

UNITED CHURCH NEWS

United Methodist and Presbyterian USA ***Sunday Worship 10:00***

February/March 2012

The United Church of Idaho Springs, in affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Methodist Church, is a Christian family of faith that celebrates God's presence. It is our mission to love and serve others with open hearts and minds and we invite all persons to join us.

Message from the Pastor

Dear Members,

Gloria Leonard, the new Council President, has written elsewhere in this newsletter about the new, perhaps temporary, open format for Council meetings. I'd like to emphasize three items we discussed in Council as we thought about these open meetings.

First, open meetings share leadership so that everyone can carry some responsibility for the well being of The United Church. If someone has an idea, now there's a direct place to present that idea. If someone thinks something is being neglected or needs improvement, there's a direct place to raise that concern. And, as I said in my sermon last Sunday, leadership is different than ordering a meal at a restaurant. In a restaurant we're asking for food that we're going to eat. But, as we lead a community of faith, we need to identify our task as one of meeting the needs of everyone in the community for it's a big table with many people.

Second, open meetings should improve communication because more people will be involved in the discussion and hear the decisions that are made. More people involved and hearing means more people who can keep others informed.

Third, we have a great form for practicing the art of civil conversation, the kind based on respect for all participants, one that avoids blaming, name-calling, raised voices and such. This may not be easy, but Council has covenanted together to remind each other when we stray from civil conversation. Everyone who attends is welcome to call attention to moments, should they occur, when civility (seeing the face of God in others) loses its place at the table.

In order for this new format to work, we'll need to think through what we're doing as part of each meeting so we can affirm what works and improve elements that need attention. It will require flexibility and astuteness on all our parts.



February/March Birthdays

February

6	George Dennison
8	Marion Anderson
13	Mary Ann Pierce
20	Don Welton
26	John Gould
28	Tommy Zonedka

March

1	Paula Dreith
3	Ted Dreith
4	Ty Esmond
4	Karen Zonedka
6	Ralph Rutter
9	Lyn Darrell
15	Debbie Trujillo
15	Mark Marquart
16	Kathy Drapeau
17	Clara Dennison

TITHING

Tithing is a practice that can shape our lives. Randy Alcorn, a Christian author, describes tithing as "training wheels toward learning how to live fully in the kingdom." Mr. Alcorn says he wasn't guilted into tithing but began the discipline after a particularly compelling sermon. "As a New Testament follower of Christ, in the most affluent society in human history, there's no way I could ever justify giving less than 10% when God had required that of the poorest Israelite" Mr. Alcorn explains.

After an end-of-year appeal, members of the (large) Saddleback church in California, an estimated 10% of whom are unemployed, ended up contributing some \$2.4 million to keep the church operating. Pastor Warren said the money would go toward the church's ministries, which include feeding more than 200,000 people. It would seem that no matter how bad the economy gets, many believers still put their money where their heart is."

This excerpt appeared in the column Houses of Worship, the Wall Street Journal, May 8, 2010, Weekend section

Council

The council met on January 12 for an organizational meeting. The members of the Council are Gloria Leonard, Carolyn Kennedy, Jan Goodwin, Olin Neill, Ralph Rutter, Ken Simpson and Jim Simasko. Officers were elected as follows: Chair, Gloria Leonard; Vice Chair, Carolyn Kennedy; Secretary/Clerk, Vivian Simpson. At the present time we don't have sufficient people to fill the 32 committee positions and since the majority of committees haven't been functioning for the past year we decided to try another model for Council meetings until our momentum allows us to return to committees. Council will be conducting open Council Meetings after worship with all invited. The next scheduled meeting will be **February 19 at 11:15**. Bring a brown bag lunch and coffee and tea will be provided. An agenda for the meeting will be published in the bulletin on February 12. If you have items that you want to place on the agenda, please be in touch with Gloria. She can be reached at 303-567-0658 or mgleo@msn.com. The council will then meet the first Sunday of each month in open session. It was decided that the Council will serve as the Search Committee for the Temporary Supply Pastor. For the time being Council will also serve as the Pastoral Care Committee.

As the Council we believe that we need to function as the spiritual leaders of the church. We will strive to be active, open minded, communicate the work of the committee and work in conjunction with the congregation. We are a strong and enthusiastic committee and are excited to be serving in this ministry of United Church.

Please join us on **Sunday, February 19 at 11:15** for our first open Council Meeting. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Editorial Comments: We need items for the newsletter. Please send any news, announcements, book reports, etc. that you think would be of interest to the congregation to map1mitzi@gmail.com. Also, please make sure your birthday is on the calendar in the Great Hall so that we may wish you a happy birthday.

Quilting Group

The quilting group of United Church provided 22 quilts to our community during the holiday season - 11 through the Clear Creek County Resource Center and 11 through Loves & Fishes. The quilts were needed and happily received. If you are interested in joining the quilting group, contact Carolyn Snow at 303-567-9041. The group meets the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

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**So now faith, hope, and love
abide, these three; but the
greatest of these is love.**

1 Corinthians 13:13