



UNITED CHURCH OF MOSCOW MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

In Like A Lamb

March has slipped through our front door, coming as quietly as spring's soft sun. We often hear March's **ROAR** instead, winter's last gasp asserting itself so we don't forget it too soon. Most years March Winds blow, chilling and challenging to our patience, our endurance.



My mother tells a story about a short family vacation on a Cape Cod beach. Apparently, a summer storm was brewing and wind whipped off the vast water in gusts that raised the surf, scattered the sand and sent sunbathers to poke around in quaint shops. But beach-time was rare for the Tooleys, so we tapped our sporting attitudes and spread our blankets anyway, to honor the shore's darker side. I guess my parents, brother and sister made the best of the gray day by sorting shells out of the array tossed onto shore by the churning water. Eventually, Mom noticed I was nowhere to be seen and a search was on. I had pulled a sweatshirt over my suit, wrapped up in an old worn blanket and made a nest in the sand using beach bags to block the strapping wind. Cozy and warm, I'd found the eye of the storm and snoozed soundly beneath its bluster.

Cozy and warm, I'd found the eye of the storm and snoozed soundly beneath its bluster.

Lent is a tender season. We lay ourselves bare before God, sorting through our lives as one might sort through beautiful shells on a stormy stretch of beach. We pay attention in ways that carry us closer to God. Let this March's gentle wind take you there; feel God's Spirit at work and alive in a new season. When life's challenges roll like waves that break and crash, let your trust in Spirit be the eye of the storm and rest in God. We walk the Jerusalem road together, and trust the Easter promise, almost within our reach.

Along the Path,

Godie

A Prayer for the deepening of Lent...

(from a poem by Marianne Williamson)

Holy One, in this season,
may I be reborn
washed clean
made new
forgiven
spectacularly loved.
Remind me who I am.
Forgive my shadow sides.
Please heal my broken wings
that I may fly
with You.
Amen.





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Joke of the Month



An 80 year old woman was arrested for shoplifting. When she went before the judge, he asked her, "What did you steal?"

"A can of peaches," she offered.

The judge asked her why she'd stolen a can of peaches and she replied that she was hungry. The judge asked her how many peaches were in the can, and she said, "6."

"Alright," said the judge kindly. "Then I'll give you 6 days in jail."

The woman's husband spoke up and asked the judge if he could say something.

"What is it?," the judge allowed.

The husband replied, "She also stole a can of peas."

Poetry Place

Times Blessing (submitted by Lou Stevens)

Count time by lovely memories, not by days and years.

Count it by the handclasp, the smiles and happy tears.

Count it by contentment and daily task well done,

by the star-filled skies at evening and the morning warm with sun.

*Count it by the friendships you've made along the way,
and by the many times that God has smiled upon your day.*



Speaking of Time...Spring Ahead!

Daylight Savings Time is coming! Turn your clocks ahead Saturday night, March 13!





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Fabulous LENT-il Shepherd's Pie—

A nourishing meal for nourishing seasons (Serves 4)



- 1 cup dried green or brown lentils
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 large onions, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 large garlic clove, crushed
- 1 teaspoon mixed dried herbs, maybe *herbs de Provence*
- One 15 oz can tomatoes, chopped
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2-3 tablespoons chopped parsley
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 ½ pounds Yukon gold potatoes, transformed into fluffy mashed potatoes
- Extra butter

1. Put the lentils into a large saucepan, cover deeply with water and boil gently until tender, about 45 minutes. Drain.
2. Preheat oven to 400 F. Use half the butter to grease a two quart, ovenproof casserole.
3. Saute the onions in the remaining butter for 10 minutes.
4. Add the garlic, herbs, tomatoes, soy sauce, lentils and parsley. Salt and pepper to taste.
5. Spoon the mixture into the casserole. Spread the mashed potatoes generously and evenly over the top. Use fork tines to make Zen sand garden designs in the potatoes! Or not! Dot the mashed potato surface with butter.
6. Bake the pie for about 45 minutes, until the potatoes are golden.

This dish makes *great* leftovers! Mix potatoes into the lentil mixture before heating leftovers in a microwave because the potatoes heat more slowly than the rest of the dish.

March Birthdays

- 1st - Clint Westberg
- 14th - Calvin Macy
- 16th - Bret Barber
- 18th - Heather Leonard
- 19th - Joan Gustavson
- 20th - Donna Francis
- 23rd - Elaine Russell
- 23rd - Dolores Sanchez





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Prayer Matters



The following folks have asked to be included on our prayer list ~
please keep them in your heart this week.

