

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

Notes From The Journey . . .



As I sit down to write these words the presidential election is less than 24 hours past and the results determined only hours ago. Even as you read these words the dust will still be settling. As with all such contests, there were winners and losers. For some this is a time to celebrate. For some this is a time to mourn. For many, whether their candidate won or lost, this is a time of conflicting and conflicted feelings. We are a country divided.

Nearly 50 percent of the voters preferred a different outcome. Strong words were spoken and deep resentments harbored on both sides. The election may be over, but our brokenness will not be healed so quickly or easily.

How, then, shall we who seek to be people of faith and good will respond? What word of hope shall we cling to in the midst of this difficult time? What message of healing shall we begin to embody in the days ahead? I confess there are times when I am tempted to despair. The brokenness seems to run too deep, the battle lines drawn too sharply. But then I recognize that such a temptation does not serve me well,

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and certainly does not arise out of a faith perspective. One of the central qualities of faith, regardless of the specific shape and dimensions of that faith, is the conviction that we are not alone, that we are a part of something larger than ourselves, that there is more to this life than we can see. And thus encouraged by such hopeful faith, other possibilities begin to emerge besides despair. We need not stay as we are in this moment. Healing is possible.

We might begin by seeking a shift of perspective. There is such a strong tendency in these divisive days to view the world almost exclusively in terms of "us" and "them." "We" won and "they" lost (or visa versa). "We" are right and "they" are wrong. God is with "us" and God is against "them." "We" are important and "they" are the enemy. I do not believe that such thinking represents faith at its best. As people of faith, because we understand that we are a part of something larger than ourselves, we can strive to live into the reality that there is no "us" and "them." There is only "us." The ties which bind us together are strong, as citizens of

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Special Offerings

During the coming year we will collect three special offerings to support the mission outreach efforts of our congregation. They will focus on global, regional and local work. The first of these will be our **Thanksgiving Offering** on Sunday, November 21st. It will go to support *One Great Hour of Sharing (American Baptist) & Week of Compassion (Disciples of Christ)*. This important offering provides disaster relief around the world, as well as support for development work to assist impoverished people become self-supporting.



Inter-faith Community Thanksgiving Service — Thursday, November 18th — 7 p.m.

Again this year the Moscow Interfaith Association is sponsoring a community Thanksgiving Service.

“Expressions of Faith from People in Our Community.”

It will be held at the UI Admin Auditorium the week before Thanksgiving.

Please consider bringing a can of food to donate for our local food banks.



Tables & Chairs For Sale

Earlier this year the church purchased new tables and chairs (thanks to a generous donation). Now we need to get rid of some of the old ones. The tables are \$15. The folding chairs are \$5. Check with Roger if you are interested.



(continued from front page)

this country, as members of the human race, as residents of this planet, as children of the one God (by whatever name or names we use). Only when we begin to recognize the power of the connections we all share will we be truly able to meet the challenges which face us in these dark days. Such unity does not mean giving in or giving up just to get along. Serious engagement over serious issues will be required. But it is vital that we seek to work with others as partners, rather than against them as enemies. It is vital that we seek to seek understanding of those who hold different views, rather than simply dismiss them and condemn them.

Such a path will be difficult to find and even more difficult to follow. There is much in our current cultural “wisdom” that will argue against such “foolishness.” But if healing is to come to our nation and our world, I believe that those who can see beyond “us” and “them” must lead the way. May we begin anew with each moment and each person we meet. And remember, we are not alone in this effort. - Roger

Craft & Bake Sale Friday, December 3rd & Saturday, December 4th

It is that time of year when we start thinking about the United Church’s participation in the local *Christmas for Kids* project. We will be holding our *5th Annual Craft & Bake Sale* on Friday, December 3rd from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Saturday, December 4th from 9 a.m. until noon at the Church. We are asking for volunteers to provide items for the bake sale and/or if you have any craft items you might want to donate. *The Crafters* have begun making items for sale. If you are interested in participating in the crafting, contact Elaine at 882.7651 or Janice at 882.7352.



