

# The Messenger



## Our Vision:

*Building Believers in God's Love, Who Seek to Share God's Love*



April 2011

Rev Bob Simpson, Pastor

## Thank You, Church Family

Dear Church Family,

I so want to express my deepest appreciation to each and everyone of you who has been there for me, Ruben, my children, my dad, my sister and the list goes on and on during the time my mom was so ill and then after she went to be with our Lord and Savior.

I would love to personally name each of you, but the list would be quite extensive AND I would feel horrible if I left even one of you out.

Thanks to those who prayed relentlessly, persistently and unceasingly for my mom and our family. Thanks to those who brought meals. Thanks to everyone who sent cards. I will say that sympathy cards are some of the MOST beautiful cards there are. Thanks to all of you who have your hand in the Prayer Shawl Ministry.....I was completely overwhelmed that not only did you make my mom a shawl, but you made one for me, one for Ruben, one for my dad, one for my sister....what an amazing blessing! Thanks to everyone who helped in anyway at my mom's memorial service. Those of you who sang.....sang beautifully. Those of you who spoke.....spoke wonderful words of comfort. Thanks to Kelly and Jason Burghart for videotaping the service. Thanks to Melissa and George Colgate for making the slideshow and making copies for us and answering my many dumb computer questions.

A special thank you to Sandi Keairnes (hope I spelled her last name correctly). Thanks for just knowing what to say and hugging me when I needed to be hugged and for just being you.

Thank you to everyone who sent flowers to our house and the church. They were so beautiful!

Thank you to everyone who came to the hospital, all the way to Denver to see my mom. I know that it wasn't easy seeing her like that, but having my church family close by was such an amazing comfort.

Please forgive me if I've forgotten anything or anyone.....it is hard to recall that time. I was definitely living my life in a fog and still feel that I am now, at times.

Much Love and Respect,  
Michelle Perea

### *Here's what's inside this issue:*

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**Do you have something you would like to share with the congregation? Have it added to the Messenger.**

*The FUMC Messenger is looking for submissions from the congregation to keep all of its members up to date on what's happening in our church. The deadline is the 10th of the month. Please email [fumcmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:fumcmessenger@gmail.com)*



Jesus Christ Lives!



# Get Involved!



*"My salvation and my honor depend on God; He is my mighty rock, my refuge."*

-Psalm 62:7



*After two **days** he will revive us; on the **third day** he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.*

-Hosea 6:2

## Special dates

- Fourth Sunday in Lent, April 3, 2011
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 10, 2011
- Holy Week, April 17-23, 2011
- Palm/Passion Sunday, April 17, 2011
- Maundy/Holy Thursday, April 21, 2011
- Good Friday, April 22, 2011
- Holy Saturday, April 23, 2011
- Easter Day, April 24, 2011

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have a Ministry at this church that creates handmade Prayer Shawls. They can be knitted, crocheted, quilted or sewn. We mostly work on the Shawl's at home, saying prayers to ask God to provide healing of the body, mind and spirit for the person who receives the Shawl. We do have fun meeting together and sharing our crafts and stories. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:00am in the upstairs room of the church. We have yarn and some hooks and needles and we can teach you how to crochet or knit. Come experience the gift of giving. For more information, contact:

Marcia Teachout 303-880-5263

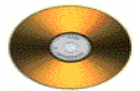
msteachout@comcast.net



*"For it was you who formed my inward parts, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well."  
Psalm 139:13-14 NRSV*

## Youth Group- Recycling

Our youth group recycles inkjet cartridges, laser cartridges, cell phones, and aluminum cans, to raise funds. The funds raised this year benefits the youth mission trip.



In addition, we are now able to recycle DVD's, Laptops, MP3 Players, Digital Cameras, Portable DVD Players, Video Game Consoles, and GPS Devices.



Don't throw it away! Please recycle. It's good for the environment, and our youth group will earn funds.



April 9- Northern Colorado Emmaus Community Gathering. Potluck dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. with worship following. Childcare will be provided. The gathering is open to everyone whether they've been on a walk or not. Come for fellowship, and meet or reunite with friends.

