



THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF NIWOT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2009

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

Through the Whirlwind

The opening scene in Robert Redford's movie, *The Milagro Beanfield War* is of a beautiful sunrise in the Rocky Mountains of northern New Mexico. Then the wind begins to gust and provides the first signs of movement, like a spirit descending to the land. The people who want control of *Milagro* and the neighboring farms buy all the newspapers in order to keep the townspeople from learning the truth of what is happening to them and to their land. Before all the papers are burned, a whirlwind comes along and picks up the papers and carries them high in the air and drops them on the town and into the hands of avid readers. Through the whirlwind, truth descended on the people of *Milagro*. The people of *Milagro* begin to come together as a cohesive group and to take control of their destiny.

Over two thousand years ago a small group of people faithful to Jesus were all gathered in one place. "And suddenly there came sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting....and they were filled with the Holy Spirit."

When the wind came and tongues of flame danced over the heads of the group of those faithful disciples, this was visible proof that they were no longer isolated individuals. They were a community of faith. The teachings of Jesus invited all people of all ages, genders, and from all nations to come and receive the gift of God's love, acceptance, and forgiveness. As United Methodists, we are called to live out our vision statement; *Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*, so that all know that they are welcome in the community of faith. Let us open our hearts and become *Pentecost People*.

Grace and Peace,
Merlene

May Days

May is a time for May Baskets, Mother's Day, and Graduations. May Day, the first day of May, is not celebrated too much today. It was a time when children made "May baskets" filled them with flowers and delivered them secretly to neighbors and friends to mark the joy of spring. Often in the north, children put fruit in their baskets because spring flowers were not always in bloom. This May what about taking some spring flowers or a plate of cookies to a neighbor as a gift of Christian kindness?

Mother's Day, as we celebrate today, began in 1907, at a Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Anna Jarvis organized it as a remembrance for her mother who had died and for all mothers. It became a national day in 1912. This year Mother's Day is the tenth of May. Why not visit one of our members in senior housing, or assisted living, or home bound to let them know they are still remembered by the church?

You can contact us at:

Niwot United Methodist Church
7405 Lookout Road
Longmont, CO 80503
Email: office@niwotumc.org
Phone: 303-530-0241
Website: www.niwotumc.org

Submission deadline is the 20th of the prior month. Please email articles and any accompanying photos or graphics to office@niwotumc.org. The Messenger is available online at our website.

**Lectionary Readings
May 2009**

Sunday, May 3rd

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Sunday, May 10th

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31 (UMH 752)
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Sunday, May 17th

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98 (UMH 818)
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 24th

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 41 (UMH 738)
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Sunday, May 31st

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826)
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

What Does Your Offering Do?

Because you care, music was funded for the Easter cantata, *Who Is This King?*. Through your gifts the Niwot UMC is able to pay the salaries for our Music Director and Accompanist. Your faithful giving enables our music ministry to provide inspiration and joy in our worship. Thank you for your giving, so that we can continue to support our music ministry.

**Annual Conference
"Bridge of Love"**

UM churches are invited once again to participate in the "Bridge of Love" offering that will be taken at Annual Conference in Grand Junction. There is a jar for the collection of coins and other contributions for "The Bridge of Love." The money collected will be used for two different projects this year. Half of the money will go to support our sister conferences in Angola for the young people in the East and West Annual Conferences. The other half will go to fund the new UMCOR Depot in Utah.

**Rocky Mountain Commission On
Archives & History**

Spring Banquet and History Tour **Saturday, May 16th 9 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

Come join us for this informative West Denver History Tour. We will visit Stage Coach Road to Morrison, Schnell Farm (a working farm from 1800-2002), drive by Molly Brown's Summer House, Green Gables Country Club, site of Mel-Mar Mansion, visit Lakewood Heritage Center, Jewish Consumptive Relief Society Buildings, Carson Howell House (oldest house on Colfax), and see the original trolley at the Federal Center, Methodist Churches of Central West Denver.

We will meet at Lakewood UMC, 8:45 a.m. (breakfast), lunch at Phillips UMC Noon, and dine at Jefferson Ave. UMC at 5:30 in the evening. The evening program at 6:30 p.m. is "*The History of May Bonfills and the Bel-Mar Mansion*" by Winn Ferrill. *Registration*: \$35 Mail to Phillips UMC, 1450 S. Pierce St. Lakewood, CO 80232, with your name, address, and phone number. Can you only spend a half of day with us? \$15, Evening Program Only \$12.

