



The Grapevine
Newsletter
October 2011
Issue 10, Volume 4



United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

☞ Serving Our Congregation and Community ☞

Events and Church Happenings:

- **Sunday, October 2nd**
- Communion
- Sunday, 6:00 pm Contemplative Service resumes for the Fall/Winter
- **Monday, October 10th**
- **Ad Council Mtg 7:00 pm**
- **Saturday, October 15th**
- **Sunshine Mountain Preschool Halloween Fundraiser at Brush Creek Pavillion**
- **Monday, October 17th**
- **Worship Comm. Mtg. 7:00 pm**
- **Sunday, October 23rd**
- Pastor's Pantry
- **Monday, October 24th**
- United Nations Day
- UMCEV hosts Simple Supper
- **Sunday, October 30th**
- **All Saints Sunday**
- **Monday, October 31st**
- UMW hosts Simple Supper



Sundays in Eagle

(333 2nd Street)

10:00 am

Traditional Worship

Children's Church

- Grades: K - 2 & Grades 3 - 5
(We are on a summer schedule)
- Nursery: Newborn - 2 years old

6:00 pm

Contemplative Service

Sundays in Gypsum

(118 Eagle Street)

4:00 pm Chapel Service

Pastor's Corner

☞ Pastor Sid Spain

One of my greatest pleasures in life is watching Denny play soccer. It is a parable of determination. He isn't the biggest player on the field, but he doesn't seem to notice. His focus is on the ball and on keeping it in play for his teammates. Denny mostly plays midfield; he drops into defense when the opponent attacks, and crosses the line into offense when they drive toward the goal. Every game is a parable of determination, an ever-shifting drama of failure and success, frustration and satisfaction. It is a parable of determination and it is a parable of joy. I like watching Denny play soccer even when the end of play is tragedy. However the game ends, the teams line up and in a parade of high-fives they honor each other for a game well-played. Out come the snacks and juice boxes, and, as the players cross the field on the way to their ride home, they relive the high points of the game and get ready for the rest of the day. I like watching Denny play soccer—actually, I like watching him *play* anything.

Play is one of the most underappreciated gifts of God. Wonderful things happen when we play. When we play we are free to take chances and fail without suffering great loss. *Play allows us to make mistakes that are not mistakes, just other ways to do what, in the real world, we are not allowed to try.* "Play," Diane Ackerman teaches, "is our brain's favorite way of learning." Joan Chittister writes, "When we learn to play better, we learn to love better, too. We become easier to live with, better to be around, more creative when we work, more full of the joy of life always. Play is the fresh air of the soul. It is meant to enliven us. It is meant to renew our energies regularly. It is the recess of life."

I remember recess. It was like coffee and donuts after church—sometimes the antidote to a grim hour in the serious sanctuary. It is hard to be grim with a sinful bite of *Krispy Kream* in your mouth. Billy Sunday knew what happens to religion when we leave out the fun. "The trouble with many men is that they have got just enough religion to make them miserable." Where is the good news, where the joy—where the freedom to play? Beware the man or woman who has forgotten how to play. That is when the bell begins to toll. But there is another bell that rings, the bell that calls us to lay our burdens down and hit the playground. Jesus is already there with all the other kids, some of them still playing after eight or nine decades in the game.



Morning Prayer

*Almighty God, in whom
I find life and health and
strength, and through
whose mercy I am
clothed and fed, give me a
thankful and faithful heart.
In the name and spirit of
Christ. Amen.*

The XY Zingers, September 4th, 2011



Jackson Nation Stevens and Augustine Nation Stevens Baptized August 28, 2011



Clelia Federica Basso
Baptized September 18, 2011

Inspirational Thought

“Dr. Leila Denmark retired at 103 as America’s oldest practicing physician. She says of play, ‘Anything on earth you want to do is play. Anything on earth you have to do is work. Play will never kill you but work will. I have never worked a day in my life.’ Make all of life fun. Make all your work a game.”

—From *The Monastic Way*, July 2011, Joan Chittister



In the family - even your church family, is anyone left behind or forgotten?