# Learn something new!

## + Christian Symbols +



Coins

The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins – usually shown with a bag or purse – represent Jesus’ betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus’ teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last “mite” (Mark 12:41-44).

## Living in Saturday

Saturday of Holy Week is a strange day for the church. It’s sandwiched between Good Friday, when Jesus died on the cross, and Easter, when he rose.

Certainly, we know the truth and triumph of the resurrection, but until Jesus comes again, we’re living in Saturday. The Lamb of God has been sacrificed, and the curtain of sin that separated us from God has been torn down. Yet we’re still looking forward to – as Jesus said – the renewal of all things.

Although we may be battered and bruised, stumbling, limping or crawling, we shouldn’t wallow in defeat. Instead, we can be confident in the victory Jesus won for us. We can shout with Paul, “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57, NRSV).

While you look back to Friday and forward to Sunday, live victoriously in Saturday. Jesus has won and has run the victory lap ... and he’s coming around again.

–Gregg McCaslin

# Lenten Activities

**April 3-** Service of Healing and Holy Communion. One worship service at 10:00 a.m.

**April 17-** Palm Sunday, Lenten Fair during Sunday School Hour

**April 21-** Maundy Thursday Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

**April 22-** Good Friday Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

**April 22/23-** Prayer Vigil beginning at 8:00 p.m. Friday through 8:00 p.m. Saturday.

**April 23-** Easter Cantata at 7:00 p.m.

**April 24-** Easter! Normal 2 worship services; Traditional at 8:45 and Contemporary at 11. Easter egg hunt during Sunday School hour.

# Bob's Reflection

## Bob's Reflection

April 2011

"You can't tell the players without a program" is a phrase that originated in baseball stadiums and is shouted out by vendors peddling scorecards and lineups for the day's game. It is still relevant today. Being a baseball fan, I've often pushed my way down to the field level before the start of the game where players sometimes sign autographs. This was especially fun when my children were younger and were absolutely thrilled to have a Big Leaguer's signature on a ball or cap or picture. But many times when we'd get back to our seats and I'd show them the autographs, my kids would say, "That's awesome! Who is that guy anyway?" Sometimes all we knew was their number but not their names. Sometimes we knew their names but had no clue what position they played. It's true, "You can't tell the players without a program." And when you do decide to purchase a program, you can find out a lot more about each player. You learn the position they play, where they were born, where they live now, how old they are, what school they attended, how much they weigh and how tall they are. Sometimes you learn about their favorite food or the kind of music they like and whether or not they are single or married. Though you may never actually meet a player, it is possible to have a connection— a relationship with them because you've read and studied the program. You may discover you have some things in common with them and as a result become interested in them as the season progresses.

As Christians, our "program" is the Holy Bible. It is the way we know and connect with the players that have encountered the Living God on the playing field of life. It is the way we discover how much we have in common with these characters, that we can have a relationship with them, and that they can lead us to a deeper relationship with God. John Wesley believed that "the living core of the Christian faith is revealed in Scripture."

As we approach Easter, are you reading your "program?" How much do you really know about some of the players such as Pilate, Pilate's wife, Peter, Malchus, Magdalene, Judas, Caiaphas, Cleopas, Simon of Cyrene, and Barabbas? I'll bet you have some things in common with at least one of these players. The great Passion Play is once again unfolding in our midst. It is the greatest story ever told and we have the chance to enter into it, to connect with it, and to be transformed by it. We can enter the story through "the living core of our faith that is revealed in Scripture." In other words, crack open your Bible, because "You can't tell the players without a program."

May you be overwhelmed by the New Life offered to each of us in and through our Risen Lord Jesus Christ!

Bob

## Nursery News

The kids have all be doing a great job picking up the playroom before going to Sunday School or home. It has been fun watching them get the twinkle in their eyes when it's "sticker time." They have learned responsibility and how to work together to get a job done. I am so proud of each of them. Now, it's time for the reward!

On Sunday, April 10 we will have a party in the nursery! The kids have been looking forward to this time, and I know they will be excited. I would like to have the party begin at 9:30 a.m. I know this means some parents need to bring their children a little earlier. It is my hope that with the kids participating in Sunday School bringing them a little early won't be an inconvenience. If it is please know that your child will still receive a treat and reward even if they cannot make it to the party.

