

**LONGS PEAK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Welcoming, Embracing, Nurturing, Serving

APRIL 2020



Pastor Steve Reinhard

Pastor's Ponderings... "Go Deeper!"

In some ways, this health crisis has prompted an "Imposed Sabbath." God built Sabbath and rest time into Creation, but in our culture these practices are often all but ignored. Through this crisis, what can God teach us about our vital need for recreation (re-creation) to flourish in our lives? God created us, and God continually wants to recreate us.

During a time of quarantine in our homes, recognize the gift of time God is giving you so that, instead of going stir crazy and getting cabin fever, you will take this gift of precious time to:

1. Go deeper in the Word of God.
2. Go deeper in prayer.
3. Go deeper in relationship with the most important people in your life.

1. Go deeper in the Word of God.

- Start with the Gospel of Mark. It is the earliest, shortest, and most concise of the four Gospels. Then I like to recommend that you go to the back of the New Testament and read forward. Why? Because the letters of the New Testament are not arranged in chronological order but from the longest letter (Romans) to the shortest letters, like 1, 2, and 3 John and Philemon. So, save Revelation for later, and begin with Jude. Then read through the 3 letters of John, 1 and 2 Peter, James, and so on. You will find yourself having a great feeling of accomplishment as you will be

able to read 5 or 6 books of the Bible in less than half an hour!

- Make use of the Upper Room daily devotional guide with monthly publications of scripture, stories written by people all over the world, and prayer. If you need one of the booklets, let me know, and I will get it to you. Or you can find it for free every day at upperroom.org.
- Another great resource from the United Methodist Church is The Upper Room Disciplines, a book of 365 daily devotionals, with a new edition every year. You can find the paperback and digital version through the United Methodist Publishing House or on Amazon.

2. Go deeper in prayer.

Many people tell me they don't know how to pray. Here are some recommendations:

- Talk to God just like you would a good friend or close family member. Tell God whatever is on your mind.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer.
- Pray from the Psalms. Everywhere it talks about God, pray to God.
- Use the **PRAYER** acronym:

P raise

R epent

A sk

Y ield to God's will.

R espond to your prayer by acting on it.

3. Go deeper in relationship with the most important people in your life.

Spend true quantity and quality time with the people you love. Make a commitment every day to talk for at least a half hour with your loved ones who live with you, with a focus on listening. Pray with them (with Bible reading and devotional time together.) Play with them (board games, walks, puzzles, reading, singing). This time may also be shared with other family and friends by phone, FaceTime, text, email, and even letter writing.

At the same time, always remember those who live alone. How will you be their family through this lonely, fearful time? If you do live alone, how will you reach out to others, and find your own burden lessened in the connection?

I pray that through this uncertain time, God will create in us unbreakable habits to:

- 1. Go deeper in the Word of God.**
- 2. Go deeper in prayer.**
- 3. Go deeper in relationship with the most important people in your life.**

Then, through this crisis and when other crises come, we will know very well the compassionate healing gifts that God has for us all.

**Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve**



Associate Pastor Phil

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens; a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a

time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:18, NIV)

What odd times we find ourselves living right now, right? There are times where this feels like the script to a really poorly written film – one with preposterous events and storylines that aren't allowed to properly evolve before there is a rapid change of events. Its dizzying and nauseating at times. There hardly seems like there is a "season" for much of anything in the past few weeks. So many groups and venues are canceling or postponing events for the next many months out of an abundance of precaution, Longs Peak United Methodist Church notwithstanding. We've suspending in-person worship and all in-person meetings for the time being. Sunday School classes and Youth Group are looking at what it will look like to move to virtual meetings (and we appreciate the patience while we figure out what that all means). Baptisms, funerals, Confirmation, and so much else are all on hold for now. (Note: The Rummage Sale scheduled for late April is cancelled at this time. We will reschedule at a later time). I'm honestly not even sure what to think about summer mission trips yet (I promise to keep you apprised as plans are solidified!). Its disorienting to say the least!

On the other hand, when I'm not hosting this online video meeting, or hosting that Facebook Live event, or listening to one of the many phone conferences I've been a part of in the past two weeks, I am feeling a little bit of shift in the pace of my routine. Working exclusively from home has certainly presented its share of challenges but it has also presented me with opportunities to connect with a lot of people whom I, otherwise, may not have connected were it not for the crisis we seem to find ourselves in. I've found time to exercise, clean my home, and give my dog the loving affection for which he so desperately longs. While I've had to postpone some upcoming travel plans, I am also soaking up the opportunity to breathe a little deeper (when I actually remember to do it) and to pray a little more often. While I don't think God has caused this horrendous virus to happen, I do believe with all of my heart that

God is using this opportunity to say, "Come to me, all you who are weary, and I will give you rest" - Matthew 11:28. God is offering us the gift of turning from the things that have, for far too long, demanded our attention and recalibrating us toward the love of God. I've heard stories of people being kinder to one another recently and offering a bit more patience. I'm hearing the stories that make me think the best is coming out in many right now. It is my prayer that when we are able to return to being with one another in groups that we do not forget the sense of desire to remain in community with one another we have right now. Let's not stop reaching out to one another in honest compassion and care! Let's dig deep within and keep being the hands and feet of Christ that we are so strongly demonstrating now. Amen, may it be so.

