



THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF NIWOT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2009

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

Got God?

Root beer, lemon-lime soda, cola, iced tea, Gatorade, ginger ale, kool-aid, fruit juice, milk, flavored sparkling water, iced cappuccino, ice water. Are you thirsty yet?

When we find ourselves dried out from heat or exercise, we can't wait to have something that will quench our thirst. And what is it we want the most when we find ourselves most thirsty? We want water. Can you think of anything that tastes as good as water when you find yourself so parched? There is absolutely no better taste in the world.

I enjoy reading the Psalms and one of my favorites is Psalm 42. It begins this way from the NRSV of the Bible: "As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O, God." From the Message Bible it reads: "A white-tailed deer drinks from the creek; I want to drink, deep draughts of God." The Psalmist used the metaphor of a deer panting for water to describe his thirst for God. A deer slaking its thirst will sink its muzzle into a stream long enough to satisfy its craving.

Do you ever thirst for God? Do you desire the spirit, the power, the strength, and the love of God to permeate your soul in such a way that in many ways it feels like a physical thirst?

A few years ago a well-known soft drink was advertised as being the "Pause that Refreshes." When we thirst deep in our souls, we, like the deer, instinctively turn to the Source that refreshes. What are you doing to refresh your soul? What are you doing to quench your thirst for God?

Here are some ideas. Try reading a Psalm a day, and then allow your mind to conjure up a new image of God. Get up 15 minutes early and just reflect about those things for which you are thankful. Do something nice for someone but don't let them know it was you who did it. When someone says something unkind to you refrain from returning a comment in kind.

Just as our bodies hunger and thirst, we also long for God.

Grace and Peace,
Merlene

Lectionary Readings September 2009

Sunday, Sept. 6th

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125 or Psalm 124 (UMH 846)
James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Sunday, Sept. 13th

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19 (UMH 750)
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Sunday, Sept. 20th

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1 (UMH 738)
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Sunday, Sept. 27th

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
Psalm 124 (UMH 846)
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

You can contact us at:

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Feast Of Beginnings

Please note the date change: The Feast of Beginnings will be **Sunday, September 20th** following worship. A musical venue is planned for the program. You are invited to bring a dish for the Pot Luck. This is always a great time of fun and fellowship, so plan to join us for the special event.

Christian Education

Adults—come to this year's *2 Cents' Worth* event *September 6th and 13th* so you can see the variety of studies available and vote for which ones you would be most interested in attending. Please come and give us your two cents' worth about adult education.

We are still looking for a couple of adults willing to be children's or middle school Sunday school leaders.

Blessing of Animals/Ice Cream Social Sunday Sept. 27th 4 p.m.

As autumn approaches you may notice a procession of animals, everything from dogs and cats to horses, being led to churches for a ceremony called the Blessing of Pets. This custom is done in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

Pets can be true companions. Many people arrive home to be greeted by a furry or feathered friend. The bond between a person and pet is like no other relationship for it is communication at its most basic. No wonder people enjoy the opportunity to take their animal companions to church for a special blessing. **Please bring your pets in a carrier or have them on a leash** and, sign up at the back of the church.



Sept. 27th

UMW

Niwot United Methodist Women will have it's September meeting at **9:30 am** on **Thursday, September 10th** at the church. A brunch will be provided. ALL women of the church are invited to participate. We encourage you to go to Rythmn on the Rails that evening.

Mission Tidbits From 2009 UMW Prayer Calendar

In Virginia: Deaconess Susan Putnam wrote: "The Henry Fork Service Center is a year-round mission outreach project in rural Franklin County, Virginia. The community served is a low-income area with a history of anti-social behavior and low achievement in school. Most of the children who attend are considered 'at -risk'."

