

The Messenger

United Methodist Church – 2210 Sixth Avenue East, Alexandria, MN 56308

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March 2011

Editor: Colleen Schutte

Dear Friends,

Perfect. I need to write something for the newsletter, and I'm sick. I've got nothing – but the crud. And even if I could come up with something else, I'm not sure I'd trust it – an overheated brain is dangerous! Fevers make you see and think things you don't when your thermostat is in the normal range. And I've been told that my mind isn't always "on the fairway" to begin with!

I have been thinking about the events in Egypt recently, and what a powerful display of courage and wise restraint we have seen in those people. They offer such a hopeful sign in that region of the world, even given the treacherous passage that lies ahead of them. Some commentators wonder if they are ready for democracy, if they can handle it. It seems to me, watching and listening to them, they're more ready for it than we are! But then, I have a fever, so I better not write about Egypt.... *Hey, was that a bug that just flew by?*

I suppose I could write about the achiness that has taken over my body, and seems to want to play some painful version of "whack a mole", starting with a headache up top, then quick, down to make the knees throb, then zoom to the shoulder with a sharp stab, before it's off to conjure up a weird cramp in the left hand and back to the skull! What fun. Of course if I tell people this stuff, they'll think I'm looking for sympathy, which I'm not. I'm just writing about what I know, which is what you're supposed to do, right? I suppose I could just take some ibuprofen, but then I'd miss this whole sick adventure! The thrills and chills...well, chills anyway.

There is, though, that reliable, steady ache along the rib cage from coughing. Must be good exercise. And when a cough does come, rumbling up from the rattley depths, well it just sets all the nerves a jangling – accompanied by that sharp echoing pain in the chest, reminding one that the lungs are doing their best to get rid of this junk. But it's sort of like stripping off mucus wallpaper. And you know what a pain that has to be!

Speaking of pain, Lent is coming. Sorry, I harbor some negative feelings toward the season due to some bad experiences in the past. Just the word Lent makes me shiver a bit. But, this year, with the help of some interested persons, we are going to delve into the Stations of the Cross, with an eye to tradition, but also planning to examine some unusual renderings of those stations as well. It should be a rich time. Hey, listen to me – actually looking forward to Lent?! Maybe I better forget about the full illness-experience and just "drug up", before bubbling sounds start to emanate from my cranium. *Did you just hear something pop?*

It's almost a cliché but true, we don't realize how wonderfully dull it is to feel good, to be healthy, until we don't and aren't. And I think of that list of names in the bulletin every week, all those people, and so many more, who would trade their situation for a little creeping crud in a heartbeat! If nothing else, the cold and flu season sensitizes us some to the plight of sisters and brothers dealing with chronic and truly severe health issues.

Well, I don't know. Now that I've written it, I doubt anybody else will want to read it. Guess I'll take that pill and snooze a while, see if something else shows up. If you've just read this though, it didn't.

Shalom,

The Feverish Rambling Reverend

Parish News

Hospitalized Recently . . .

Bob Mohawk – DCH – now home
Tami Noding – Bethesda – St. Paul

Baptized . . .

Mason John Richard Mogler, son of Scott and Bridget Mogler, was baptized on January 30th. His sponsors are Carol Norgaard and Sascha Mansson.

Happy Birthday to . . .

Kathleen Haining, who will celebrate her 90th birthday on March 5th.

George Ketter, who will celebrate his 85th birthday on March 11th.



In your prayers, remember LaVonne Ahlstedt, Luella Beto, Judy Blume, Lowell Gess, Barb Glanville, Marilyn Graczyk, Evelyn Hertel, Bob Mohawk, Tami Noding, Dan Olson, Helen Paulson, and Dar Rushford.

The Northstar District Prayer Connection:
Feb. 23-Mar. 1 – Glenwood United Parish
Mar. 2-8 – Grand Rapids UMC
Mar. 9-15 – Grey Eagle UMC
Mar. 16-22 – Hawick UMC
Mar. 23-29 – Hawley UMC

Worship Attendance

	2011		2010	
	8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30
Jan. 30	65	129	45	122
Feb. 6	64	95	68	100
Feb. 13	68	93	48	106
Feb. 20	60	81	72	120

