



THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF NIWOT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2010

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

Unexpected Snow

We were enjoying sunshine and warm days and thinking that Spring is just around the corner. Then we got up on a Sunday morning in February and snow was on the ground and the wind was howling. We were reminded once again of winter and its power, complete with blizzards, cold temperatures, and drifting snow. Maybe you too were reminded of a scene from the television show, "Touched by an Angel."

A young woman was going away on vacation; instead she stumbles into a difficult situation that requires her to make some choices about her life. As she stands outside in a quiet garden, suddenly snowflakes begin to fall around her. The angel says to her, "This is what happens in life. Everything is going well, and then suddenly you look up and sky is falling down around you. You hadn't planned for it or wanted it, but here it comes; 'An unexpected snow.'"

One of the most common times that people struggle with their faith is when some unexpected crisis happens in their life. "Suddenly, you look up and the sky is falling down around you." A sudden illness, a tragic death, a setback in finances, loss of joy, the list goes on and on. The most common reaction to these events is to shake our fist at the sky and say to God, "This isn't fair".

What we have forgotten is that God never promised us that life would be fair. Being a person of faith doesn't mean that tragedy will not hit you. It doesn't mean that you have any special protection from the "evils" of this world—any magic wand that will keep you free of life's disasters. All we are promised is that we will not be alone, God **will be** with us.

The end of March brings the promise of Easter, which reminds us of God's promise. A reminder that no problem, no illness and no tragedy in life is so hopeless that God cannot bring us through to new life again. Though we celebrate Easter once a year, it is always happening in our lives.

If you are experiencing an "unexpected snow" in your

life, remember that no matter how thick the clouds, how cold the winds, and how deep the drifts you struggle through, in time, you will see the sun again. New life comes to us in many ways, every day of our lives. When you need it most, it will come to you.

Grace and Peace,
Merlene

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 28th

We will commence our celebration with the Procession of the Palms followed by worship.

Maundy Thursday, April 1st

We will be celebrating *Maundy Thursday* together with Erie, Lafayette, Louisville UMCs here at NUMC with a dramatic musical service and communion.

Good Friday, April 2nd

We will be joining Erie and Lafayette UMCs at the Louisville UMC for a Tenebrae service.

Easter Sunday

We will be treated to the NUMC Choir's Easter Cantata at 9:30 am.

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Lenten Soup and Speaker

March 7th, 5:30 p.m. Soup Supper/6:15 p.m. Speaker Rev. Paul Howard from Redemption Fellowship in Denver. This is a new ministry that reaches out to people who have been in prison, drug abusers, homeless, and others who are living on the edge of society. Please join us at Lafayette UMC, 1255 Centaur Village Dr.

March 14th, 5:30 pm. Soup Supper/6:15 p.m. Speaker, Dr. Don Messer speaking on the Global Aids crisis. There will be an offering to support this ministry. Please join us at Louisville UMC, 741 Jefferson.

Peaks Subdistrict Leadership Event

Saturday, March 20. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

First UMC Longmont Some of the topics and workshops are: Rethinking Church in the Peaks Subdistrict, Loren Boyce, Associate Director of Mission and Ministry RMC; Local Church Finance, Management for the 21st Century, Pat Moore, Associate Treasurer RMC; Staff Pastor Parish Relationship Committee, The role of the SPPRC, Eric Smith, Peaks and Plains District Superintendent; Lay Speaking Ministry for Every Congregation, John Dietz, Peaks Subdistrict Lay Leader; New Congregations-Churches without walls—Rethinking Worship Communities, Jim Calhoun, Pastor, Erie UMC; Stewardship-Campaigns in a rough economy, Local Church Administration—Training for Administrators, Secretaries, Office Managers, Bernie Bliss, Administrative Secretary, Peaks and Plains District Office. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Registration forms at the back of the church.

Lectionary Readings March 2010

Sunday, March 7th

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8 (UMH 788)
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 14th

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32 (UMH 766)
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sunday, March 21st

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126 (UMH 847)
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Sunday, March 28th

Liturgy of the Palms
Luke 19:28-40
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, March 14th is when we mark this special offering for mission outreach. This offering supports the ongoing work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and provides global disaster relief and world hunger relief. Water is a priceless resource. Just ask a thirsty African child. Bread is the only food some refugees will eat this day. New wells and agricultural assistance can sustain life.

Ministries funded by UMCOR include Haiti Relief, refugee relief in Africa and Middle East, areas with severe flooding, earthquakes, etc. When we witness together our gift becomes more than a single voice crying in the wilderness. Your gift joins with others to help ease the pain of hunger, starvation, and displacement. Please give so that others may have life and hope.

Rocky Mountain Conference PATH1 Regional Meeting

You are invited to come hear how the Rocky Mountain Conference, Bishop Elaine, The Cabinet, & Skip Strickland are working to create a covenant with PATH1 for starting New Churches. PATH1 is the collaborative group developed by the Council of Bishop's and the General Agencies with the charge of starting new churches both in the United States and around the world. You may attend either at Lakewood UMC, 7:00-9:00 pm, March 23rd or First UMC in Loveland, 11:00am-1:00pm, March 24th.

Now if you think this is not something you might be a part of, think again. Many different approaches for starting a new church are being considered. Approaches might include using a partner church or a multi-partner strategy. With the second of these approaches, even if your church was not able to create a project alone, it could support a project developed by a number of churches.

Please let Nancy Butterfield (nancyb@rmcumc.com) know if you plan to come to the Loveland meeting, as plans are being made for lunch.

