

# The E Messenger

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## Notes and Comments by Wade 110609

We praise God for the Congregational United Church of Christ of Reeder. It is our prayer that their continued solo ministry might be a time of renewed vision and enthusiasm as the Spirit of God re invigorates them as a community of faith. Let us celebrate the membership of this Western North Dakota Congregation that is currently being served by Janel Kolar.

As we gather in worship this Sunday let us hold in prayer this nation as together we mourn the tragic death and injury at Ft. Hood. This is a tragedy that enfolds the families and friends of those killed and injured but it goes beyond that. As this tragedy touches the heart of every military family it touches the heart of all of us. It is the sort of thing that threatens the foundation upon which courage stands and from which visions are received. I pray that we do not allow ourselves, in our anger and our grief, to slip into the practice of painting with a broad brush all who are Islamic, or who might look "Palestinian" as guilty by association. I pray that we recognize the act for what it truly was, "a senseless tragic act by one who was so misguided that he could not interpret his faith, his world or his options correctly. May God's blessing be with the families of the soldiers that were tragically killed, and with the soldiers that were wounded and their families and with all who feel personally the impact of this sad time in our history. May we not hold back in fear but embrace the diversity of this nation with the passion of our Redeemer who prayed from the Cross-, "Forgive Them For They Do Not Know What They Are Doing".

Last Sunday I sat with the presidents of the seven Seminaries of the United Church of Christ and united in prayer asking God to guide not only this church but all who strive to be our Redeemer's Disciples in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We prayed that God's grace would empower each of us to faithfully respond to the challenges of our time, that we might not only experience God's grace on this day but that future generations might experience the grace we knew and go forth guided by the visions we saw.

As you may have already heard, the Evangelism Workshop scheduled for this coming weekend, (Nov. 13 – 14) had to be moved to January 24 – 26 of 2010. The change is caused by the fact that Charlene J. Smith had an accident and will not be able to be with us. We pray that God's grace will be with Charlene and bring healing that she might greet the holidays with enthusiasm and joy. I am inviting suggestions as to how we might organize this time together that it is the most meaningful and fulfilling for all.

This Sunday it will be our pleasure to join in worship with the members of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Jamestown and their pastor, Susan Lester. We are looking forward to this opportunity to share in the fellowship of prayer and conversation as we gather together in Jesus' name.

Soon we will begin to talk about the Christmas Fund Offering. This special offering is one of the ways that the United Church of Christ helps those that have dedicated their life in service in Jesus' name when they have special needs. During the time I have been in NPC, I have drawn upon the support of this offering for pastors (active and retired). Thanks to your support and that of many others we have been able to make a difference at a critical time.

Around the NPC 110609 – 111509

Date	Time	Event	Location
11/7	9:30 am (ct)	Academy of vital Christianity	Valley City
11/8	10:00 am (ct)	CM shares in worship	Jamestown
10/10	10:00 am (ct)	MV Cluster	New Salem
10/10	4:00 pm (ct)	CHYS Finance Committee	Bismarck
10/11	12:00 Noon (ct)	NDHRC Development Comm.	Fargo
10/12	-----	CM at UTS	New Brighton/MN
10/14	-----	NDHRC Board Retreat	Fargo
10/15	10:30 am (ct)	CM shares in worship	Wishek
10/15	3:30 pm (ct)	CM shares in faith dialogue	Jamestown (Check NPCUCC Website <a href="http://www.npcucc.org">www.npcucc.org</a> )