



# THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF NIWOT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2010

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

## “As the deer...”

Root beer, lemon-lime soda, cola, iced tea, cream soda, Gatorade, hazelnut cappuccino, Kool-aid, fruit juice, milk, sparkling water, iced cold 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. What is it we want the most when we find ourselves most thirsty? We want water. (Well, I usually want cold milk.) For most people, nothing tastes as good as water when they are parched. There is no better taste in the world.

I enjoy reading the Psalms and one of my favorites is Psalm 42. It begins this way, “As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.” RSV From the Message Bible it reads: “A white-tailed deer drinks from the creek; I want to drink deep the draught 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 the Holy? Do you desire the spirit, the power, the strength, the love of the Holy One 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 during this season of Lent to refresh your soul? What are you doing to quench your thirst for God? Here are some ideas. Try reading a Psalm a day, then allow your mind to conjure up a new image of God. Get up 15 minutes early and just think 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 an unkind comment. Come to Sun-

day School, attend worship, participate in the combined Lenten Study.

Just as our bodies hunger and thirst, we also long for God. During this Lenten season, may we find new ways of quenching our thirst for the Holy.

Grace and Peace,  
*Merlene*

## Lectionary Readings February 2010

*Sunday, Feb. 7th*  
Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)  
Psalm 138 (UMH 853)  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

*Sunday, Feb. 14th*  
Exodus 34:29-35  
Psalm 99 (UMH 819)  
2 Corinthians 3:12-42  
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

*Sunday, Feb. 21st*  
Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (UMH 810)  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

*Sunday, Feb. 28th*  
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27 (UMH 758)  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35

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### ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a time for us to focus on our relationship with God. It is a time of seeking for the well-being of our spirits. A custom of the early church, which is still followed today, was to practice self-denial. One denied oneself through fasting, abstinence from eating meat, milk, cheese, etc., or by denying oneself something you enjoy as a personal sacrifice: going to the movies, chocolate, etc. I prefer looking at Lent as a time of growing, of giving. I encourage you to take time to read scripture, or a spiritual guide, and spend time on reflecting on your relationship with the Holy One. I would also invite you to add to your spiritual journey by reaching out to others with the gift of your presence in their lives. It may be going for a walk with your children or playing a game with them. You might choose to volunteer at OUR Center in Longmont. You might choose to participate in Sunday School. There are so many ways in which we can reach out that will not only enrich the lives of those around us, but enrich our own lives, as well.

We are participating in a combined **Ash Wednesday Worship Service on February 17th, 7 p.m.** at Erie UMC, along with the UM churches of Louisville and Lafayette. This will be a meditative service with imposition of the ashes. Many from the congregation participated in the combined Thanksgiving Service and it was a wonderful time of worship and fellowship. I hope you will join us at Erie UMC, 604 Holbrook: If you are on HWY 287, turn East on Jasper Rd, which becomes Jay Rd. Continue on Jay Rd which becomes Chessman St. Turn Right on Holbrook St. The church is across from Erie Town Hall.

### LENTEN STUDY

NUMC will host a study on Global Aids on Sun., 2/28th. We will start our evening with a soup supper at 5:30 pm, followed by our speaker at 6:15 pm. Please join us for this thoughtful look at one of our world's problems.

### Celebrating 140 Years

The Niwot United Methodist Church will be celebrating 140 years as a congregation during 2010. Our celebrations will culminate on October 3<sup>rd</sup> when Bishop Elaine visits and gives the message.

We are planning numerous events throughout 2010. We are inviting past pastors to visit on different Sundays so there will be more time to meet the individual pastor after the service. Former pastor David Jaeger will visit on January 31st. We will invite other former pastors on Sundays when Pastor Merlene is not giving the message. We will feature our 140 year heritage in other events, such as Heritage Sunday, and Feast of Beginnings. More information will follow at a later date.

This year can be a meaningful experience as we review our history. Our congregation began as a United Brethren Church in 1870. Then we became Niwot United Methodist Church when the two denominations merged in 1968.

If people volunteer to chair individual events, no one person will become overwhelmed. Susie Banks compiled the history of Niwot United Methodist Church and organized the information into binders. Each 2010 event could be focused on a particular time period in our history. If you would like to help with planning or events, please contact Dorinda at 303-652-2749 or [dfdembroski@aol.com](mailto:dfdembroski@aol.com).

### **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 and Merlene will read them. These joys will be printed in the bulletin for the following Sunday.

### **UMW Friday, Feb. 12th**

Niwot United Methodist Women will have it's February meeting on Friday, February 12th at 9:30 AM at the church. All women of the church are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

### **Opportunity To Serve NUMC**

The NIWOT UMC Finance mission team is looking for **One** person to embrace the position of TREASURER. Currently there are three people, each doing pieces of the treasurer's responsibilities. These are; 1) overseeing the cash flow out (check writer); 2) income management (deposits); 3) report preparation and 4) performance analysis to the budget.