If you'd like to add yourself or a loved one to our Prayer Matters list, just be in touch.

- Lois Bradbury's nephew, Jason (suicide attempt, receiving care)
- Betty Leonard's mother (surgery March 4, esophageal cancer)
- Veronica Lassen (cancer, surgery, discovery, discernment, healing)
- Roger Lynn, and all the family (for healing, strength and courage)
- John Stockton (Kim's dad-- badly broken arm, very painful)
- Cindy (Chris Talbott's dear friend-- very ill, weak and in pain)
- Caren (Alberta Hill's niece-- auto accident-- spine injury/body cast)
- Barb Hawley (Glenda's daughter-in-law, begins radiation)
- Rich (The Coopers' friend-- serious burns and skin grafting)
- Lou Stevens and her great-grand-daughter, Ruby
- Peter Lanting (transition to new digs: Glenhaven Adult Family Homes; 1500 NW Arcadia Drive, Pullman, 99163)
- Scotte Hecht (vertigo increasing; misses being with us at United Church)
- Pat & Dale Gentry (cancer recovery; chemo has ended)
- Lucille Green (rehab for broken leg-- leg needs longer healing)
- Tom Sandell (chronic migraines)
- Greg Skinner (Vacaville church continues interest to call Greg as pastor)
- Tammy Lanting (recovering from surgery)
- All Lanting-Leonards (loving caregivers for Peter)
- James Leonard (seeks employment and needs community support)
- Betty and Gene Leonard (health, strength, guidance)
- Donna Spencer (health concerns; parents' health concerns)
- Christine Suquet and Paul Santoro (health, strength, guidance)
- Jenet Johnson (cancer recovery)
- Scott Davis (injuries following 4-wheeler accident)
- Sheila Batey (seeks to be connected to faith community)
- Our seniors who face challenges of aging
- All our folks on the road-- all our traveling ones
- People of Haiti; People of Chile
- Pray for peace



MOVIE NIGHT at United Church, Friday, March 5th at 7pm.

Akeelah and the Bee, with Keke Palmer and Angela Bassett. *Akeelah's* love for words leads her to enter a spelling contest. Tutored by many and opposed by some, *Akeelah* unwittingly unites a neighborhood in her daring quest to compete in the National Bee.



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March Madness



Our March isn't about championship hoops, but we are busy enough to feel like we are running up the court!

Here's a handful of 5 big events that call for a POWERHOUSE look:

March 5-World Day of Prayer, Church Women United commemoration @ Good Sam, 2p

March 5-Movie Night, 7p

March 6-United Church Garden Cleanup! Bring Your Own Rake, 9a

March 7-Habitat for Humanity House Dedication, Palouse, 3p

March 13-Jodie's Ordination Paper Review, 9a

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	2 5:30 p AA Mtg	3 10a – 12p Palouse Clear Water Color 12p Moscow Interfaith Alliance 7 p Choir Rehearsal	4 5:30 p AA Mtg	5 7 pm Movie Night Featuring <i>Akeelah and the Bee</i> 2 pm World Day of Prayer, Church Women United commemoration @ Good Sam	6 9 am Garden Clean up
7 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship 3:00 pm Habitat for Humanity House Dedication	8 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	9 12 pm Grief Support Group 5:30 p AA Mtg	10 12 pm Cancer Support Group 7 pm Board of Director's Mtg	11 5:30 p AA Mtg	12	13 9 am Jodie's Ordination Paper Review
14 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship	15 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	16 5:30 p AA Mtg	17 7p Choir Rehearsal	18 5:30 p AA Mtg	19	20
21 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship	22 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	23 12 pm Grief Support Group 5:30 p AA Mtg	24 7 pm Deacon's/ Elder's Mtg	25 5:30 p AA Mtg	26	27
28 9:30 am Adult Education 11:00 am Morning Worship	29 7 pm Spiritual Mysteries	30 5:30 p AA Mtg	31	Church Phone: 208-882-2924 Church Office email: ucmoscow@gmail.com Website: http://www.unitedchurch.cc/ Jodie: please call at 208-882-2924, or email jodietooley@gmail.com Church Office Hrs: Tues 3:30 & Wed. & Fri 8 - 11a		



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