Want a cheap yet fun way to keep the kids entertained? Purchase a punching balloon. I remember playing with them when I was a child, and we recently introduced them to the kids. They absolutely love them. I have found a package of three at the Dollar Tree. The punch balloons have become a treat, and the kids drop everything just to play with them. They will even do an extra clean-up to play with the balloons. Thank you for sharing your children with me. I look forward to seeing them every week.

**GREETERS**

**(8:45 & 11 a.m. Services)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>4-3</b><br/> <b>8:45a</b> Dave Cook &amp;<br/>                 Marlene Bronson<br/> <b>11a</b> Mark Cook</p> | <p><b>4-17</b><br/> <b>8:45a</b> Lind &amp; Sally Weidlich<br/>                 Cogburn Family<br/> <b>4-24</b><br/> <b>8:45a</b> Ted &amp; Lois Huckabee<br/> <b>11a</b> Brandy Partridge &amp;<br/>                 Terry Haduck</p> |
| <p><b>4-10</b><br/> <b>8:45a</b> Betsy Peterson<br/> <b>11a</b> Monte &amp; Karen Savage</p>                       |  |

**LITURGIST**

**(8:45 a.m. Service)**

- 4-3** Warren Wilson  
**4-10** Cindy Miller  
**4-17** Lois Huckabee  
**4-24** Jan Cook

**COMMUNION (4-3)**

- 8:45a** Phil & Linda Neville  
 Mike & Kim Rais  
 Cindy Miller  
**11a** Ken & Brenda Iloff  
 Candice Loya

**USHERS**

**(8:45 a.m. Service)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>4-3</b> Virginia Lindblad &amp;<br/>                 Georgia Johnson<br/> <b>4-10</b> Bob Foster</p> | <p><b>4-17</b> Gene &amp; Janet Caplinger<br/> <b>4-24</b> JM &amp; Michele Shafer</p> |
|--|--|

**FINDING FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP**

**(9:45 a.m.)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>4-3</b> Adult Missions<br/> <b>4-10</b> Worship Committee</p> | <p><b>4-17</b> Trustees<br/> <b>4-24</b> Adult Sunday School</p> |
|---|--|

**CLOTHES CLOSET**

**(9:00 a.m. -12:00 noon Tues & Thu)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>5th</b> Help Needed!<br/> <b>7th</b> Help Needed!<br/> <b>12th</b> Help Needed!<br/> <b>14th</b> Help Needed!</p> | <p><b>19th</b> Help Needed!<br/> <b>21st</b> Help Needed!<br/> <b>26th</b> Help Needed!<br/> <b>28th</b> Help Needed!</p> |
|---|---|