It is felt that one person overseeing all these activities will be in a stronger position to provide information for the Finance Team. This is an important responsibility that will require someone with financial analysis skills and bookkeeping knowledge. Our system is maintained in a computer data base and this person should be able to work comfortably with computers. This person must be available for a long time involvement. It will not be an annual volunteer staff position, but should be able to commit for more than three years.

If you have these skills and desire, and would like to discuss this position, please contact Mike Weiss, Ted Barna, or Fred Smith.

### **NURSERY PAGERS**

As of the beginning of 2010, our Nursery has been equipped with pagers. This system will allow Anshu to notify parents in church that their presence is required in the Nursery without her having to leave the Nursery. These units are similar to the flashing disks you've seen at some restaurants, and are very easy to use.

When you bring your child to the Nursery, pick up a pager, and sign in with the pager number, your child's name, and your name. That's it! There are clips for the pagers if you prefer. When activated, they will vibrate and flash for about 20 seconds. You can't turn it off.

Please remember to return pager when picking up your child after the service. Questions – see Mike.

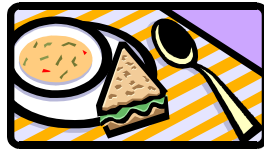
### **UMVIM Lists Opportunities**

1. Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana - Summer, 2010 (1 week trips during June 6 - July 25) - ongoing reconstruction of homes devastated by hurricanes. Registration deadline March 15, 2010. Cost is which includes lodging, meals, construction materials and evening activities. Contact Laurie Byland, 225-383-4777, X235; laurie.byland@firstmethodist.org

2. Angola, October 2010. We are recruiting a team of 8-10 people for the distribution of malaria nets in Angola. Contact Burl Kreps, angoadvo@msn.com, 719-637-0258, 719-337-3066(cell).

3. Guatemala, March 19-28, 2010. Serve with the indigenous Mayan people in the mountains of Guatemala. Build adobe homes for widows, construct chicken coops, play with children, visit the John Wesley School. Contact Laura Richards, corichards@aol.com, St. Luke's UMC, Highlands Ranch, CO.

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



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

**NUMC Family Serving Our Country**

Elisabeth is Joanne Long's granddaughter. She and her husband, Joseph, returned in November after serving a one year deployment in Iraq. Elisabeth is a 1st Lt. And served as platoon leader and officer in charge of the Brigade Detainee Holding Area. She served as the officer in charge of the Correction Assistance Transition Team which partnered with three Provincial Iraqi jails in Tikrit, Iraq. She is currently a platoon leader for a combat Military Police Platoon.

Joseph was a platoon leader in Comanach Company, 25th Infantry Division for the first six months of his Iraqi deployment. After that time, he was selected to serve as the Aide-de-Camp for the Deputy Commanding General of Operations of the 25th Infantry Division for the last six months and continues to serve in that capacity back in the States. Elisabeth and Joseph currently reside in Hawaii.

### **Mardi Gras Potluck - February 14th**

Come help us celebrate Mardi Gras complete with beads, masks, King cakes, good food and warm fellowship on the Sunday before Lent. Please sign up and let us know what you'd like to bring. The Fun Committee

### **NUMC Book Club Monday, Feb. 8th, at 7p.m.**

We will discuss South of Broad by Pat Conroy. It's a thick one, so get busy reading.

March selection:

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.

### **Medication Bucket**

Please leave all medications in their bottles as loose pills will not be accepted. You can cross out your name and other information but leave in container. Thank you.

### **February Birthdays & Anniversaries**

3 Liz Smith  
4 Donna Sinor  
6 Ruth Graeter  
13 Brock Anderson  
15 Susan McNeal  
17 Charlotte Gates  
21 Craig McNeal  
26 Bob Strand



13 Rick & Susan McNeal  
18 Bob & Bev Strand

### **Thanks For All You Do**

- Thanks to all who helped with taking down the Christmas decorations and getting them stored. The fellowship and the lunch were great.
- Thanks to Penny Landis, Frank Landis, Pete Byrne, and Don Davidson for participating in the worship skit.
- Thanks to harpist Morgan Black for the beautiful and inspiring music she shared with us.
- Thanks to the Outreach Ministry Team who keeps us aware of local mission opportunities.
- Thanks to John Kemp and his crew of helpers, Penny Landis, Barb Bridgestock, and Dixie Piland for working with our children and youth.
- Thank you to Dick Piland for donating an Epson Digital Projector to our church. It has 2700 lumens and 10 watt audio system. It is HDMI ready. The Boulder Valley Umpire Assoc. is using it for clinics at the church. It is available for any church function for training or presentations.
- A Thank You note was received from a family that we donated to through Social Services. It reads as follows: "Our family thanks you for your most lovely gift of Christmas you have given us. May God Bless you and keep you. With All our Thanks, Jessica and girls."
- Also, to all who purchased gifts for the families, if they would like to receive an individual tax letter from Social Services for their contribution, please let me know. Lois Zoller
- "Thank you for the Christmas bonus. I greatly appreciate your generosity, especially during these economic times." Melissa