Africa Partnership Celebration

The Africa Partnership of the Rocky Mountain Conference is partnering with SAFI and the Metro State College Denver African Student Union to host an African Celebration fundraiser on March 9th at Turnhalle in the Tivoli Center in downtown Denver from 7-10 P.M. African food, music, a silent auction, and handicrafts will be offered. All of the sponsoring groups support projects in African countries such as Kenya, Angola and Sierra Leone. Tickets are available from any member of the Africa Partnership. Karibu and Welcome!

Outreach

Many new and seasoned volunteers have been serving dinner at the Boulder Homeless Shelter! We can't say enough how much we appreciate your heartfelt contribution of time and energy! Thanks also to UMW for organizing and collecting \$133.28 on Noisy Sunday, and for generously donating that to the Boulder Homeless Shelter! NUMC serves dinner at the Shelter 2x/month, and there are only 3 shifts left for this season: Wed March 24th, Thurs April 8th, and Wed April 28th. Thanks to Dixie Piland, Outreach Ministry has teamed up with the Sunday School children to collect and package health kits for Haiti. Our annual food drive to benefit the OUR Center in Longmont is underway.

Worship

The Worship committee continues to check to see if everyone understands how to share their joys and concerns. I began calling the "soft-voiced" people to see if they were shy about standing and sharing their concerns. No one said they were that shy. Most said to me, "I like the way we are doing it." I did discover several have stopped sharing their family's problems because they do not want to share them to so many people.

Several gave me suggestions about helping everyone remember to pray (concerns) and rejoice (joys) by listing the monthly ones in the Messenger. Everyone doesn't get to church each Sunday and some don't have a computer so can't go on-line.

Thank you to everyone who responded so graciously to my questions.
Jennifer Hayes, Chair, Worship Committee.

NUMC Elementary Sunday School

We are making Health Care Kits to help with relief in Haiti. We appreciate donations of **any** of the following items. Monetary donations are also helpful to buy toothpaste, health kit items, and postage. Items may be placed in the back of the church through March 7th.

- Hand towels (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels)
- Washcloths
- Combs (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- Nail files or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- Wrapped bath-size bars of soap (3 oz. and up)
- Toothbrushes (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- Adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)
- Gallon sized zip lock bags

NOTE: All items included in kits must be NEW items. All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more. Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.

UMW

UMW will meet at 9:30 am on Friday, March 12, 2010. The Program will be presented by Gayle Weiss and will be about Mercy Corps, the humanitarian aid organization that her son, David Brigham, works for. He has served them in Sudan, Jordan and now Zimbabwe. The hostess for the meeting will be Elinor Sorenson and the devotion will be given by Donna Darland.

NUMC Book Club Monday, March 8th 7 pm

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. The authors make a brilliantly argued case for investing in the health and autonomy of women worldwide.

NUMC's "Neat Little Library"

Our church has a neat little library. Church members have used this resource by checking out books and adding to the inventory. Over the past several years the books have been cataloged and updated by Diana Neff. Beginning this year the management of the library will be the responsibility of the TRUSTEE Ministry Team. Church members are encouraged to continue using the library by checking out a book with the card found in the back cover. Sign and leave the card in the box on the small table. Return the book to the same table and it will be replaced in the proper location on it's shelf.

If you think you have a book to add; please let the Trustee Team know so the inventory can be managed. Any books left unidentified will be donated to the "Grange Book Sale". We would like to have a volunteer to help re-shelve books. If you're interested please contact a Trustee Team member.

Niwot United Methodist Church
Fourteenth Semi-Annual
Soup, Soup & More



Homemade
Soups, Chowders, Chili's
With Bread, Salad, Drink,
Dessert
Saturday, March 13th
Serving 4–7 pm
Eat-in or Take-out
Adult \$6
Child (4-10 yrs.) \$3

There are GUEST tickets to be distributed to friends, neighbors, family and co-workers (given away) for the Soup, Soup & More event coming up on March 13th. Pink Tickets are in the back of the church on top of the mail slots if Biff Warren is not there.

NUMC FUN

Let's get together at 12 pm for brunch then Longmont Theatre's Presentation of "Over the River and Through the Woods" at 2 pm *Sunday, March 21st*. We have a great two-for-one rate of \$8.50 each. We need to have final reservations and money by *March 14th*. You may sign up for brunch or the Theatre or both. 50 Something Singles will count this as our monthly get-together. Bea Hill and Fun Committee

Thanks For All You Do

- Thanks to Bea Hill and the FUN Committee for the delightful Mardi Gras Party. I saw some great masks. And thanks to all who brought food for the Potluck. Delicious!
- Thank you Shana Williams and Kevin Schoonover for helping with Children's Story Time.
- Thanks to Donna Darland and Bruce Darland for seeing that our Recycle Bins get recycled.
- Thank you Mary Ann Jeffers for your dedication in keeping our church clean.

Breast Cancer Fundraiser Event

Please visit my website explaining why I've committed myself to the Susan G. Komen 3 day Breast Cancer Walk. If you can, please help me meet my goal! The Denver walk is in late August, so if you can't donate right now, keep me in mind and save this link!

Use the following link to donate or just go to www.the3day.org and search my name: http://www.the3day.org/site/TR/2010/DenverEvent2010?px=2537493&pg=personal&fr_id=1466

Whether you can donate or not, please keep me in your thoughts and prayers as I train! Also, please feel free to forward my participant page to whomever you think would be interested! Christine Heidebrecht

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 Burt Wagner
5 Joanne Long
9 JoAnn Burton
14 Jennifer Hayes
16 Cindy Butler
19 Shanlie Anderson
21 Gayle Weiss
28 June Eastin



13 Dick & Nancy Jenke
18 Minetta & Dennis Knowlden
28 Clark & Judy Anderson