



The United Messenger

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



- February 2008 -

Notes From The Journey . . .



I find value in paying attention to the seasons of the Church year. They offer an opportunity to focus on different aspects of faithful living. Advent centers around the theme of hopeful expectation

- watching and waiting for what God is doing in our lives. Christmas celebrates God coming into our lives and into our world in extraordinarily personal ways. Epiphany reminds us that God's light is always shining in our lives, and calls us to our own

sacred journeys. Lent has a reflective, prayerful tone, as we pause to discover the ways in which God is present even in the shadow times of our living. Easter reminds us there is no storm so tumultuous, no nighttime so dark, that the new life of God will not ultimately prevail. And Pentecost is the celebration of the gift of God's Spirit - a gift that empowers us to move beyond the narrow confines of our own perceived limitations as we

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reach out to embrace the world with God's love.

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My experience of God when I'm celebrating is different than my experience of God when I'm grieving. Each experience is unique, and yet both are experiences of God. When I learn to watch for God's presence within whatever circumstances I find

myself, then my life is tremendously enriched and enhanced. The seasons of the Church year help me learn that lesson.

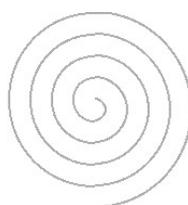
As we enter the season of Lent, I invite you to pay attention to your life. Pay attention to the ways in which you experience God and pay attention to what happens when you pay attention. Join me on this amazing adventure called faithful living.
- Roger

Greg Skinner's Ordination – Sunday, March 2nd – 3 p.m.

It is a rare and special occasion when a congregation has the opportunity to celebrate an ordination. We will have that privilege next month when we share in worship and celebration with *Greg Skinner* as he is ordained to the Order of Christian Ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We expect the sanctuary will be full as guests join us from around the region to help us celebrate. Plan to be with us for this very meaningful service.



Adventures in Spiritual Play: The Sequel



Last November we offered a series of opportunities to explore new and creative ways of praying and experiencing our spiritual connection with ourselves, each other and the sacred presence. The response was very positive, and so we will be offering similar opportunities in the coming months. On **the last Sunday of each month, at 7 p.m.** we will engage in experiential activities involving "doodling" with color, lines, shapes and words, as well as exploring the use of various other artistic mediums such as clay and paint. No artistic talent required and everyone is welcome. *February 24th, March 30th and April 27th.*



– Upcoming Fellowship Opportunities –

 *Sunday, February 17th @ 6:30 p.m.*
Valentine Dessert Potluck 

You are invited to come with a story or poem (humorous or romantic) to share.

Sunday, March 23rd @ 9:30 a.m.
Easter Potluck Brunch

Saturday, April 26th @ 9 a.m.
Spring cleanup day at the church, followed by a soup and sandwich lunch.

Celebrating Birthdays . . .

4th - Lee Fruits
20th - Greg Skinner



. . . *In February*
18th - Oz Garton
7th - Bonnie Nelson



6th - Donna Bradberry
26th - Linda Fleener

1st - Clint Westberg
20th - Donna Francis

18th - Heather Leonard

. . . *In March*
19th - Joan Gustaveson
16th - Bret Barber

23rd - Dolores Sanchez

14th - Calvin Macy
23rd - Elaine Russell

Personal Glimpses . . .

Lou Stevens fell in December and broke her neck. She is in a neck brace and continues to evaluate treatment options.

We just received word that *Pat Gentry* has been diagnosed with cancer. She is currently in St. Joseph's Medical Center in Lewiston.

Carol Perkins fell and broke her leg while she was out of town for Christmas. She is now back home and recovering.

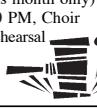
Ed & Allene Goforth traveled to Florida in December, where Ed had laser back surgery. The procedure sounds fascinating and the results have been wonderful.

Congratulations to *Lois Bradberry*, who recently received a clean bill of health following her treatment for cancer.



Volunteers Needed

The Church runs on a combination of God's Spirit and each individual's willingness to step up and do what needs to be done. Please consider volunteering in one of the following ways – *bake communion bread; serve as an usher/greeter; serve as a liturgist; prepare communion; serve on a committee.* Talk to Roger Lynn or check out the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb / March	3 <i>Fellowship Fund</i>	4 7:00 PM, 4-H 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	5 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	6 Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 	7 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	8	9
	10 First Sunday in Lent	11 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	12 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	13 12:00 PM, Cancer Support 2:00 PM, Sunshine Club	14 <i>Valentine's day.</i> 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	15	16
	17 Second Sunday in Lent 6:30 PM, Valentine Dessert Potluck 	18 <i>President's Day</i> 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	19 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	20 6:00 PM, Board Meeting (different day & time - this month only) 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 	21 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	22	23
	24 Third Sunday in Lent 7:00 PM, Adventures in Spiritual Play 	25 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	26 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	27 7:00 PM, Elders/Deacons 	28 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	29	1 <i>• March •</i>
	2 <i>Fellowship Fund</i> Fourth Sunday in Lent 3:00 PM, Greg Skinner's Ordination 	3 7:00 PM, 4-H 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	4 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	5	6 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	7	8



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• Return Service Requested •



- *Special Music* -

If you play a musical instrument or sing, and would like to provide special music for worship some Sunday this summer, please contact Bruce Bradberry.