Published by the United Methodist Church
of Alexandria

Telephone (320) 763-4624

Pastor: Jeffrey Hansen

Parish Worker: Jocelyn Olson

Secretary/Treasurer: Colleen Schutte

Director of Youth & Children's

Ministries: Michelle Ferris

Custodian: Denise Dropik

Organists: Kay Hoffland, Kirk Landman,
Gale Maxwell

Choir Director: Kirk Anderson

Nursery: Amanda Winther & Amber Krienke

Office Hours

Jeff – Tuesday (3-5 pm)

Thursdays (10-12 noon, 3-5 p.m.)

by appointment at other times

Monday through Friday 9:00-1:00

Colleen – Mon-Tue-Wed-Thu-Fri

Jocelyn – Mon-Tue-Wed

Michelle – Tue-Wed-Thu-Fri – 9:00-4:00

Please call ahead if you wish to come in to the office. There are times when we are not in the building, even though we are working. We recommend that you call to see if the person you wish to meet with is in. There also may be times when someone is in the office later than 1:00 p.m.

Publication Date for the next *Messenger*:

is the last week of March. Articles submitted for the April issue need to be in the office by NOON on Friday, March 18th.

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Liturgists:

8:00 March 6 & 13 – Carol Meyer March 20 & 27 – Aaron & Brenda Thomson family
10:30 March 6 & 13 – Brenda Golde March 20 & 27 – Sue Walker

Ushers:

8:00 – Gerald and Pat Fearing, Carol Meyer
10:30 – Betty Jene Heieie, Bruce Jordan, Andy Vano, Kim Tryggeseth

Acolytes:

	8:00	10:30
March 6	Gavin Greengo & Evan Gettel	Ethan Scribner & Emma Reilly
March 13	Madeleine Evans & Kirsten Hastings	Jack Nelson & Francesca Jost
March 20	Gavin Greengo	Brynne Pass & Hannah Nelson
March 27	Evan Gettel & Madeleine Evans	Emma Reilly & Robb Erlandson

Greeters:

March 6	8:00 – Jerry & Jeanne Miller	10:30 – Mike & Jean Bristow
March 13	8:00 – Jerry & Mary Wilkens	10:30 – Chuck & Sharon Holm
March 20	8:00 – Aaron & Kelly Bumgarner family	10:30 – Connie & Betty Springman
March 27	8:00 – Judy Bolin	10:30 – Gary and Chris Schuldt

Coffee Servers:

March 6 – Bruce & Kathleen Pohlig, Shawn & Christine Reilly
March 13 – Brian & Lisa Koehn, Dean & Lori Lindstrom
March 20 – Kipp & Chris Hayes, Chuck & Sharon Holm
March 27 – Judy Blume, Sherry Bruckner, Shirley Bruckner

Organists:

March 6 – Gale Maxwell
March 13 – Kay Hoffland
March 20 – Gale Maxwell
March 27 – Kay Hoffland



Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 9th, you're invited to be part of an examination and experience of the Stations of the Cross. We'll look at some of the more traditional depictions of Jesus on the way to the crucifixion. And we'll also study some of the less traditional renderings of that journey. We begin every Wednesday during Lent with a meal at 5:30, followed by a brief time of worship at 6:15, and move into our examination of the stations. We finish by about 7:30. Come! You may even learn something! And it will help you prepare for Easter.

PRAYER SHAWLS. . . The knitters had such a great time that we will be meeting again on Tuesday, March 8th, at 6:30 pm in the lounge to continue working on the prayer shawls and enjoying each other's company and conversation. If you crochet or want to learn, please join us. We have some yarn available, thanks to Norma Nelson. Just bring a crochet hook or some knitting needles.

MARCH IS FOOD



SHELF MONTH

During the month of March, our local Food Shelf receives help from Minnesota Food Share. The more cash and non-perishable food items they receive during the month, the larger the allotment of help they will receive. Donations of non-perishable food will be collected in the narthex during March. You may also place cash donations in the offering plate (marked "food shelf" in the memo section of your check), or mail a donation to the church office.

