

Pinedale Community Church United Church of Christ February 2010 Newsletter

Whoever you are,
Wherever you are in life's journey,
You're welcome here!

Pinedale Community Church

United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 646, 113 South Maybell
Pinedale, WY 82941
(307) 367-2528

Our Mission

"Our doors and ministry are open to all who follow Jesus and have a sincere desire to share God's love with others."

Church Schedule

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
A nursery is provided during the worship service.

Preschool-Grade 5 Bible classes meet on Wednesdays after school.

For additional information, please visit these links:

Our Web Site

<http://www.pinedalecommunitychurch.org>

Calendar of Events

<http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=yhwhp sa%40hotmail.com>

UCC-LED GROUP FILES COMPLAINT WITH IRS OVER D. C. 'CHURCH'

A group of 13 mainline Protestant pastors – including several from the United Church of Christ – has filed a letter of complaint with the Internal Revenue Service, claiming that a townhouse on Capitol Hill that provides inexpensive lodging and meals for conservative Christian members of Congress is not a church, and that it should not hold the tax-exempt status afforded a house of worship.

"We are concerned that an exclusive residential club for powerful officials may be masquerading as a church," said the letter to the IRS of the C Street Center, 130-year-old townhouse valued at \$1.8 million. "Any time an organization uses church status as part of a tax avoidance scheme, it poses a threat to the integrity of religious institutions everywhere."

The Rev. Eric Williams, senior minister at North Congregational United Church of Christ in Columbus, has led the effort on the complaint, which was filed Feb. 23. "Whenever I feel the (Christian) church is being maligned or misrepresented, boom! Twin flags of passion go up," says Williams. "One as a child of God, and another as an American citizen."

The C Street Center offers inexpensive lodging and meals for at least five members of Congress. The townhouse is an affiliate of a secretive international Christian network known as the Fellowship, or the Family. Its stated purpose is to cultivate relationships with politicians, business people and military leaders, bringing them together for prayer and Bible study – and sometimes getting involved in matters of diplomacy and foreign policy.

In the letter, the pastors say the C Street Center does not meet IRS requirements for a church because it does not appear to hold regular religious services open to the public; has no religious school for young people; and has no distinct creed or ecclesiastical structure. Moreover, the letter said, the center has avoided transparency by taking advantage of IRS rules that say churches do not have to file annual information returns, known as Form 990s.

Richard Carver, president of the Fellowship Foundation, the corporation that oversees Fellowship ministries, said he could not provide any information because the C Street Center was formally a separate legal entity.

J. Robert Hunter, another member of the Fellowship, said that while there was a separate legal arrangement, there was a "very close working relationship" between the center and the Fellowship. "There are religious services all the time in that building," Hunter said, but they are not open to the public. He said the residence is designed for people to model their lives on Jesus. He added that "one of the purposes is to give a safe place where politicians who are tempted by lust would hold each other accountable."

The Feb. 24 letter was signed by pastors of Columbus-area United Church of Christ, Methodist and Episcopal churches, as well as by the Rev. Robert Molsberry, the UCC's Ohio Conference minister, and the Rev. Forrest Hoppe, association minister of the UCC's regional Central Southeast Ohio Association.

STILL STEPPING UP!

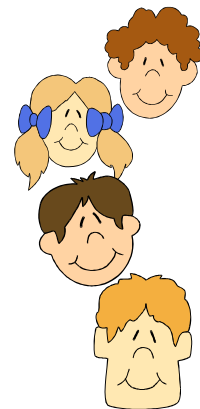
As a vital participant in the ACT Alliance, the UCC is assisting some of the most vulnerable among of the victims in Port-au-Prince, Gressier, Jacmel and Bainet in the south. As of Monday, Feb. 22, earthquake-relief gifts sent to the UCC totaled \$1,304,864, including \$425,737 in online donations.

Meanwhile, among the many staggering stories of survival is that of Rick Santos, president and CEO of IMA World Health, who, for 55 hours was trapped with several others in the rubble of the Montana Hotel in Port Au Prince before being rescued. "We used the light from our cell phones just to see," says Santos. "The space we were in began to compress with each aftershock. Debris was getting closer to us all the time; eventually, the ceiling was just a few inches over our heads." - UCC Church News

GETTING TO KNOW YA

(This is going to be a regular feature. We're going to feature a short bio of our church members and guests, with an emphasis on things that you might not know about our friends.) This month, we feature Debbie McClellan:

"Born the youngest of four daughters, I grew up in the very small town of Piermont, New Hampshire. My family regularly attended the Piermont Congregational UCC Church, where I became a member while in high school. I married "Chan" McClellan in 1972 and we had daughter Sarah in 1977 and son Aaron in 1981. We lived mostly in New Hampshire and Vermont until moving to Burlington, Colorado, in 2001. Aaron met and married his wife in Burlington. We moved to Pinedale in 2004, and started building our current home in Boulder in 2006. Aaron and his wife purchased our Colorado home and have blessed us with three wonderful grandchildren. Our daughter, Sarah, still lives in New Hampshire. Since joining the Pinedale UCC Church, I have helped out with the Community Tri-Church Thanksgiving Dinners, have served on the missions committee, and am currently serving my second term on the church council."