And in Tonga: Missionary Mary Kelly wrote: "In Tonga the Free Wesleyan Church has 14 middle and high schools on three of the island groups. Vava'u, Ha'api and Tongatapu, which is where I live. We follow a British education system, which is exam-driven. What we cover in each grade focuses on developing the skills that will enable students to pass the Tongs School Certificate (TSC) Exam given by the government at end of Form 5. Students with a TSC Certificate can get good jobs. During the next school year, I will work with the teachers, so that the whole program can be implemented in all the schools. Keep us always in your prayers." Mary Kelly was commissioned by the California-Pacific United Methodist Conference.

**BUMMP's Annual Salmon Dinner
Oct. 11th, 4:30-7 p.m.**

The proceeds from this event help sponsor the BUMMP mission trips locally, regionally, and internationally. There will be turkey for those who don't eat fish, but wish to be a part of this fun event. Tickets: Adults \$12, Children \$5, Under 5 free. Dinner is at Longs Peak UMC, Longmont. Rev. Merlene for tickets.

Outreach

Thanks to those who were able to make time to attend the Boulder Homeless Shelter Orientation! Our first scheduled date to serve at the Shelter will be Wed., Oct. 28th from 5:30-7:30pm. Our night to serve will again be the 4th Wed. of each month from Oct.-April. Thanks to Dixie Piland who will be helping coordinate this season with Mary Byrne. The Outreach Committee met Aug 23rd. Be on the lookout for more Outreach News on the Outreach Board!

Crayons to Calculators

The Niwot United Methodist Church school supply drive was very successful. NUMC filled 8 backpacks with school supplies for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in Boulder Valley and St. Vrain School Districts. The backpacks were delivered to the Sister Carmen Center in Lafayette. Sister Carmen delivered them to the Crayons To Calculators warehouse where they were distributed to various elementary schools. We also donated \$65 to the Crayons To Calculators program. Thank you everyone for your participation! Brock Anderson

Finance Update

As is the case in other institutions, NUMC is experiencing a challenge in financing our operations. This has been shared in previous communications. We can report that this situation has improved somewhat in the past 1-2 months. Thank you for making this possible.

- We are still asking that where possible you consider reducing and/or postponing expenditures. Several people have found or suggested ways to do this. Again, thank you.
- We are including expenditure vs. income information for the previous month in the weekly bulletins.
- Christine Heidebrecht has graciously volunteered to coordinate a series of special fund raising activities.

Please contact any member of Finance with additional ideas for increasing income or reducing expenditures

Fundraiser Nametags

Let's revive the nametag campaign, and start wearing nametags again. I will make a beaded lanyard for you for \$15. Just tell me if you want silver or gold, and what color beads you want. I will have several samples available for you to see after church. 100% of the proceeds will go to the church. You may contact me at ragraeter@yahoo.com or 303-530-3217.

**Save A Tree
Reduce Resource Usage**

Remember you can go to our website www.niwotumc.org for a copy of our newsletter: The Messenger. Please contact the office if you would like to stop receiving your hardcopy of The Messenger through the mail. Thanks!

NUMC Family Soldiers

Tony Le Trent is Jennifer Hayes' nephew. He married her niece, Keile, a year ago. He switched from the Air Force Reserves to the Army so he could serve his country during this war. He went to Oklahoma to do his basic training and when he finished he was sent to Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland to learn how to repair the army's equipment such as Jeeps and tanks. He will finish in either mid-October or mid-November. He loves the Army and what he is learning. He will be sent, he thinks, to either Colorado, Washington State, or Germany for a year and then on to whatever country we are fighting by that time. He loves all animals and has five cats that he rescued from the side of roads and one dog, Buttercup. When Keile visits him she always takes Buttercup with her and soldiers from all the barracks come out to pet Buttercup and play with her. Tony plans on getting a buffalo for a pet when he is retires from the service. For some reason he just loves them. Jennifer told him there are a lot more buffalo in Colorado than in Washington State or Germany.

OUR Center "The Hollywood Buzz"

Come join us for dinner, dancing, plus live and silent auctions *Sat., Sept. 19th 6-11:30 pm*. Please contact Elaine at 303-772-5529 or Elaine@ourcenter.org for tickets or sponsorship.

