



THE MESSENGER

A Publication of Niwot United Methodist Church

APRIL 2008

We are called to have open minds, open hearts and open doors

God's Abiding Presence

I was reading the biblical story about Jacob and how he had been forced to flee from his home and his family and go to a distant land. Yes, he had to flee because of his actions. And, yes, he was sent to an uncle in this distant land. But he was still cut loose from what was safe, comfortable, and familiar. While he was on a journey back to his home, he spent the night in a place, which he later recognized as a place where Yahweh had been present. Sometimes in our lives we, too, only recognize God presence after the fact. In the midst of a crisis we may not be aware of God's presence. In fact, we rail against God wondering why we have been abandoned. Later we look back and see that we were not abandoned, we were not alone, but it was the presence of God which enabled us to make it through the troubled time.

At other times, our experience may be more like Saul whose encounter and recognition of God was surprising and immediate. There are times when we are more open to the presence of God and in those times an awareness of God may challenge and move us to a new understanding of our relationship with God.

As people of faith, we are all pilgrims on a journey of faith. Times of crisis are usually times of transition in which God calls our ways of living and understanding into question. There are times when God challenges us to move beyond our old understandings and our way of living into a new and deeper understanding, into a new way of living. We may at first look at these times of transition as painful and try to avoid them. But if we let them, the times of crisis can be times of blessing when we grow in our relationship with God and grow in who we are as a person of faith. When we embrace these times as a time of blessing, then we leave the old behind and we experience God's healing, transforming power.

Grace and Peace,

Merlene



Native American Awareness Sunday

We will celebrate **Native American Awareness Sunday, April 6th**. This celebration recognizes the contributions of Native Americans to the church and to society. This Special Offering helps fund Native American ministries in urban areas through the Board of Global Ministries and to help support seminary education for Native Americans.

"The deer, the horse, the great eagle,
These are my brothers.
The earth is our mother...
All things are connected
like the blood which makes one family.
Whatever befalls the earth
befalls the sons and daughters of the earth."

Chief Seattle



Opportunities to Help God's Family (see inside for details)

- Attend UMW Tea, April 19th
- Invite a Friend to Church, April 27th
- Attend a Sunday Brunch after church on April 27th with the 50 Something Single group
- Attend The musical, Fiddler on the Roof, May 4th at 2:00 p.m.
- Register for A Time Apart retreat by May 11th

Lectionary Readings April 2008

Sunday, April 6th

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837)

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

Native American Offering

Guest Speaker: Susan Warren

Sunday, April 13th

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

Guest Speaker: Beth Runeld

Warren Village

Sunday, April 20th

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (UMH 764)

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Sunday, April 27th

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20 (UMH 790)

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Invite a Friend to Church

People Need People

There is a song made popular by Barbara Streisand in which she says, "People who need people are the luckiest people in the world." This statement is very true in the life and mission of the United Methodist Church of Niwot. Through your gift of time, your financial gifts, and your gifts of grace we are able to reach out to "people who need people."

The mission work of our church includes helping in local ministries as well as within our state, nation, and around the world. Through our connection system the United Methodist Church has missionaries in the United States and globally working on both long term and short term programs which include education, health care, agriculture assistance and education, evangelism, care for the homeless, nutrition programs for children, and the list goes on. The mission work of our church needs your continued support and care.

The Value of Our Connection

Peaks Sub-district Spring Leadership Workshop and Conference at Trinity UMC, Loveland., **Saturday April 12th, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.** Workshops offered: Ministry Planning-Lay Leader & Pastor Connection; Staff Parish Relations Committee Training; Seven Successful Strategies to Have More Money for Your Ministry; Under funded, Understaffed, and Overworked--Crises in the Local Church; The Spirit Will Not Descend Without Song; Smart Financial Strategies for the Local Church. Registration flyers at the back of the church. Cost \$10.

Membership Moment

The Care Groups will be asked to meet soon to give us an opportunity to get to know each other better. A member of the Membership Ministry Team will attend each gathering and take notes so we can prepare a short biography of each church family as part of an expanded church directory. We'd like to know who you are, what you do outside of church, your background, and your interests.

Thanks, Biff

Niwot United Methodist Women

Thursday, April 10th at 6:30PM at the church. All women of the church are invited. The topic for the abbreviated program is "Wesley's Quadrilateral and Women and Wesley." The business meeting will include final issues related to the tea.

Sunday, April 27th is Bring a Friend to Church Sunday!

We're inviting You to **Invite Someone** to church on Sunday, **April 27th**. This can be a friend, a neighbor, a spouse or child who doesn't regularly attend, one of your child's friends, someone who used to come to NUMC, someone who once thought about coming to NUMC, someone who once drove by NUMC (you get the picture).

Our **Goal** is to have over **100** people in attendance that day. We're also asking you to bring a non-perishable food donation for Community Food Share, located just down the road a bit from NUMC, to emphasize our church's commitment to Outreach and Missions. CFS supplies food to other charitable organizations in our community, including EFAA and the OUR Center. We'll also be distributing pledge forms seeking donations for each person in attendance that day, all to go to Community Food Share. So you might think of pledging \$1.00 per person, or 50 cents, or even 10 cents per person. Thank you for your support!

