



THE MESSENGER

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JANUARY 2010

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

Are you making New Year's resolutions? Every year, many of us make promises to ourselves, to each other, to God and hope that in the year to come we can keep those promises and change our lives. I wonder if many of us aren't making the wrong promises?

Over 60% of Americans promise every year to try and lose weight. That is one I often make, maybe you do too? It is a worthwhile goal to be healthy and physically fit. A lot of us try to lose weight in order to **Look Better** rather than to **Feel Better**. Too many of us suffer from low self-esteem because we do not fit the current trends in body type. Maybe what we need is a different resolution. Why not **"This year I will try to be more concerned about the state of my soul than the shape of my body!"** Perhaps if we all tried to be better people on the inside, we would look more attractive on the outside.

Another popular resolution is, "This year I will try to save more money!", a noble undertaking. For what reason do we want that extra money? Is it so that we can buy more, own more, have a bigger car, a bigger house, go on more expensive vacations? How about this substitute resolution? **"This year I will try to live more simply, so that my lifestyle is more true to my income. I will also be aware of those around me who have far less than I do, and try to be more helpful to them!"**

Another popular resolution every year is to promise to try to get along better with our spouses, children, parents, co workers, etc. Maybe instead of striving for less rocky relationships we could try for a real change in our own behavior—a whole new way of looking at life and at each other.

Here is an article that I read several years ago. I don't know the name of the author.

A Start

Each day I promise myself not to try to solve all of my life's problems at once, nor shall I expect you to. Starting each day I shall try to learn something new about me and about you and about the world we live in, so I can continue to experience all things, as if they had been reborn. Starting each day I shall remember to communicate my joys as well as my despair, so that we can know each other better. Starting each day I shall remind myself to **Really Listen** to you, to try to see your point of view, and in the least threatening way to offer you mine, remembering that we are both changing in a thousand subtle ways. Starting each day I shall strive to be more aware of the beauti-

ful things that fill our world and share these things with you.

Starting each day I shall remind myself to reach out and touch you gently, with my words, with my eyes, with my fingers, for I don't want to miss touching you—for if you don't touch, you're out of touch.

Starting each day I shall again dedicate myself to becoming intimate with you and with the world and with God in the broadest sense of that word. I'm willing to risk and then see what happens."

May 2010 be filled with the joy of growing in a deeper awareness of the Child of God you were created to become.

Grace and Peace,
Merlene

Lectionary Readings January 2010

Sunday, Jan. 3rd
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795)
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, Jan. 10th
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29 (UMH 761)
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, Jan. 17th
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10 (UMH 771)
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Sunday, Jan. 24th
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19 (UMH 750)
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Sunday, Jan. 31st
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6 (UMH 794)
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

**Church Conference
Sunday, Jan. 10th**

Sunday, January 10th Rev. Dr. Eric Smith, our District Superintendent, will be preaching. Following worship there will be a Charge/Church Conference.

Worship Committee

To facilitate our worship service, the Worship Committee is asking the congregation to write down your joys and put them in the offering plate. These joys will be printed in the bulletin for the following Sunday. If there is a joy to be read immediately please hand your note to the usher.

Human Relations Day

January 17th, Human Relations Day, is one of the opportunities for United Methodist Churches to celebrate our connectional work. This day of social action and raising awareness aims to heal social ills at the national level. It supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service (UMVS), and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. The first two programs are administered through the General Board of Global Ministries.

**Adult Sunday School Class
Sunday, Jan. 3rd**

Frank Landis will be leading a class on Science and Religion. This is in many ways a follow-up of Christine's class, "Caring for God's Earth."

We will be using the book What About Religion & Science? by Paul E Stroble, Abingdon Press, 2007.

We hope to see you there!

Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We have assembled here from every section of this great nation and from other parts of the world to give thanks to God that he gave to America, at this moment in history, Martin Luther King, Jr. ... Truly God is no respecter of person. How strange! God called the grandson of a slave on his father's side, and said to him, "Martin Luther, speak to America about war and peace, about social justice and racial discrimination, about its obligations to the poor, and about nonviolence as a way of perfecting social change in a world of brutality and war..."

Benjamin Mays, eulogy at King's funeral
April 9, 1968

UMW

NEW DAY for United Methodist Meetings! Beginning with the January meeting, UMW will meet on Fridays at 9:30 AM at the church. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 15th, the second Friday of the month.

**Undecorating Potluck
January 3rd**

Following worship on Jan. 3 we will have a Potluck and an Un-decorating Party. You are invited to join us as we remove the decorations, pack them, and store them and to share in good food and fellowship.

NUMC Family Soldiers

Penny Twombly and Frank Landis's nephew, Jason, and his unit got back to the states on July 4th. They should be home for at least the next twelve months.