FROM THE MODERATOR

Council meeting dates are:

3/17	9/15
4/14	10/13
5/12	11/17
6/16	12/15
July & Aug no meeting	1/12/2011
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MARCH LECTIONARY

Third Sunday in Lent March 7, 2010	Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 14, 2010	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Fifth Sunday in Lent March 21, 2010	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Liturgy of the Palms March 28, 2010		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29		Luke 19:28-40
Liturgy of the Passion March 28, 2010	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
Maundy Thursday April 1, 2010	Exodus 12: 1-4 [5-10], 11-14	Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19	I Corinthians 11: 23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday April 2, 2010	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9	John 18:1-19:42
Holy Saturday April 3, 2010	Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24	Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42
Easter Sunday April 4, 2010	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

EASTER SYMBOLS



Easton's Bible Dictionary defines Easter this way:

"Originally a Saxon word (Eostre), denoting a goddess of the Saxons, in honor of whom sacrifices were offered about the time of the Passover". Hence the name came to be given to the festival of the Resurrection of Christ, which occurred at the time of the Passover. In the early English versions this word was frequently used as the translation of the Greek "pascha" (the Passover). When the Authorized Version (1611) was formed, the word "passover" was used in all passages in which this word pascha occurred,

except in Acts 12:4. In the Revised Version the proper word, "passover," is always used.

White means purity.

Easton's Bible Dictionary: "A symbol of purity (2 Chr. 5:12; Ps. 51:7; Isa. 1:18; Rev. 3:18; 7:14). Our Lord, at his transfiguration, appeared in raiment "white as the light" (Matt. 17:2, etc.)."

White is also the symbol of holiness:

- The high priest's holy garments were made of white linen - Leviticus 16:4,32
- Choir singers were arrayed in white - 2 Chronicles 5:12

Purple is royalty and wealth.

Royalty: Judges 8:26

Wealth: Luke 12:19

Luxury: Revelations 17:4

Green is new life.

Psalms 92:12-15 & Jeremiah 11:16

Rooster:

In some European countries, people are very surprised that we in the United States don't have "roosters" on top of our churches. Europeans have the rooster because Peter was told by Jesus in the Gospels in the Bible, that he would deny Christ three times. So the rooster is a reminder not to deny Christ. The scriptural reference to this is Matthew 26:69-75

Candles

Candles are burned during many Easter celebrations, especially the vigil and midnight services before Easter Sunday. Christians associate Jesus with the light from candles, calling Him "the Light of the World." Many churches extinguish candles on their altars on Good Friday to show that Jesus' light has gone out. In Roman Catholic churches, the special paschal candle is lit on Easter Sunday next to the main altar. The candle represents Jesus' return to life. The candle is often lit during the next 40 days, until it is put out on Ascension Day.

Lily

The white lily stands for purity. Easter Lilies are used to decorate churches and homes. The large, pure white blossoms remind Christians of the pure new life that comes to them through the Resurrection of Jesus. Artists for centuries have pictured the angel Gabriel coming to the Virgin Mary with a spray of lilies in his hand, to announce that she is to be the mother of the Christ child. The lily is also the sign of the Resurrection. The lovely white Madonna lily was used for years as the Easter lily. It often failed to bloom in time for Easter, however, and so Bermuda lilies were substituted. They have six-part flowers (three petals and three sepals colored alike) and usually six stamens.

The Lily in the BIBLE:

Lessons to trust are gathered from the Lily: Matthew 6: 28-30

Molded in the rim of the molten laver in the temple: 1 Kings 7:26 & 2 Chronicles 4:5

The principle capitals of the temple ornamented with carvings of lilies: 1 Kings 7:19,22,26

Used in a figurative sense, of the lips of the beloved: Song of Solomon 5:13

The Lamb

The lamb is a particularly important Easter symbol in central and eastern European countries. It represents Jesus and relates His death to that of the lamb sacrificed on the first Passover. Christians traditionally refer to Jesus as "the Lamb of God." Many people serve lamb as part of the Easter feast. In many homes, a lamb-shaped cake decorates the table. Many Eastern Orthodox Christians hang pictures of the Easter lamb in their homes.