Lifeline Screening Wed., Oct. 14th 9:00 am @ NUMC

An important health screening event that will provide preventive ultrasound to help detect conditions leading to stroke and/or heart attack. Reservations are required. Call 1-800-324-1851 to register.

Small Dinner Groups

These groups get together for dinner at each others home from October until May of the following year, usually on a month to month basis. The objective is to get better acquainted with each other while sharing time in our homes. There is no requirement that the meals be cooked and served in our homes. Some groups elect to meet at a favorite restaurant and have a meal together, dutch-treat style and share time together. Won't you consider signing-up for a dinner group and getting to know the people with whom you share a church, just a bit better? Please sign-up at the back of the church. Thanks - Alice Haverstock, Lay Leader

Upcoming Fun Committee Events

September 27th - 50 Something Singles will meet after church at Page Two in Gunbarrel

September 27th - Following the blessing of the animals at 4:00 p.m. there will be an ice cream social. Please see the sign-up sheet for your pet(s). Also, let us know if you could contribute ice cream or pet treats.

October 2nd will be our annual trip to the mountains to see the colors followed by lunch at the Black Forest Restaurant in Nederland. Please sign up and let us know if you could drive. We'll meet at the church at 11:00 a.m.

NUMC Talent Show

A delightful evening was enjoyed at the first NUMC Talent Show on Sat., Aug. 22nd. First prize went to Riikka Pietilainen-Caffrey who is the choir director at Broomfield UMC. Ruth Graeter and her magical Native American Flute took Silver while Don Davidson came in a close third with his wonderful singing! Over \$100 was raised.

Rhythm on the Rails

Come support On Fire and our Choir as they perform at Rhythm on the Rails in Niwot on Thursday, Sept. 10 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Bring a picnic and enjoy the evening.

Fundraiser Luncheon

Lunch with Elinor Sorenson on *Wed., Sept 16th at 11:30 AM* \$10 per person

Niwot UMC Facebook Group

To join, simply search on Niwot UMC and ask to join. Janet Smith created the group as a members only group so that we can see how we want to use FB for social networking before opening it up further. Members can post photos, announcements, share information...in short everything you use FB for now you can use to enhance church communications. And just think... Twitter will be next!

Thanks For All You Do!

- ★ • Thank you Diana Neff for the enlightening class on Praying with Color. (And you don't have to be an artist to pray this way.)
- ★ • Thank you Zoë Wagner for sharing your birthday cake with us.
- ★ • Thank you Ruth Grater and Gayle Weiss for the moving flute music August 2nd.
- ★ • Thank you Penny Landis for the beautiful song in Spanish you sang for us on Aug 9th.
- ★ • Thank you Don Davidson for the inspiring "Deep River" song on Aug 16th.
- ★ • Thank you Dale Hediebrecht for the wonderful song on August 23rd.
- ★ • A huge thank you to Christine Heidebrecht for organizing the Talent Show. What a grand evening.
- ★ • Thank you Donna Darland and Bea Hill for the special fellowship time following the Blessing of the Students and Teachers.
- ★ • Thanks to Ted Barna and Joann Long who supervised the mud jacking fix on the basement floor. Thanks to all who have helped with getting the store room and class room ready to be used.
- ★ • Thanks to Brock Anderson for organizing the Crayons to Calculators Program.

September Birthdays/Anniversaries



- 5 Bob Zoller
- 17 Rebecca McNeal
Danielle Hinton
Sharon Hinton
- 22 John Kemp
- 25 Mark Weiss
- 29 Ralph Butler, Ilse Meiler
- 9 Kris & Tom Green
- 11 Lois & Bob Zoller
Barb & Gary Bridgestock
- 28 Jolene & Dann Radostis

Dembroski's 50th Anniversary

Joe and Dorinda Dembroski wish to thank everyone who helped celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary by attending the party and by sending cards. We are so blessed to have so many friends.