NUMC Book Group

Meets Monday, April 14th at 6:30 P.M. to discuss [Saving Fish From Drowning: A Novel](#) by Amy Tan.

Dixie Piland dlpiland@aol.com

Free!

Three large sofa/couches available for anyone able to haul them away when the ground is hard enough to drive a truck to the North door or carry out through the playground exit if the ground is soft. We also need to let our people know that NIWOT UMC is NOT a drop off for discards.

UMW High Hattin' Tea Sat. April 19, 2-4 p.m.

Seats for the tea are on sale today! Reserve yours before they are gone! See Joanne Long. This year we are DONATING for the "privilege of having a seat" at the tea. ALL proceeds will go to our charity CSAW (Community of Sudanese & American Women/Men). This local non-profit relocates "Lost Girls" from Sudan and refugee camps in Kenya to Boulder to further their education. The young ladies are in school and also working trying to make ends meet. Please carefully consider what level of financial participation you feel reflects the value of an amazing concert, beautiful afternoon tea, and the chance to support this worthy cause. Keep in mind that we are not having a silent auction this year, and we are reserving 10 unpaid seats for the Sudanese young ladies.

Age Level Family Ministries

The Fun Committee is sponsoring a Sunday afternoon at the theater at the Longmont Theater on May 4th at 2:00 p.m. The musical, Fiddler on the Roof, will be performed. We hope that all of you who have enjoyed the Boulder Dinner Theater in the past will join us. (The Boulder Theater's prices have gone up substantially.) Our group rate is \$14 and we plan to arrange for dinner afterward at a local restaurant. See Bea Hill for details and/or tickets.

50 Something Singles

All are welcome to our brunch after Sunday School on the 4th Sunday of every month. This month we'll meet on April 27th at the Egg and I in Longmont. See you there.

A Time Apart

For the past few years we have gone to the Benedictine Monastery in Snowmass, CO. Due to the huge desire for groups to go retreat there, we have not been able to get a date there for 2008. Walt Gehring and Anita Fisher are working on a new retreat location. Walt received information from the Sacred Heart Jesuit Retreat House in Sedalia, CO. The date for our Time Apart is Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2008. The cost per person is \$170 and this includes meals and accommodation. We need to pay a non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 by May 16. So we need you to sign up right away and make your non-refundable deposit of \$170 by May 11th. This is a wonderful time to withdraw to a quiet place for rest, reflection, a meditative walk in the beauty of the retreat grounds, or to quietly share with others on the retreat.

Soup, Soup and More Soup

At this time, Clark said there were at least 99 people and we made approximately \$760. (He may be able to give us an update next week). Also, it was a very successful event with a steady stream of people from 4 p.m. on. There were 19 varieties of soup, plus salads, rolls, desserts and drinks. According to comments heard everything was delicious. We served over 99 people! Our thanks to all who participated with setting up, making the soups and assisting with clean-up. As always, a special thanks to Donna Darland for all that she does to make it a success.

Church Garage Sale May 24th

Times to drop off donations will appear in the May newsletter. Thanks, Joanne

April Birthdays

3 Anne Kemp
9 Walter Gehring
11 Katie Kemp
15 Kristen Green
17 Darwyn Herbst
17 Mark & Ilona Weiss
19 John David Stibbards, Jerry Vaughn
20 Brian Radostis, Rich Shively
23 Julie Stibbards, Elizabeth Barker
27 Kelsey Webster
30 Ed Freymiller



Mark and I will be celebrating our 25th Wedding Anniversary on April 17th! Hope you can get this in. Thanks. Peace be with you, Ilona Weiss

A Special Thank You to the choir for the lovely cantata they performed. The time they devoted to rehearsal and their talent was so appreciated. Also, the Easter buffet was a success with approximately 60-70 people in attendance. And to those who brought the delicious food, again many thanks. It is always a joy to see all the appealing casseroles and various fruits and breads that are brought to the brunch. Also, it was wonderful to have so many hands help with set-up and clean-up. *Thank you to all.*

Thanks For All You Do

- ♥ Thanks to Donna Darland, Lois Zoller, Clark Anderson and all the crews who helped them with the planning and the set up for Soup, Soup, and More.
- ♥ Thanks to all of you who came brought soup, desserts, etc. and all who bought tickets.
- ♥ Thanks to Bea Hill for organizing the great luncheon and the wonderful travelogue by Dick and Marian Walker in March.
- ♥ Thanks to Gayle Weiss, Carol Anderson, and Pete Byrne for leading the Taize Service.
- ♥ Thanks to all who helped with the Maundy Thursday activities with the children, the set up for the potluck, and with worship.
- ♥ Thanks to Bill Yoh for the drama poem *The Voices of Calvary* was our Good Friday service and all the performers including Bill himself, Pete & Mary Byrne, Dennis Knowlden, Jesse Green, and Mike Weiss that .
- ♥ Thanks to Dixie Piland for making the robes for the Good Friday presentation.
- ♥ Thank you Jamie Grigsby, Pat Koh, and Choir for the inspirational Easter Cantata.
- ♥ We are blessed to have such talented musicians and actors whose gifts enhance our worship.
- ♥ Thanks to the youth for filling and hiding the Easter Eggs.
- ♥ Thanks to Hospitality and Age Level and Family Ministries for the great Easter Potluck Brunch.