- Missions Committee

UMC Free Computer Library Use

- ◆ The computers in the UMC Library are free for any one's use
- ◆ Please note they have security software installed, yet will allow any user to log in without a password and access only appropriate internet web sites
- ◆ Web sites with inappropriate content have been blocked
- ◆ Free e-mail service on the internet using Internet Explorer is available for anyone's use
- ◆ All emails are monitored and limited to only appropriate content and distribution
- ◆ To set up an account, log on to: [http://www.myemail.com/free-email.html?gad1 & gclid = C M W M 6 - uVkkcFw8KgodDIOhdg](http://www.myemail.com/free-email.html?gad1&gclid=CMM6-uVkkcFw8KgodDIOhdg)



World Day of Prayer 2011
Friday, March 4th, 7:00 PM at Bethesda Lutheran Church.
Theme: "How Many Loaves Have You?" The women of Chile tell us, "Bread is the main food in our homes. No meal is complete without it. We show hospitality, even in the poorest homes, by sharing coffee, tea or mate and some bread." The World Day of Prayer USA Committee strives to strengthen its denominational relationships and its ties to Church Women United and other ecumenical partners. They seek to expand the boundaries of ecumenism worldwide. The women of Chile wrote the program for this year. Please join others in our community to support this international movement.



Friends Circle – Thursday,
March 10, 7:00 PM

Peace Circle – Thursday,
March 17, 1:30 PM.



Reminder. . .the monthly calendar is now part of the web page: www.alexumc.org. On the left hand side, click on "calendar"...you will be able to choose which month you wish to view and/or print. We have the whole year on there (as much as we have right now). Be sure to check the calendar frequently as things may be added or changed.



THINK SPRING. . .Once we make it to March, spring is within shouting distance! Last year 20 volunteers did an awesome job maintaining the church lawn. The Trustees were so impressed with the job and savings that they requested us to consider expanding our effort to address full grounds maintenance. Any landscaping, tree and shrub removal or trimming, play ground or picnic table maintenance would be appreciated. At our year end celebration, 19 of the 20 volunteered to continue the program and assist as needed.

Last year we recruited volunteers with riding lawn mowers without recognizing that push mowing and grass trimming was at least 25% of the effort. With 4 person teams, a commitment of 3 hours every 5 weeks made it happen. If we could recruit another 8-10 people, we could extend our rotation to once every six weeks and add capability to expand our support.

So, here's a call for volunteers that would like to join our team to continue this worthy cause. For those of us that aren't choir or Sunday school teacher material, this has been a great way to support our Church and enjoy a satisfying, productive outing periodically. Although equipment isn't required, anyone with a bobcat, fork lift, trailer, man basket, weed sprayer, etc. capability is extremely valuable.

Please contact Dennis Cin (759-1120) or Colleen at the church office (763-4624 – or office@alexumc.org) to volunteer or for more information. An organizational meeting is anticipated in April.

RUMMAGE

Annual Spring Rummage Sale – Saturday, April 2, 7 am-noon



Although the spring rummage sale is over a month away, March is a good time to gather items to donate. **Clean** spring and summer clothing in good condition, **small** household items, games/toys, and other miscellaneous items will be accepted **Monday, March 28 through Friday morning April 1 at 9:00.** Computers, monitors, TV's or other large items are not accepted. Please bring items in **small or average size boxes or bags (clothing may be on hangars)** and place them in the back left corner of the fellowship hall.

Friends Circle will begin setting up on Thursday, March 31, at 7:00 pm. Final setup will be done on Friday morning beginning at 9:00. We welcome help from everyone, not just UMW members. Help also is needed on Saturday after the sale to pack up what is left. Proceeds support mission projects of United Methodist Women. Congregational donations and participation are very much appreciated. Contact Sally Vano at 846-0661 if you have questions.

GRATITUDE - HONOR - MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

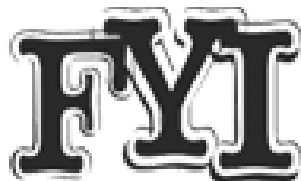
\$20.00	Weekly bulletin sponsorship
\$60.00	Mailing of monthly Messenger
\$15.00	Biodegradable paper cups (200)
\$825.00	New computer for office
\$255.00	Computer installation
\$125.00	Computer software
\$300.00	Rosebud campership for Youth
\$140.00	Tall Table for narthex
\$80.00	1/2 of lot snow plowing
\$500.00	Shrubs for around church building



All Church Potluck on Sunday, March 6th, following the 10:30 worship service. Bring a dish to share and join in the fellowship! If your last name begins with H-J, please plan on hosting (set-up, beverage prep and clean up). See you there!!!



Kathleen Haining will be 90 years old on March 5th and many of her family will be here to celebrate. We invite you to share in the festivities by joining us at church for a special Sunday morning coffee reception in her honor on March 6th, 9-10:30 am.



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

FRAUD ALERT. . . Please be sure to check your telephone bills. Recently, local businesses have had what are called "third party charges" appear on their telephone bills. The amounts have been around \$30.00 **DO NOT** pay these charges - they may not be legitimate. If you have questions, Jocelyn will look at your bill and help you.