Two men met at a bus stop and struck up a conversation. One of them complained of family problems. Finally, the other man said, "You think you have family problems? Listen. A few years ago I met a young widow with a grown-up daughter, and we got married. Later my father married my stepdaughter. That made my stepdaughter my stepmother and my father became my stepson. Also, my wife became mother-in-law of her father-in-law.

"Then the daughter of my wife, my stepmother, had a son. This boy was my half-brother because he was my father's son, but he was also the son of my wife's daughter, which made him my wife's grandson. That made me the grandfather of my half-brother.

"This was nothing until my wife and I had a son. Now the half-sister of my son, my stepmother, is also the grandmother. This makes my father the brother-in-law of my child, whose stepsister is my father's wife. I'm my stepmother's brother-in-law, my wife is her own child's aunt, my son is my father's nephew and I'm my own grandfather. Now – tell me about your family problems."

I don't know if sorting out your family is a problem. A bigger issue for many of us is that we want more from family life than just knowing who's who, and more than we're presently getting. One of the most common complaints I hear from families is that they are not close. They may be close in proximity, but still not feel close as a family. They may live next door or even in the same house, but feel more like strangers.

Hawaiians have a powerful word for family: 'ohana. 'Ohana means that everyone in the family matters – and they know they matter. As Lilo says in Lilo and Stitch, "'Ohana means family. Family means no one is left behind - or forgotten.'" Families that value closeness work hard to keep anyone from feeling left behind or forgotten.

In my family, closeness is not so much about latitude as about attitude. We live far apart from one another, so we need a willingness to do what it takes. We feel closest when we feel understood, when we feel loved and when we look forward to time we can spend together. When we succeed, no one feels left behind – or forgotten.

A reader in Hawaii once wrote to tell me that the CEO of one of the state's largest banks was considering a run for governor. Since he was well-liked, he seemed to have a good chance of winning. But, before filing papers, he changed his mind, stating that he wanted to spend more time with his family. Not that elected officials can't be family-oriented, but he reasoned he needed more time at home than the job allowed.

Ronald A. Young, in the "Honolulu Advertiser," praised the decision. **"No matter what you accomplish in the business world or the social world," he said, "if you fail 'ohana, then you have not accomplished much. Failure or success does not lie in the material wealth you provide them. It is measured by what of yourself you give to them."**

And that's the question, isn't it? What of myself do I give to them? What am I willing to give to 'ohana? Because no one should be left behind – or forgotten.

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.



October Birthdays

- 10/02 Brian Collett
- 10/03 Bev Kunkel
- 10/03 Bob Westfall
- 10/05 Ken Brown
- 10/06 Donna Gress
- 10/06 Dave TerBush
- 10/07 Sam Boyd
- 10/07 Amanda Lingle
- 10/09 Phil Hancock
- 10/09 Jack Sibley
- 10/10 Madison Arnold
- 10/10 Samantha Arnold
- 10/11 Finnegan Bradbury
- 10/11 Emily Pritchard
- 10/12 Ceily Patriacca
- 10/14 Judy Clock
- 10/15 Zach Bryant
- 10/15 Scott Lingle
- 10/16 Rick Arnhold
- 10/16 Bill Johnson
- 10/17 Christie Plymell
- 10/17 Cliff Zinda
- 10/18 Megan Cochrane
- 10/18 Darlene Pritchard
- 10/19 Marv Southerlan
- 10/21 Christina Martinez
- 10/22 Noah Arnhold
- 10/22 Mary Kessler
- 10/22 Christy Pope
- 10/25 Brooks Blizzard
- 10/25 Misry Ford
- 10/25 Kurt Keiser
- 10/27 Shirley Nolan
- 10/29 Henry Hancock
- 10/30 Kim Doss
- 10/30 Bill Harris

A Taste of Heaven & History Cookbook

On sale now! \$10.00/copy. They are wonderful and make excellent Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts. Look for them after church or on sale during office hours. Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 - 2:00



United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

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Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.

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www.valleyumc.com

ReThink Church!
www.10thousanddoors.org

Church and Community Picnic (photos courtesy of the Gress' & Schapiros')



Thank you to Our Hosts:
The Fischers



Scriptures for the month of October

- Oct 2nd: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
- Oct 9th: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
- Oct 16th: Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
- Oct 23rd: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46
- All Saints: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
- Oct 30th: Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12