**April Wish List!**

*Colored 8 1/2 x 14 Paper for Bulletins*

*13 & 33 Gal Trash bags*

*Hand Soap Refills*

*Windex*

*Lemonade Powder*

*Pledge Wood Polish*

*Tissues*

*Dish Soap*

*Size 4 and Up Diapers*

*Clorox Clean-Up w/ Bleach*

*Decaf & Regular Coffee*

*Batteries: AA & 9 volt*

*Lysol Toilet Bowl Cleaner*

*Forever Postage Stamps*

*Toilet Paper*

*8oz. Paper Coffee Cups*

*8in. Paper Plates*

*Healthy Snacks for Nursery*

*Baby Wipes*


*Post-it Notes*

*Disinfectant Wipes*

*Small & Large Envelopes*


**Thank You!**



		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	W																																										
		<p><b>March 2011</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			<p><b>Office Hours:</b>  <b>Mon.-Thurs.</b>  <b>8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.</b></p>	 <p>He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.</p> <p><small>1 Peter 1:3, NRSV</small></p>	<p><b>Wo</b>  <b>8:4</b>  <b>11a</b></p>
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<p><b>3 COMMUNION</b> </p> <p>9:45a Fellowship Hour            10a Sunday School            10a 24 Hours Study            4:30p Alpha Course</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>6:30p Stephen Ministry            6:30p Windsor Chorale            7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9a Clothes Closet            12:30p Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>5:45p Pra</p>																																												
<p><b>A</b> <b>P</b> <b>R</b> <b>I</b> <b>L</b></p> 		<p><b>10 MESSENGER DEADLINE</b></p> <p>7:15a Men's Breakfast            9:45a Fellowship Hour            10a Sunday School            10a 24 Hours Study            4:30p Alpha Course</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>6:30p Windsor Chorale            7p Adult Missions            7p Trustees            7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9a Clothes Closet            10a Prayer Shawl Ministry            12:30p Women's Bible Study            4p DAR</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9a Luth            1:30p Patri            5:45p Pra            6:30p You            7p Chanc</p>																																										
		<p><b>17 PALM SUNDAY</b></p> <p>9:45a Fellowship Hour            10a Lenten Fair            10a 24 Hours Study            2p DAR Tea            4:30p Alpha Course</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>6:30p Windsor Chorale            6:30p Stephen Ministry            7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9a Clothes Closet            12:30p Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>20 MES</b></p> <p>5:45p Pra            6:30p You            7p Chanc</p>																																										
		<p><b>24 EASTER</b></p> <p>7:15a Men's Breakfast            9:45a Fellowship Hour            10a Easter Egg Hunt</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>6:30p Windsor Chorale            7p SPR            7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9a Clothes Closet            10a Prayer Shawl Ministry            12:30p Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>1:30p UM            5:30p Fin            5:45p Pra            6:30p You            6:30p Leac            7p Chanc</p>																																										

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
<p><b>Worship Times:</b>                      5a Traditional                      Contemporary</p>	<p><b>May 2011</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<p>1                      9a Craft Session</p>	<p>2                      7a Men's Emmaus</p>
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<p>Worship Group</p>	<p>7                      9a Clothes Closet                      6p RIZZN                      6p 24 Hours Study                      7p Stepping Stones</p>	<p>8                      9a Craft Session</p>	<p>9                      7a Men's Emmaus                      5:30p Emmaus Gathering</p>																																										
<p>Meran Foster Families                      LuciaRose Circle                      Worship Group                      Youth Fellowship                      Gospel Choir</p>	<p>14                      9a Clothes Closet                      6p RIZZN                      6p 24 Hours Study</p>	<p>15                      9a Craft Session</p>	<p>16                      7a Men's Emmaus</p>																																										
<p>SENGER FOLDING                      Worship Group                      Youth Fellowship                      Gospel Choir</p>	<p>21 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>                      9a Clothes Closet                      7p Worship Service</p>	<p>22 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>                      9a Craft Session                      7p Worship Service</p>	<p>23                      7a Men's Emmaus</p>																																										
<p>W General Mtg                      Finance Meeting                      Worship Group                      Youth Fellowship                      Eldership Council                      Gospel Choir</p>	<p>28                      9a Clothes Closet                      6p RIZZN</p>	<p>29                      9a Craft Session</p>	<p>30                      7a Men's Emmaus</p>																																										

Celebrating a April Birthdays




1st Mark Cook  
 6th Monte Savage  
 9th Sandy Lee  
 10th Caleb Anderson  
 11th Duncan Hopkinson  
 12th Sarah Spirek  
 13th Etta May Hojio  
 14th Elliot Ball  
 14th Dorothy Hojio  
 14th Robby Peterson  
 15th Jack Robbins  
 16th Matthew Anderson  
 16th Greg Haddock  
 16th Alex Klema  
 18th Emmy DeBey  
 18th Betsy Peterson  
 19th Judy Chamberlin  
 20th Warren Wilson  
 21st John Berens Jr.  
 21st Marquis Fraker  
 21st Sandi Keairnes  
 21st Mary Alice Lindblad  
 22nd Jill Gunter  
 22nd Dan Klema  
 23rd Maddy Unitt  
 24th Margaret Harris  
 25th Katie Cogburn  
 25th Ann Pratt  
 27th Patricia Ferrell