Niwot UMW

Niwot United Methodist Women will meet Thursday, May 14 at 9:30AM at the church. Joanne Long will lead a discussion regarding upkeep duties and ideas for the church building and grounds.

The June 11 Dutch Treat Luncheon will be at Martini's Bistro, 543 Terry Street in Longmont at 11:30 AM. Carpools will leave the church at 11AM. Susie Banks will be coordinating reservations. PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR. More details in the June Newsletter.

Rinn UMW Spring Luncheon

May 2nd at 11:30 am

Erin Froemke-Presley will present a program titled "Diversity From My Point Of View." Please RSVP to Marge Hartman at (303) 833-3001 or rhartman@hotmail.com. The program and luncheon will be held at Rinn UMC 3783 Weld County Rd. Frederick.

"Living Out Our Faith In Everyday Life"

May 9th from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Please join us at UMC of Johnstown for this exciting workshop. Brunch and snacks will be provided. Cost is \$10. Please phone (970) 587-4444 or email staff@umchurchjohnstownco.org.

RMC Church Camps

Please check the brochures at the back for the camp possibilities at Buckhorn Camp. There are camps for children, youth, and families.



NUMC Book Club

May 11th @ 7 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.

Did You Know? Mission Tidbits From The 2009 UMW Prayer Calendar

Students at the after school program at UMW Giving-supported North Rampart Community Center are part of the revival in the city of New Orleans. United Methodist Deaconess Joanne Finley is the executive director of the center. Joanne's birthday is May 27th, if you would like to send her a card. Her address is: 1130 N. Rampart St., New Orleans, LA 70363.

What is a "United Methodist Deaconess"? Answer: a laywoman committed to full-time ministries of love, justice and service, and commissioned by the UM General Board of Global Ministries.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 2 Ilona Weiss
- 4 Sue Schoonover
- 5 Alice Haverstock
- 6 Penny Twombly, Virgie Hodge
- 12 Barb Bridgestock
- 15 Anshu Williams
- 17 Arnie Mills
- 18 Margo Tucker
- 22 Carl Anderson
- 23 Shanya Williams

- 7 Olive & Ray Baucom
- 12 Jeff & Janet Smith
- 16 Gary & Charlotte Gates
- 22 John & Ann Kemp
- 28 Burt & Jean Wagner

Did You Know?

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

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins and make for fun reading:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

Thanks For All You Do!

- ★ Thank you Donna Darland for ordering the
- ★ palms for Palm Sunday. Your commitment
- ★ to the ministry of NUMC is a blessing for
- ★ us.
- ★ Thank you United Methodist Women for
- ★ the awesome Bake/Food Sale.
- ★ Thanks to everyone who provided eggs
- ★ and were helping hands for the Maundy
- ★ Thursday activities. Thank you Galye
- ★ Weiss, Dale Heidebrecht, and Pat Koh for
- ★ assisting with the service. We had a lot of
- ★ fun, great food, and wonderful worship.
- ★ Thanks to all who participated in the
- ★ *Voices of Calvary* Good Friday drama:
- ★ Mary Byrne, Pete Byrne, Dennis
- ★ Knowlden, Penny Landis, Mike Weiss and
- ★ Bill Yoh. Thank you Dale Heidebrecht, Pat
- ★ Koh and Choir. This service moved us
- ★ with meaning into a time of reflection to
- ★ prepare us for the celebration of Easter.
- ★ Thank you Dale Heidebrecht, Pat Koh,
- ★ and Choir for the very inspiring Easter
- ★ Cantata. You led us in a dynamic Easter
- ★ celebration. We do give thanks to all of
- ★ you for your commitment of your time and
- ★ talents for our music ministry.
- ★ Thank you Youth for the exciting Easter
- ★ Egg Hunt. Thanks to all who provided
- ★ candy and gifts.
- ★ Thanks to Donna, Bruce, and Debbie Dar-
- ★ land, Lois Zoller, Betty Jamison, Connie
- ★ Holt, Karen Simpson, Anne Kemp and all
- ★ the others who helped make the Easter
- ★ Brunch happen.
- ★ Thanks to Rev. James Shuman for bring-
- ★ ing the message while Merlene was at
- ★ UMOR Sager Brown. Alice Haverstock,
- ★ Joe and Dorinda Dembroski were also
- ★ there.
- ★ Thanks to Susan Warren for bringing the
- ★ message on April 26th.
- ★ Thanks to Fred Smith, Ted Barna, and
- ★ Joanne Long for handling the emergency
- ★ "flood" waters in the kitchen from all the
- ★ snow and rain.