Hanging the Greens Sunday, December 5th — 8:30 a.m.

Come help us get the sanctuary ready for the Advent/Christmas season. It is a remarkable achievement when we all work together and transform the sanctuary in two hours. Swags are made. Boards of greenery for above the pulpit and the doors are created. Lights are hung. Banners are displayed. There is something for everyone to do. If you have a large, well-shaped evergreen that you would like to donate or if you have other greenery you can donate, please contact Roger as soon as possible. We are doing this a week later than usual this year because Christmas is so late in the week, which means that Advent is longer than usual, which means more time for the greenery to dry out.

Personal Glimpses. . .

Carol Smith is in the middle of a six-week round of radiation treatment for cancer. *Bob and Lois Leonard* are driving her to Lewiston five days a week. Please keep her in your prayers.

Karen Davis had out-patient surgery on her eyelid earlier this month. It was successful.



Celebrating Birthdays . . .



1st - Bonnie Wallace
2nd - Shaun Barber

. . . *In November*

11th - Charles Hatch
11th - Jeanette Talbott

. . . *In December*

5th - Charlotte McCallum
11th - Ed Goforth

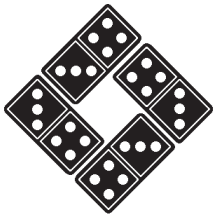
11th - Gerda Santoro
17th - Lois Bradberry



21st - Pat Gentry

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

Game Night & Cookie Exchange Saturday, November 13th — 7 p.m.



Plan to join us for this night of fun. Bring your favorite table game. Bring your friends. Bring four dozen cookies (along with the recipe on a regular recipe card, which we will copy for everyone). We'll share one dozen. We'll mix the rest together and divide them up among those who brought cookies. You bring one kind of cookie and go home with an assortment, along with a collection of great recipes.

Other Upcoming Activities In The Months Ahead

Hanging the Greens - Decorating The Sanctuary

Sunday, December 5th @ 8:30 a.m.

Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 19th @ 6 p.m.

After-Christmas Potluck Brunch

Sunday, December 26th @ 9:30 a.m.

Tree Burning Party

Sunday, January 2nd @ 6 p.m.

Valentine Dessert Party

Saturday, February 12th @ 6:30 p.m.

Movie Night

Friday, March 11th @ 7 p.m.

Easter Potluck Brunch

Sunday, March 27th @ 9:30 a.m.



Thanks for Help on Clean-up Day — October 30th

Twenty people showed up at the church to help. Some worked outside. Some worked inside. Gardens were cleaned out. Windows were washed. Gutters were cleaned. Cobwebs were dusted. Storm windows were put up. Assorted projects were completed. And then we ate a great lunch together. Thanks to everyone who shared in this very productive morning.
















*Thank
You*

*One of the great things about being a part of a local congregation is that everyone's participation is needed.
We are all enriched when you get involved.
There are opportunities right now for you to volunteer to serve:
as liturgist, as usher/greeter, to bake communion bread, to prepare communion.
Please consider how you would like to get involved.*

Volunteers Needed

Nov / Dec

2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 Fellowship Fund 2:00 PM, Care Center Worship 	8 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	9 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	10 12:00 PM, Cancer Support 2:00 PM, Sunshine Club 7:00 PM, Board Meeting 	11 Veteran's Day	12	13 6:30 AM, Game Night & Cookie Exchange 
14	15 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	16 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	17 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 	18 7:00 PM, Interfaith Thanksgiving Service @ UI Admin Auditorium 	19	20
21 Thanksgiving Offering 	22 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	23 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28 First Sunday of Advent	29 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	30 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	1 10:00 AM, Watercolor 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal • December • 	2	3 9:00 AM, Craft & Bake Sale 	4 9:00 AM, Craft & Bake Sale 
5 Fellowship Fund Second Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM, Hanging the Greens - Decorate the Sanctuary 2:00 PM, Care Center Worship	6 7:00 PM, 4-H 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	7 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	8 12:00 PM, Cancer Support 2:00 PM, Sunshine Club 7:00 PM, Board Meeting 	9	10	11



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