

## ~Staying Connected~

\*A letter from the desk of Pastor Steve-Orono United Methodist Church\*

### -Week of November 8, 2009-

We are truly blessed to have our grandchildren living so close to us; spending time with them brings much joy and love to our lives. Being with them also brings wonderful "teaching moments" which often connect with me in special ways. Here's an example of one such moment; last week I had Owen (almost 4) and Lily (almost 2) with me as we headed out for some errands. One of the chores on my "to-do list" included getting the car washed, so I decided to make that our first stop. Owen is a car wash veteran by now, so he knew what to expect. However for Lily, this was her first car wash encounter (at least, the first she could remember.)

Driving through a car wash can be a scary experience for a young one; first there are unfamiliar people spraying water at you, then you find yourself in a dark tunnel with all sorts of noise-while at the same time scary looking tentacles which resemble an octopus are swiping at your car! Little Lily was not happy with this car wash encounter, so as we entered the tunnel, I turned around and held her hand. As we made our way through, I could see the alarm in her eyes, and she even started to cry a little when the "octopus thing" started attacking our car. Each time she got scared, she stopped looking out the window and instead looked at me. The fact someone who knew and loved her was with her comforted her, and because of that, she made it through the experience just fine as we exited that dark tunnel into the sunlight with a shiny and clean car!

Just like Lily, we too encounter what may be described as dark tunnels which may bring with them uncertainty and therefore scary moments. To whom do you look during those times? Time and time again in the Old Testament we are reminded of the faithfulness of God during difficult "dark tunnels." From the New Testament we are reminded of the tenderness of Jesus' words when he reminds us that *"Lo I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* May we be comforted by these words, and may I remind you that your church family at the Orono UMC is also here for you, ready to hold your hand when those dark tunnels come into your life. All you have to do is ask!

### ~Sharing Scripture~

I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.  
(John 14:18)

### ~Looking Ahead~

\*A reminder for all who received "Investment Sheets" (pledge forms) to bring them to church this Sunday (Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>) so that we may collect the information, and prepare our budget for the Charge Conference coming later this month. For those of you who have not been with us the past two weeks, please see enclosed letter. Thank you!

\*I would like to invite you to meet me at church this Saturday morning at 9:00. After some coffee, we will pair-up and visit neighborhoods in Orono to handout invitational fliers which we've had produced. We are going to keep it simple, just knock on some doors, identify ourselves, and hand each person a flier inviting those we meet to our church. For empty houses, we will leave a flier with a "sorry we missed you" note attached. I know schedules are busy, so we will aim to be done by 11:00. Hope you can join our "invitation party!"

\*The adult study group will begin a new series this Sunday called "Breaking the Code," which is a study on Revelation. The study includes a book and DVD, and is great at explaining what Revelation is really all about (it's not as scary as you think!) Study begins at 9:30am; don't feel as if you must attend each session.

\*A bell choir is being "resurrected" at the Orono UMC! Would you like to join in? See or call Barb for details (866-4150.)

\*Church council will meet at 7pm on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. All are invited.

\*An ecumenical Thanksgiving service will take place at 4pm on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Church of Universal Fellowship (Orono.) This will be a wonderful service with many folks from our church family participating; make plans to be there with us!

\*Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> is an important date for us; please plan to attend our Charge Conference meeting with our district superintendent (Pat MacHugh.) The evening will begin with an SPRC meeting at 6pm, followed by a service led by Pat at 7pm.

*\*For more about the life of our church, including the latest edition of "The Spire" newsletter, visit our website at [www.oronoumc.com](http://www.oronoumc.com).*

**-Blessings and peace to you and yours-**  
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