Eggs

Eggs represent new life, have been a symbol of spring since ancient times. Christians adopted the egg as an Easter symbol because of the relationship between Easter and the renewal of life.

Hot Cross Buns

Hot cross buns, now eaten throughout the Easter season, were first baked in England to be served on Good Friday. The buns have a cross of icing on the top. Some people have suggested the connection to the ancient sacramental cakes.

Other foods

Besides lamb and eggs, certain other foods are associated with the Easter season. Pretzels, for example, were originally a Lenten food. Their twisted shape suggested arms crossed in prayer.

ERIN Go BRAUGH!

Because some of us are Irish and "our day" is the 17th of this month, we thought you might like to know a little about the Patrick that started the whole thing! The man who was to become Saint Patrick was probably born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. His given name was 'Maewyn', and, although his father was possibly a Christian deacon, it has been suggested the he (the father) took on the role because of tax incentives. There is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious background. In fact, until he was 16, Patrick considered himself a pagan.

Also when he was about sixteen years old, Patrick was abducted and enslaved by Irish marauders, under the leader Niall of the Nine Hostages. Although there is some dispute over where his captivity took place, he was probably held in County Mayo near Killala. During this time, Patrick became closer to God. During his captivity, according to his writings, a voice which he believed to be God's spoke to Patrick in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland. After traveling for more than 200 miles by foot, he eventually obtained passage on a boat traveling across the Irish Sea. His first destination was Britain. Patrick also wrote that he experienced a second revelation telling him to return to Ireland as a missionary.

Eventually, Patrick settled in France and studied under Saint Germain, Bishop of Auxerre, for twelve years. He became aware that his calling was to convert pagans to Christianity. Patrick then spent twenty years as a monk in Marmoutier Abbey. Here he again received a celestial visitation, telling him to return to Ireland, where he had been enslaved. He was then called to Rome, where Pope Celestine conferred upon him the post of Bishop, before he left on his holy mission.

An Irish blessing: May your glass be ever full; May the roof over your head be always strong; and may you be in heaven half an hour before the devil knows you're dead.

Patrick and twenty-four followers arrived in Ireland during the winter of 432. In Ireland, Patrick and his followers were invited to Tara by the King of Laoghaire. While he was there, Patrick plucked a shamrock from the ground and tried to explain to the druids and the king that the shamrock had three leaves just as God has three persons called the Trinity. Before the Christian era, the shamrock was a sacred plant to the Druids because its leaves form a triad. While Patrick was quite successful at winning converts to Christianity, even baptizing many of the Druid warriors, chiefs and princes, he was arrested several times; but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries, schools and churches in many areas.

Familiar with Irish ways and language, Patrick did not attempt to eradicate native beliefs, but chose to incorporate some into his teachings. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter, since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He is also said to have superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, thus making the symbol seem more natural to the Irish.

Patrick's mission to Ireland lasted thirty years. After that, he retired to County Down. He is thought to have died sometime between 463 and 493 AD, on March 17th. Patrick is believed by many to have given a sermon that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Since no snakes were ever native to Ireland, some believe this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans. One story tells of Patrick's standing on a hill, using a wooden staff to drive the serpents into the sea, banishing them forever from the shores of Ireland. Legend says that one old serpent resisted, but Patrick overcame it with cunning. He is said to have made a box and invited the snake to enter. The snake insisted the box was too small and discussion became very heated. Finally, the snake enters the box to prove he is right, whereupon Patrick slams the lid shut and casts the box into the sea. [At any rate, it's a good story!]

The celebration of Saint Patrick's Day came to America in 1737. More importantly, to those who celebrate its intended meaning, Saint Patrick's Day is a day for spiritual renewal and for offering prayers for missionaries worldwide. Surprisingly, the color of Saint Patrick was not actually green, but blue! In the 19th century, green became the symbol of Ireland, and thus Saint Patrick's Day.

Finally, Saint Patrick is said to have created the Leap Year tradition of women proposing to men. The story goes that Saint Brigid complained that women were tired of waiting for marriage proposals. It also says that Brigid proposed to Patrick, but he refused!

An Irish blessing: May you always have walls for the wind, A roof for the rain, Tea beside the fire, Laughter to cheer you, Those you love near you, And all that your heart may desire.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

OGHS is a Lenten Offering. The OGHS offering is most often received the fourth Sunday of Lent, but may be taken at different times. The 2010 suggested Dedication Day is March 14, 2010. Please bring your banks back that day.