April Anniversaries



3rd Jerry & Kathy Carson  
 3rd Steve & Vicki Christian  
 6th Don & Lori Baker  
 12th Jack & Nancy Teeter  
 18th Bo & Sandra Trawick  
 25th Doug & Tina Rosenthal  
 27th Nick & Kerry Spirek




## PUZZLE

### FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.

 1. Jesus 2. weary 3. endured 4. opposition	5. cross 6. endured 7. scorning 8. shame	 1. Jesus 2. lose 3. pioneer 4. sinners	5. perfecter 6. him 7. faith 8. hand	 1. eyes 2. us 3. joy 4. heart	5. right 6. grow 7. God 8. throne
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"... fixing our \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ For the \_\_\_\_\_ set before \_\_\_\_\_  
 he \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ its \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 sat down at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Consider \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ such \_\_\_\_\_  
 from \_\_\_\_\_, so that you will not \_\_\_\_\_  
 and \_\_\_\_\_." HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV



### Joke Corner



Q. Why is everyone so tired on April 1?  
 A. Because they've just finished a long, 31 day March!

Q. How does the Easter bunny keep his fur neat?  
 A. What a hare-brush



# From Our Hearts to His...

**Opening Prayer:** Jesus, I come to you to present to you my whole self. I know, in your presence, I am cleansed. With your touch, I am healed. I pray that you will sit with me for a little while, to hold me and purify me in this moment. Thank you for your everlasting love. Only with your help, shall I be cleansed. Amen

**Application:** First, find a place to sit or lay where you will not be interrupted. Make sure you are comfortable and relaxed. Close your eyes, and dive into your heart. Explore deep within, sit in that safe place and be willing to give of yourself completely. Ask for Christ's presence. Whisper "In His presence, I reveal myself, I give myself." Clear your mind of all distractions, push out all other thoughts, and replace with full focus of Jesus Christ sitting with you. Take a deep breath. Feel the air going in and out of your lungs. Think of what is hurting you from within. What needs to be released? What needs His embrace? Where do you find a solid wall, the wall that reaches as far and as wide as you can see? What is holding you back today? It is time to make it shatter and release it. Take that pain, whatever it is that is restricting you, dig it out. Keep digging. Don't stop digging until you have it all, in this huge pile before Christ. Focus on Him. Look in His eyes. What do you see in His eyes?

**Prayer:** Jesus, here is my pile. I ask for your help to remove it from me. It stands in my way. I trip over it. It is heavy. I carry it everywhere. It drags the ground, leaving a crater behind me. My energy is drained. I cannot carry it any longer. Jesus, I free myself from this rubbish. I own it no longer. Instead, I leave it here. I know that with you I am strong. I am free from my burdens. I know you want to take it from me. You do not want me to hurt. I reach my hands out to you. Right now, this moment, I drop all that holds me back, and I turn to you. I give to you all that is me. My will is not mine. I replace it with the will of my Abba Father. I am no longer in shackles. I am freed to live in your name. Only you satisfy my soul. Will you hold me, as I step into a new place beside you? Amen.

**Application:** What does Jesus say in response to you? Focus on his actions. Imagine the pile you presented to him crumbling down, melting away, and turning into a clear stream of water that flows away. Notice the growth around you: the trees with leaves, the flowers of many colors, the green grass cooling your feet, the warmth of the sun soaking into your skin, the song of birds in the trees. Imagine as Christ touches your hand, you are released. You feel the rush throughout your body. You are being cleansed. The air that now fills your lungs is fresh; it's pure; it's clean; it's all brand new. Stay here, in this moment, for as long as you need. Be there with Jesus. Nothing will interfere with this moment, for it your personal moment with Him. Focus on Him.

**Closing prayer:** Jesus, thank you for spending this special time with me today. I pray that anytime I begin to bog down, that I reach out to you. I pray that my mind, my thoughts, my actions are directed in a way that honors you and your name. I pray that the fruits of the spirit fill me. In your arms, I am truly free. I am energized in your holy spirit. I am reminded of your grace as it completes me. Thank you for loving me and giving me this moment. I praise your holy name and step forward renewed with your strength. Thank you for cleansing me and rebuilding my soul to this special place. Amen

-Inspired by God, For God

MKC

All praise goes to our Living God. If you enjoy this writing or any other writing that honors our Father, thank Him. He is the one that gifted us with our words. He gets all the credit. To the most Holy One up high, we thank you, we love you, praise you Father almighty. In His name, we live!!!!!!!