Outreach

God bless everyone who supported our many Seasonal outreach opportunities! Thanks to Gayle Weiss and Dixie Piland for organizing the Thanksgiving baskets, and all the youth who helped sort and box the items. Thank you to Dennis and Minetta Knowlden for coordinating our annual Share-A-Gift toy ministry, and to Dorinda Dembroski and Kris Green for packing and hauling gifts and toys. It is heartwarming to see how many have stepped up to serve dinner at the Boulder Homeless Shelter! Our humble gratitude to Lois and Bob Zoller and all who contributed to the Family-To-Family gifting, wrapping and delivering. We are a small but mighty Church with a lot of heart. This IS the Season of Giving, and those who open their hearts are truly blessed!

In the Family to Family Gift Outreach, we filled 4 large black plastic backs and also received one bicycle!! Also, we were able to give \$50 grocery cards to each family. Some of our family recipients have been in actively abusive relationships and REALLY needed our support. Thank you all!!

NUMC Book Club Monday, Jan. 11th 7 p.m.

At our January meeting we will be discussing The Help by Kathryn Stockett. In February we will be discussing South of Broad by Pat Conroy

PLEASE check out other suggested books we might read for book club:

The Enigma by Robert Harris. A gripping War II mystery novel with a cryptographic twist, Enigma's hero is Tom Jericho, a brilliant Brit-

ish mathematician working as a member of the team struggling to crack the Nazi Enigma code.

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. *New York Times* columnist Kristof and his wife, WuDunn, a former *Times* reporter, make a brilliantly argued case for investing in the health and autonomy of women worldwide.

The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown. Let's start with the question every Dan Brown fan wants answered: Is The Lost Symbol as good as The Da Vinci Code? Simply put, yes.

The Day the World Came to Town by Jim DeFede. In the immediate aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, 38 commercial airliners carrying over 6,000 passengers were forced, as a precautionary measure, to land in Gander, Newfoundland, Canada. Due to the ongoing closure of U.S. airspace, the passengers spent four days in this isolated town of 10,000 before being allowed to continue on their way.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba. Discarded motor parts, PVC pipe, and an old bicycle wheel may be junk to most people, but in the inspired hands of William Kamkwamba, they are instruments of opportunity.

Gilead by Marilynne Robinson. Robinson's prose is beautiful, shimmering and precise; the revelations are subtle but never muted when they come, and the careful telling carries the breath of suspense.

Masters of Rome Series which includes: The First Man in Rome, the Grass Crown, Fortune's Favorites, Caesar's Women, Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra: A Novel, and The October Horse: A Novel of Caesar and Cleopatra by Colleen McCullough

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Thanks For All You Do

Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts, and cards showing your compassion during the passing of my brother, Eldon~Rev. Merlene

Thanks to all who helped with the worship service on Dec. 20th while Rev. Merlene was away.

Thanks to the generosity of this community, our church filled 15 overflowing Thanksgiving baskets! Thanks to organizers Gayle Weiss & Dixie Piland! Thanks to Kevin, Rachelle, Erica, and their friend Nicole for filling the boxes, and Alice Haverstock, Dick and Dixie Piland for delivering the boxes.

We began Advent with a play led by the youth as we prepared the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Thank you youth for your leadership!

Thank you Alice Haverstock for organizing the Caroling and Chili Outing. Thirteen people gathered and we visited the homes of our homebound members and those in assisted living residences. Then we returned to the church for delicious chili, salads, and dessert.

Thank you Lois and Bob Zoller for organizing and transporting all the wonderful gifts for our Christmas Families.

Thank you Dennis and Minetta Knowlden for organizing and transporting all the great gifts for the Share-A-Gift program.

Thank you Penny Landis and Barbara Bridgestock for the delightful Children's Play. Thank you Dixie Piland for helping with the practices and organizing the costumes. Thanks to Jamie Grigsby for accompanying the children and youth. Thank you children and youth for a wonderful day.

Thank you Dale Heidebrecht, Pat Koh, and Choir for a beautiful and inspiring Christmas Cantata. We appreciate the gift of your time and talents in the preparation of this special service.

Thanks to Dorinda Dembroski and Bea Hill for organizing the reception for the Choir following the Cantata.

Thanks to Alice Haverstock, Kay Schrag, the Kemp family, and the Bridgestock family with your help during our Advent season.

The Christmas Eve service was blessed by the musical gifts of many people: the Choir, Dale Heidebrecht, Katie Kemp, Jamie Grigsby, and Pat Koh.

Thanks to Bill Yoh for bringing the message on Dec. 27th

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Ethel Schwartz	
3	Diana Anderson	
6	Virgil Tucker	
7	Kay Schrag	
11	Greg Anderson	
13	Olive Baucom, Dick Jenke	
18	Carol Anderson	
19	Joe Guy	
23	Clark Anderson, Erica Bridgestock	
24	Dan Perry	
27	Jessica Green	
28	Gary Gates, Frank Landis, Sharon Jamison	
29	Dick Piland	
1	Mike & Gayle Weiss	
9	Brian & JoAnn Burton Ray & Karen Simpson	

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