CHOIR

Choir practices resumed on Sunday morning, February 7th, at 9:30 AM. Like to sing? You're welcome to join and share your talent with others. Questions? Call JJ Huntley (859-8607).

PRAYER REQUESTS

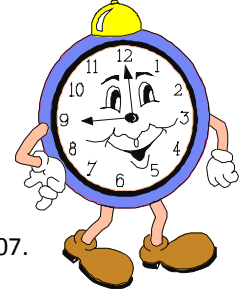
Marlyn Cornett (Cheryl Eatinger's dad) - Chemotherapy
Dave Doyle - Underemployed
Whitney Huntley - Needs employment
Rita Huntley - Ongoing
Stella McKinstry – In the hospital in Salt Lake City
Kris & Karin Reed (Bruce & Nancy's son and wife) - Need employment
Jim Weeks (Deb McClellan's brother-in-law) – Chemotherapy
Confirmation youth and mentors

LET'S CELEBRATE!

These are the special days our church friends are celebrating this month. When you see these folks, please wish them a happy. And, if you haven't given us YOUR special dates yet, please do.

9th - Randall Montgomery (Birthday)
14th - Bert and Carol White (Anniversary)
19th - Janet Montgomery (Birthday)
21st - Matazi Landers (Birthday)
22nd - Peggy Bell (Birthday)
28th - Susan Mitchell (Birthday)

Also this month, we were fortunate to have Carol begin her relationship with the Pinedale UCC church in 2007.



PLEASE HELP US!

If you have an article, an item of interest to you, a coming church event that you'd like published, or a poem, saying, whatever you'd like to have noted in the newsletter, please drop it in the basket that is sitting on one of the music stands in the fellowship hall. It would be helpful if you sign each article, so that, in the event of questions, we may contact you. We love to have your contributions, as our "think tanks" sometimes run pretty dry!

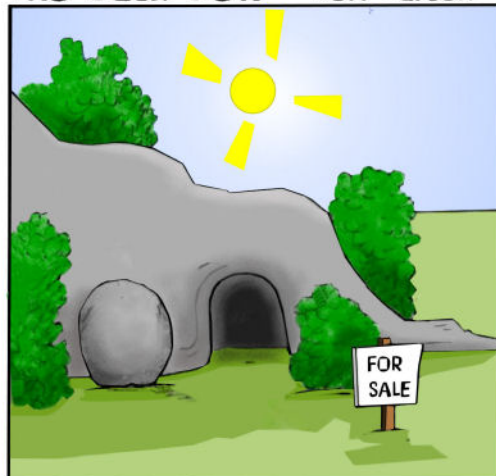
LENTEN ACTIVITIES:

March 2Tuesday Soup Supper and Contemplative Worship
March 9Tuesday Soup Supper and Contemplative Worship
March 14One Great Hour of Sharing
March 16Tuesday Soup Supper and Contemplative Worship
March 23Tuesday Soup Supper and Contemplative Worship
March 28Palm Sunday
March 29 - April 4Holy Week

Would you like to read scripture some Sunday during worship? Please call Maxine Leckie (859-8881) and let her know.

Interested in helping with an idea we have for those children not going to the nursery during Sunday morning worship? Please call Brenda Doyle at 367-3634. We're going to put together "Sunday Sacks" for the kids and we need your help!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



FOR SALE - Single owner tomb. Only used three days, and still has that new tomb smell. Reason for sale.. resident was resurrected.

The Back Page

Ministers this month

March 7

Ushers: Dave & Karen Moulton
Flowers: None needed
Nursery: Amy Graham

March 14

Ushers: Cindy Carlson
Flowers: None needed
Nursery:

March 21

Ushers:
Flowers: None needed
Nursery: Cathy Mitchell

March 28

Ushers:
Flowers: None needed
Nursery:

Contact Information for Rev.

Carol B. White:

Church Office367-2528
Cellular231-5818
Home367-3286
Email YHWHpsa@hotmail.com

Winter Office Hours:

Tuesday1:00pm – 3:00p.m.
Wednesday1:00pm – 3:00p.m.

Pastor's Days Off:

Friday & Saturday

2010 Church Officers

Moderator Maxine Leckie
Vice-moderatorKen Konicek
Secretary.....Cheryl Eatinger
TreasurerJohn Mortensen

Council Members:

Cindy Carlson
Aubrie Doyle
Jack Doyle
Jim Huntley
Debbie McClellan

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