



THE UNITED MESSENGER

Newsletter of The United Church of Moscow
an American Baptist/Disciples of Christ congregation
Roger C. Lynn, Pastor

FEBRUARY

2004

Notes From The Journey . . .

What an amazing experience these past few weeks have been! All of the hard work, planning and anticipation resulted in a truly remarkable day on January 24th. The day began with snow (a lot of snow) and breakfast with family and friends who had gathered from around the country to be with us. Then in the afternoon we came together in the sanctuary to share in an incredibly powerful wedding ceremony, where we were able to

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express our love for each other and give voice to some of what makes our relationship so life-transforming. Included in that

ceremony were her daughters, Zoe and Maia, and my daughter, Casey. The love we experienced in those moments is beyond description. And then the events of the day continued

to unfold, as we gathered that evening at the Jr. High Multi-purpose Room for a wonderfully joyful celebration including food and friends and dancing. Looking out over a room filled with 160 smiling, laughing family and friends who were there to help us celebrate brought tears to my eyes. It was everything I hoped it would be, and I couldn't have imagined it would be that good. There were so many moments, so many memories, so many friends. And through it all, there was God. Everywhere we looked, in each powerful experience, we were aware of God's presence in our lives. It was a day we will carry with us for the rest of our days. Thank you for sharing it with us.

- Roger

- Thank You -

To say "Thank You" does not even come close to expressing our gratitude for the love and support and gifts which we have received from this congregation. We are so deeply touched by your abundant generosity. So many people volunteered to help us with the details of our wedding day. That relieved us of much stress and allowed us to actually enjoy the day. The monetary gift was simply overwhelming. And the quilt was such a delightful surprise we were left speechless. You are an amazing community and we feel privileged to be a part of you.

- Roger & Veronica

Sacred Space / Lively Space Team

With Lent beginning at the end of February it is time for the Sacred Space / Lively Space Team to begin working on new ways to enhance our worship space. So, we will be a planning meeting on Sunday, February 15th beginning at 6 p.m. & an installation work party on Saturday, February 28th at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited to participate. For additional information, contact Roger Lynn.



Valentines Sweet Treats Night (formerly Chocolate Frenzy)

Saturday, February 14th beginning at 6:30 p.m. will be our third annual “Indulge Your Sweet Tooth” event. But this year we’re making a slight modification. There will be more on the menu besides just chocolate. *(Yes, we know this will be a painful transition for Roger and Lew, but we’re sure they have the strength of character to handle it.)* So, bring chocolate if that is your preference, but you are also encouraged to think about bringing other sweet treats — possibly even fruit (with a sweet dip, of course). We will also be inviting stories of how couples met and got together. Bring old pictures if you have them. Bring your sweetheart or come alone. Bring your family or bring a friend. The most important thing to remember is to come join us for a fun time.

Upcoming Fellowship Events (Mark Your Calendars Now)

Here are some of the events being planned for the coming months. The dates are tentative. Please let us know if another date would work better. Your input is important.

Game Night — Saturday, March 13th @ 6:30 p.m.

Talent Night — Saturday, April 24th @ 6 p.m.

Friday Night at the Movies — Friday, May 7th @ 7 p.m.

Picnic in the Park with Kite Flying — Sunday, June 20th (Father’s Day) @ 2 p.m.

Ice Cream Social — Sunday, July 18th @ 2 p.m.

Camp Out & Outdoor Worship — either August 21st & 22nd or August 28th & 29th



Disciples Regional Assembly Coming Here in May

The NW Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will hold their biennial Regional Assembly at the University Inn in Moscow on May 21st through 23rd. As the planning team makes final arrangements, it would be very helpful to have a couple of “local arrangements” volunteers from our congregation. Contact Roger Lynn if you are interested.

Lent Begins February 25th

The Liturgical season of Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) leading up to Easter. Because the actual date for Easter shifts from year to year (it is the first Sunday following the first full moon following the Spring Equinox), the dates for Lent also fluctuate. This year it begins on February 25th. The color for the season is purple. Traditionally it has been a time to focus on themes of sacrifice and prayer. The season ends with Holy Week, including Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. This year you might consider doing something extra during the six weeks of Lent to enhance your spiritual journey. It need not be the traditional “giving up something for Lent.” Perhaps you could commit yourself to take on an extra project to help someone else. Or maybe you could try praying for 15 minutes every day. Be creative. Find something to remind yourself of God’s presence in your life and in the world. And be sure to join us for worship.



