. These men and women need our prayers and support!



## **NUMC Book Club**

March 9th @ 6 pm

We are discussing Fatherland by Robert Harris. This is a detailed, erie, alternate history that serves as the backdrop for this otherwise conventional crime thriller. The setting is Berlin, 1964, some 20 years after the Third Reich's victory in WW II.

April 13th @ 6 pm

We are discussing The Ayatollah Begs to Differ: The Paradox of Modern Iran by Hooman Majd. This is a critical but affectionate portrait of Iranian politics and culture, as Majd, the Western-educated grandson of an ayatollah, delves into the very core of Iranian society.

May 11 @ 6 pm

We are discussing Morgan's Run by Colleen McCullough. McCullough's narrative skills are fully displayed in this intricately researched, passionate epic of 18th-century England's colonization of Australia, in which an upright Bristol tavern-keeper, Richard Morgan, becomes one of the first British convicts to be sent to the rugged new prison colony of Botany Bay.

Any interested reader is welcome to join us at the church to discuss these books.