*If you are interested in submitting poetry and/or other writings to "From Our Hearts to His" in praise of our Loving Heavenly Father, please send it to*

***fumcmessenger@gmail.com***

*Or drop it off in the Messenger box outside the office.*

Dear Mom,

Where do I start? There is not enough paper for me to write down everything I need to say to you. There aren't enough trees to make the paper. Lately, it feels like there just isn't enough of anything. There definitely was not enough time with you. Time with you while you were well, and time with you while you were sick. The time was not enough. The time has been replaced with an abundance of tears. There are plenty of tears and I know that you would not want me to cry, but I also know that you would want me to do whatever I needed to do to try to cope with this incredible pain and loss.

From the moment I was born, I was connected to your hip. For the first 4 ½ years of my life, I wanted only you. I was not at all happy when you weren't around. I clearly remember that first day of kindergarten when I threw quite a fit in that pretty dress, rolling around in the dirt and on the floor of the school bus, because I didn't want to be away from you. You were and still are my security blanket. You made me feel safe and now I just feel empty.

My life is forever changed because you were in it and now you are not, but I still feel you. I wake up thinking of you and wishing and hoping that you are still here. I know that I'm being selfish. I think about those thirty-six days from the time they told you that you had leukemia to the time you took that last breath. I was holding your hand when they gave you that horrible news and I was holding your hand when you took your last breath. There were many times during those thirty-six days that I sat and held your hand. Some days your hand would be swollen from the fluid building up inside of you and some days, your hand would be very soft and frail. Always, I could feel you telling me that it would all be okay. I was often reminded of how you would hold my hand when I was a little girl.

You were so strong through all of it. You were and still are my hero. I know now looking back that you were fighting mostly for us. I know you needed to give us as much time as possible to come to terms with this insanely, horrific monster that came into our lives and turned everything upside down.

My life growing up was chaotic to say the least, but you were always there making the best of every situation. Giving and giving and giving and then when I thought you couldn't possibly have anything else left to give, you would give even more. You taught me how to be a mom. You taught me about unconditional love. You made me the strong woman I am today. I will always remember you asking me how I got so strong? I thought it was a funny question, because all of my strength came from you. Did you ever complain? No, you just kept on, showing us that life was worth living no matter what.

There are so many memories, good ones and ones that aren't so good, but regardless I want you to know that I wouldn't change a single minute of it and I would do just about anything to go back and do it all again. I would give just about anything to spend even one more minute with you. There is that selfishness again.

Lately, many people have asked me if I need anything or to call them if I need anything, at all. What I need is you back here with us. I know that it is not possible. I know that where you are is where you need to be. You are with our Lord and Savior. You are at peace. You are not hurting. But, I will tell them today, at this service, that what they can do for me is promise to NEVER take one moment for granted. Always, tell those around you that you love them. Tell them every day, tell them several times a day. Let go of all the feelings of hate or resentment or whatever is keeping them from feeling loved. That is what they can do for me and that is how I can pay tribute to you. Because you were so forgiving and loving. My children love you so much. Ruben loves you so much. I love you period, end of statement.

Thank you for showing me all that love, for being proud of me, for making me feel safe in a world that is far from safe. I think it was Kelly Burghart who recently posted something on my facebook page that you were my biggest fan. I know now that she is right. You were always there cheering me on and loving me through everything. I could not have been blessed with a better mother, a better best friend or a more beautiful soul to have in my life.

You know that I can ramble on and on.....how will I ever make it through all the days to come without picking up the phone and telling you about this and that? I will make it by the grace of God and by the love and support of those around me.

I will not say good bye to you. I will only say that I know I will see you again and when I do we will embrace and hold each other and smile.

I love you.

Love,

Michelle Perea

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER FUN

If you have the name and address of a soldier serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, please contact Lee Cochran 460-0342 or Jaime Cummings 303-596-4206. Please help us connect with soldiers to let them know they are loved and prayed for.