Personal Glimpses

We keep *Bob Johnson & Linda Rasmussen* in our prayers. On Sunday, January 25th, Bob's mother, *Clara Johnson*, died following an extended period of declining health. Funeral services & interment were held in South Dakota.

Congratulations to *Immaculee Mukakalisa*. She is in her final semester of Nursing School in Spokane and she also recently received word that she has been approved for US Citizenship.

It is good to have *Lew & Doris Ann Smith* back with us after their extended trip to Boise and various other destinations.

We just received word that *Bob & Lois Leonard and Lois' sister, Carol*, will be heading back to Moscow from Florida beginning around the first of March. Carol's trailer finally sold and it is time to come home.

Celebrating Birthdays . . .

. . .In February

6th - Donna Bradberry

7th - Bonnie Nelson

26th - Linda Fleener

18th - Oz Garton

20th - Greg Skinner

. . .In March

11th - Ravi Hatch

14th - Calvin Macy

16th - Bret Barber

16th - Barbara Scott

18th - Heather Leonard

29th - Doris Ann Smith



18th - Lew Smith

19th - Joan Gustaveson

20th - Donna Francis

23rd - Elaine Russell

23rd - Dolores Sanchez

If we've missed your birthday, please let us know so we can update our records. We want to include you.

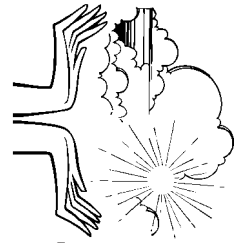
New Tables & Chairs

As was announced in last month's newsletter, we are in the process of purchasing new, lighter-weight tables, and some chairs, for the Fellowship Hall. Donations are being sought to make this project possible. A final decision on a source (and thus a price) has not yet been made, but will be in the very near future. Once the new tables arrive, there will be several of the older tables available for "re-distribution." If you donate enough money to purchase a new table, you can take possession of one of the old ones, on a first-come-first served-while-supplies-last basis. Check with Roger Lynn for additional details.



Volunteer To Help Around The Church

Your help makes a big difference. Sign up now for one of the jobs listed on the bulletin board across from the office. These include: providing communion bread; serving as an usher/greeter; shovelling the walks on Sunday morning; providing soup for the Campus Christian Center; serving as liturgist during worship. Getting involved makes a difference in your life and in the life of the whole congregation.























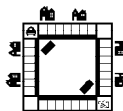


Stewardship Education & Commitment Emphasis Begins March 7th

Every year, before the beginning of a new fiscal year (May to April), we present the congregation with stewardship education materials designed to encourage thoughtful & prayerful consideration of ways we can be faithful with the resources entrusted to us. This year that emphasis will begin on March 7th, with Stewardship Commitment Sunday on March 14th. Watch for more information in next month's newsletter and in separate

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 2:00 PM, Campus Christian Center Annual Meeting 6:00 PM, Elders/Deacons 	9 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	10 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Bible Study 	11 10:00 AM, Bible Study 2:00 PM, Sunshine Club 	12 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	13	14 Valentine's day. 6:30 PM, Valentines Sweet Treats 
15	16 President's Day 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	17 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Bible Study 	18 10:00 AM, Bible Study 7:15 PM, Board Meeting 	19 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 	20	21
22 2:00 PM, Care Center Worship 	23 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	24 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Bible Study 	25 Ash Wednesday 10:00 AM, Bible Study 	26 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	27	28
29 1st Sunday in Lent 	1 7:00 PM, 4-H 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries • March • 	2 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Bible Study 	3 10:00 AM, Watercolor 10:00 AM, Bible Study 	4 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 	5	6
7 2nd Sunday in Lent Fellowship Fund Stewardship Emphasis 	8 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	9 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Bible Study 	10 10:00 AM, Bible Study 2:00 PM, Sunshine Club 	11 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	12	13 6:30 AM, Game Night 



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