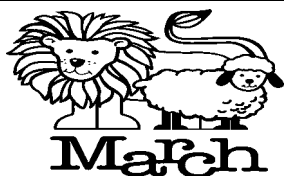
Grant money is available NOW to help with your natural gas bill if you meet the household income limits. Visit CenterPointEnergy.com/paymentassistanceMN or call 612-372-4680 or toll free 1-800-729-6164 for more information. Last year the average grant was \$631 per customer. **Call today – funds are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.**

In addition, CenterPoint Energy offers a Gas Affordability Program (GAP) that is available to residential customers who receive assistance from the Minnesota EAP in the current federal fiscal year. GAP is a program that gives you the opportunity to reduce your monthly natural gas bill and helps pay past due balances. Customers must have received a Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) guarantee or grant to qualify. To learn more about GAP, call 612-372-4727 or 1-800-245-2377.



The next time you are in the narthex, stop for a moment to view the lovely artwork – three pieces – that have been donated by Sheri Anderson of Oklahoma.

Sheri is the granddaughter of Lamont and Phyllis Mounsdon. She does design work and acquired these works from her employer. It was her wish to donate them to Grandma and Grandpa's church. Thank you so much Sheri!



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 2 John Schroeder | 14 Abigail Erlandson
Kali Erlandson
Hannah Hanson | 24 Shirley Moench |
| 3 Robb Erlandson
Donna Skalisky | 15 Jolianna Tung
Ron Williams | 25 Susie Meyer |
| 4 Chelsey Richardson | 16 Alyssa Haugen
Mac Heydt | 26 Shelly Doering
John Mingus |
| 5 Kathleen Haining | 17 Terrance Mogler
Mike Olson
Gary Syverson | 27 Carson Bumgarner
Deanne Fimon
Kim Werlinger |
| 6 Mary Halvorson | 18 Joyce Beck | 28 Kirk Anderson
Lisa Koehn |
| 7 Clayton Lewis | 19 Ron Schutte | 29 Paul Florell
Pat Hardie |
| 9 Kim Tryggeseth | 20 Kipp Hayes
Sharon Slack | 30 Isabelle Bartell
Janene Mogler |
| 10 Wayne Fredin
Beverly Parks
Carolyn Randall | 21 Kallan Mercier | 31 Janice Swanson |
| 11 Josie Hergott
George Ketter
Don Schneider
Ethan Scribner | 22 Emily Doumbia
Cliff Emmert
RosAnn Flenner
Virginia Ulm | |
| 13 Carrie Aslagson
Andrew Rishavy | 23 Phyllis Freier
Britni Haugen
Jackie Strelow | |



Free Community Breakfast - 9:00-10:30 AM



Join us for a free pancake/sausage breakfast the 2nd Saturday of each month. The next breakfast is March 12th. For more information, or if you need transportation, call the church office at 763-4624. Please schedule rides for the breakfast before 10:00 am on the Friday before the breakfast.

Thank you to those who helped with the February breakfast: JR Richardson, Larry and Linda Mills, Scott Schlapkohl, John and Ann Heydt, Otto and Phyllis Freier, Chelsey Klimek, Calley Richardson, Jim and Marge Jensen and Bill and Barb Malvin. Thank you to these individuals/families for donations of food or cash: Helen Glade, JR Richardson, Andy and Sally Vano, Kathleen Haining, John and Donna Phillips, Aaron and Brenda Thomson, Myrtle McKay, Elaine Schoening and Chris and Betty Springman.

Academy for Vital Christianity will offer "Reimagining the Church for Our Contemporary Time" at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Alexandria on Saturday, March 5 and April 9 from 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. For more information and a registration form - see the flyer on the bulletin board across from the furnace room.

Community Events

March 11 – St. Mary's and KC's Annual Fish Fry – 4:30-7:30 pm – Menu: All you can eat fish, salad, baked beans, bread, cookies & bars, beverages. New item for kids: macaroni & cheese. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, \$3 for preschoolers.

March 31 – United Way Mobile Food Drop – 11:30-2:30 pm (or until food is gone) at New Life Christian Church – everyone who eats qualifies – need to be a resident of Douglas County – bring your own boxes/baskets to carry food – The food drop is made possible through private donations and the work of the Community Impact Coalition.

April 1-2 – 19th Annual Women & Wellness at the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center. For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board across from the furnace room.