

# The “E Messenger”

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## Notes and comments by Wade

### 021309

We ask that God’s compassionate presence be with the members of the United Church of Hope and their pastor, Allen Finger. May God’s grace embrace this small membership, ecumenical congregation as they continue to respond to the spiritual needs of the people of this small town and surrounding area.

Last Sunday it was my pleasure to join with the pastors and members of a number of our Eastern NPCUCC Congregations for the third in a series of rallies which was held at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Fargo. I celebrate the spirit and the enthusiasm that was shared during that gathering.

This is the final call for yearbook information. If you have not already turned it into the Conference Office your forms so that it can be recorded and forwarded to the national church, please do so quickly so that the records of your congregation are a part of our report.

There will be a series of Covenant Group Gatherings beginning in February and continuing throughout March. The Covenant Groups are an invitation for pastors and lay members of the congregations to come together to share in fellowship and grow in understanding of an area of the church’s life. The focus for the Covenant Groups this year is stewardship, with an emphasis on wills development. The meeting dates, locations and times are as follows: 2/24, Fargo/Plymouth, 6:00 pm (ct); 2/26, Medina, 6:00 pm (ct); 3/3, New Salem, 6:00 pm (ct); 3/5, Rural Elgin, 6:00 pm (mt); 3/9, Hebron, First Cong., 6:00 pm (ct) 3/10, Hillsboro, **7:00 pm (ct) {note change of time}**; 3/12, New Town, 6:00 pm (ct); 3/16, Garrison, 6:00 pm (ct). Each Covenant Group will last approximately 2.5 hours. I look forward to this opportunity to work with each of you.

This Sunday it will be my great pleasure to join with NPCUCC members from across western North Dakota for the fourth and final revival rally as we gather at Bismarck United Church of Christ to explore the challenges and opportunities of being a community of faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The theme of the gatherings is built upon the Nixon book, “I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church” and calls us to explore the six vital questions that are outlined there. Pastors and lay leaders are invited to gather in Bismarck at 4:00 pm with an anticipated ending time of 7:00 pm. Dinner will be included.

NPCUCC congregations are invited to dedicate the Lenten offering for this year to the East Timor School Project. The East Timor Education Foundation works in partnership with the Protestant Church of East Timor, the Northern Plains Conference and the Global Ministries of the UCC to build and operate a school at Lisadilla, East Timor. To date a three classroom school has been constructed as well as several units of faculty housing. Seventy-five students are now being taught academic and vocational subjects by six newly hired teachers. Future projects include a new water well for the school and construction of a dormitory for students who live beyond a reasonable walking distance from the village.

“Where Is Your Treasure”, is the theme for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to be received March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Through this special all church offering the members of the NPCUCC has the opportunity to reach across the world with a grace-filled touch that changes the lives of people in a variety of ways. You are invited to take this opportunity to begin to help the members of your congregations grow in their understanding of the many ways that this offering empowers them to change lives and bring hope to some of the most desperate places in our world. If you have not already received OGHS materials, please contact the Conference Office and we can help you.

If you have not already done so, please remember to register for the Post Lenten Retreat with Luther Snow. We will be gathering on April 26<sup>th</sup> for dinner beginning at 5:30 pm (ct) and will conclude following lunch on Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to check the NPCUCC website [www.npcucc.org/flier or form](http://www.npcucc.org/flier_or_form) for more information.

We are in the process of pulling together the class for the upcoming ALWL series which will have its first gathering March 7<sup>th</sup>. Any who are interested in being a part of this vital ministry are invited to contact the Conference Office or fill out the forms found on the NPCUCC web site [www.npcucc.org/forms](http://www.npcucc.org/forms) and mail them into the Conference Office. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the Conference Office.

On the NPCUCC website you will find some worship materials that focus on Global Warming and Earth Day that come to us from the National Council of Churches. They include liturgical material and a candle light vigil which you might find helpful. The items can be found at [www.npcucc.org/emessenger](http://www.npcucc.org/emessenger).

Around the NPCUCC 021309 – 022209

Date	Time	Event	Location
2/13	12:00 Noon (ct)	Ft. Berthold Cluster	New Town
2/15	4:00 pm (ct)	Revival	Bismarck
2/16	-----	CM attends	Cleveland

		Consultation	
2/17	-----	Consultation	Cleveland
2/18	-----	Consultation	Cleveland
2/19	-----	Consultation	Cleveland
2/19	10:00 am(ct)	Fargo Cluster	Fargo/First
2/20	-----	Consultation	Cleveland
2/21	-----	Consultation	Cleveland
2/22	-----	Consultation	Cleveland