If you know of someone who is pregnant, is sick, has been hospitalized or is going to have surgery, please call Jaime Cummings at 303-596-4206, Ken Iliff at 674-1034 or Krista, church secretary, at 686-2368.

Thank you for helping us reach out.

### The next Emmaus gathering is:

**When: Saturday, April 9th @ 5:30PM**

**Where: First UMC Windsor— 503 Walnut St**

**<http://northcoloemmaus.org/>**



There are many opportunities available for you to volunteer your time and gifts God has given you in One Hour Ministry. Please contact Jaime Cummings 303-596-4206.

### ***Do you have something you would like to share with the congregation? Have it added to the Messenger.***

*The FUMC Messenger is looking for submissions from the congregation to keep all of its members up to date on what's happening in our church. The deadline is the 10th of the month.*

*Please email [fumcmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:fumcmessenger@gmail.com)*



**Children's Sunday School is bursting with fun!** Beginning today the kids will be collecting pillow pets to donate to local hospitals. Pillow Pets must be new, with tags still attached. A donation box will be located in the foyer area. The kids hope to collect 75 pillow pets for sick children by April 30. On **Sunday, April 17** there will be a Lenten fair during Sunday School, and on **Easter Sunday, April 24** there will be an Easter egg hunt and a visit from the **real Easter bunny** during Sunday School! Candy is needed to fill the eggs. **If you can donate a bag of candy please turn it in to the church office.** Invite your friends and have them join us! If you have any questions please contact Kerry Spirek at 576-9915.

### Your Church Leaders

Pastor.....Bob Simpson  
 Office Manager..... Krista Goddard  
 Youth Coord.....Deb Campbell  
 Leadership Council ..... Mike Rais  
 SPR Chair.....Mark Cook  
 Sunday School Superintendent  
 .....Kerry Spirek  
 Trustees..... Bruce Hyink  
 Finance Chair .....Larry Hintz  
 Financial Secretary..... Bill Pratt  
 Treasurer .....Marlene Bronson  
 UMW.....Vera Chipman  
 Historian /Librarian...Tracy & Debbie Bates  
 Comm. Steward.....Terry and  
 Judy Haduck; JM & Michele Shafer  
 One-Hour Min.....Jaime Cummings  
 Head Usher..... Bob Foster  
 Head Lay Leader.....Monte Savage  
 Vestments Arranger..... Vicki Christian  
 Boy Scout Rep..... Eric Harris  
 Choir Director .....Ann Pratt  
 Organist..... Emma DeBey  
 Pianist.....Connie Hill  
 Newsletter.....Melissa Colgate  
 Leadership Council.....Mike Rais,  
 Shanna Hintz, Monte Savage, Jan  
 Cook, Warren Wilson, Sandy Lee,  
 Jaime Cummings, Lindsay Savage  
 (Youth Rep)

### Office Hours

**8:00am—3:00pm**

**Monday—Thursday**

### *Messenger Articles:*

*Please email [Melissa Colgate](mailto:Melissa Colgate)  
[FUMCMessenger@gmail.com](mailto:FUMCMessenger@gmail.com)*

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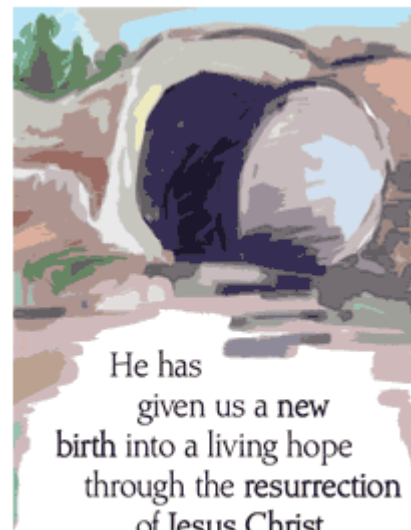
*Dated material for April 2011.*



Thank you for being part of our church family. May many prayers flow through you, and may many answers to prayer come to you in God's love.



Welcome to  this house of  
**PR****ISE**



He has  
given us a new  
birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ  
from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV