

The “E Messenger”

Notes and Comments by Wade 112709

This first Sunday of Advent, as we begin the journey to the Shepherd’s Night of Jesus’ birth and the glorious declaration of hope on Christmas. Let us hold in prayer the first Congregational United Church of Christ of Jamestown. Let us celebrate that through the guidance of its pastor, Susan Lester, it continues to explore new and exciting ways to be a center of proclamation and service.

Last Sunday it was my pleasure to share in worship with the members of the Congregational United Church of Christ of Reeder. This small Southwestern Congregation continues to be a community of praise, hope and fellowship in spite of its small size and the outmigration of the community. I want to thank them for the joy of sharing in worship and the fellowship which followed.

You are invited to hold in prayer Chaplain William and Kendra Ziegler as they mourn the passing of Kendra’s father, Rupert P. Jensen. Mr. Jensen passed away just prior to his 90th birthday. His funeral was held in Nebraska on October 30th with the inurnment in his home town of Exira, Iowa on October 31st. Let us continue to hold the Ziegler family in our prayers as they remember Kendra’s father during this special time of the year. Let us also hold in prayer David and Kandy Hartson as Kandy undergoes surgery and recovery in Minneapolis. The Hartsons will be traveling to the cities on Sunday, Nov. 29th with surgery on December 1st and recovery the remainder of the week. This will be followed by a 4 – 6 week recovery period. We wish them safe travels and God’s blessed presence during the surgery and the time of healing that follows.

Beginning this Advent Season there will be a series of 30-second spots on the morning and afternoon program. There will be two 30-second spots in both programs in addition to 104 10 – 15 second spots ads on KFGO. The ads can be heard on KFYZ (550) out of Bismarck, KCGB (910) out of Minot and KFGO (790) out of Fargo. The ads will be an invitation to people to come home to the United Church of Christ during this special time. Congregations are invited to host newspaper and local radio ads that will compliment and focus this message on their activities and services. Texts of the 30-second ad can be found on the NPCUCC web site www.npcucc.org under forms. Suggested copy for print ads can be received from the Conference by emailing or calling the Office. The Conference Council is inviting each congregation to help defray the cost of these ads by making a \$100 contribution. Checks should be mailed to the Conference Office and identified as Advent Ad Campaign support.

The special Christmas Fund Offering will be received on December 20th. This offering is one of those times that we can take steps to support those who have supported our congregations throughout the decades. We all know of pastors and church workers who have gone out of their way to empower, support and embrace us during those special times of our lives. Often these folk move on and later in years when they need support for their lives, they are alone. This offering is a way to be with them and to let them know that they are remembered. Please be generous as this offering is received.

As we begin the journey of Advent may we experience the growing vision of God's abiding grace directing us to the fullness of the blessed Christmas Birth. In the face of the materialistic idolatry of the Christmas Season, Advent is a declaration that Christmas is not about blinking lights, or glitter or gifts to be given but about the glorious declaration of God's love with us in the midst of a frightening world. The message of Christmas is the antidote to the mantra of fear that has become the drumbeat of our time. May you find and experience that special Advent blessing as we continue to journey to the blessed night when shepherds heard the great message of hope and promise.

As you look to the coming year, NPCUCC congregations are invited to seek a 5% increase in their OCWM support for 2010. This increased support will enable the Conference to continue to expand and enrich the ministry to which we believe God is calling us. You are invited to check out the flier that will be mailed to you via email next week and will be available on the NPCUCC web site www.npcucc.org under fliers.

Around the NPCUCC 112709 – 120609

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|-------|---------------|--------------------------|----------|
| 11/29 | 10:30 am (ct) | Dawn Archer installation | Bismarck |
| 11/30 | 11:00 am (ct) | Central Cluster | Gackle |
| 12/6 | 11:00 am (ct) | CM shares in worship | Lakota |