**Choose Kind,
Pastor Phil**



Kay W. Lloyd

APRIL MUSIC NOTES

My newsletter articles are generally filled with the activities of the music ministry groups, all that we are in preparation for, and upcoming performances for our services and for our community. During this time, however, like all churches in our community, our voices and bells have been silenced by the response to the Coronavirus. I continue to share music links with our choir and handbell members in hopes that we will be soon be together and pick up where we left off – in bringing great music in praise and worship to the Lord we serve. It has been a difficult time for Gary and I as we are generally singing or playing in groups (inside and outside of church) or leading these groups. We have been somewhat lost in the midst of this crisis – trying to find our way along a path without making music and the fellowship of others. And we know that some of the music ministry is feeling the same way. For many of us, music refreshes our soul and lifts our spirits.

We look forward to connecting with you all again soon – either through our weekly rehearsals or through Sunday morning services. As we look ahead to Palm Sunday,

Holy Week, and Easter – it will be a different season for all of us at LPUMC. We continue to pray for our community, our church, and for all of you – knowing that God has not forsaken us and that we can still celebrate the resurrected Christ in the midst of uncertainty. We encourage you all to:

4 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; 5 make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, 6 with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn— shout for joy before the LORD, the King. Psalm 98:4-6



Katie Pekarek

OUTREACH AND CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

A season of change is upon us again, a defining change for all of us. Outreach to our families and our community is evolving quickly. How we utilize and connect through technology will become key. I invite all of you to connect with our Facebook, website, and Instagram. We have live events, devotions, curriculum, and worship services there to connect with each of you. We are in this together and the way we spread love expands!

**Spread Love,
Katie Pekarek**



It's OK to be human...

An important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions

we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other. God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. Part of God's plan is for each of us to turn to others for help when we need it.

So when you are experiencing difficult times, don't struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: **Phyllis Crow, 303-906-5055** or **John Mees, 303-506-7979**. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!



Jan Spitler, President

United Methodist Women will more than likely not be meeting in April and possibly not in May. We are in a scary and unusual situation. If the schedule changes, everyone will be notified by email or by phone for those who don't have email. Jurisdiction and Conference events have been postponed until September. We haven't heard about the District meeting that was to be held at Rinn United Methodist Church on May 30th, but it will probably be cancelled. Also, we will inform everyone when we receive that information. We thought we would share a prayer from the United Methodist Women website.

Heavenly Father, we come to you in this moment of uncertainty and uncharted territory--facing this unprecedented global pandemic. Amid universal fear, panic, confusion and anxiety, please remind us that you are the God that calmed the storm and made the winds to cease. We cry out to you! Hear our prayer O God of peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

We pray that all of you are healthy and taking precautions to stay that way. We need to keep in mind that God is in charge and that we can trust Him.

Blessings to all,
Jan Spitler
President, UMW



*Rebekah Fisher and
Danielle Hagedorn*

Local organizations are in need of our support during this challenging time. Here is an update on three that we work with regularly.

HOPE: is still offering nightly meals and has recently added in shower times at both of their locations. They are in need of volunteers to help staff the new shower shifts. In addition, they are in need of monetary donations to help cover the cost of additional supplies they are in need of at this time.

OUR Center: is still accepting food and hygiene items as well as monetary donations to help meet the increased demand they are seeing for their services.

Agape Safe Haven: has had to make some adjustments and are asking people to drop off food for meals which will be prepared by the guests at the main shelter. For more information on how you can support each of these organizations contact them directly and consider following them on Facebook for the most up-to-date information on each.

OUR Center: <https://www.ourcenter.org/> or 303-772-5529

HOPE: <https://hopeforlongmont.org/> or 720-494-4673

Agape Safe Haven: <https://www.agapelongmont.org/> or 303-774-7994



Prayer Campaign

Thank you to everyone who showed up at church to pray or who prayed at home. I have heard that some prayer warriors have had answers to prayers, God winks and nudges from the Holy Spirit. A huge thank you to Phil, Katie, and Jake for being at the church for hours to make sure that there were always two people at the church the whole time. Thank you to Donna and Greg for their contributions as well. I would like to encourage everyone to continue to pray for our congregation at this uncertain time. If you need extra support our Stephen Ministers are available. We might not be able to meet in person, but we certainly can talk over the phone. You can call John Mees at 303-506-7979 or Phyllis Crow at 303-906-5055.



February 2020 Donations were much improved over January. However, we expect March to be anemic due to the Corona Virus shut down. Please remember that we have Payroll and Operating Expense obligations that must be met to continue our ministry with an eye to the future and that with God's Grace this difficult time will pass. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

| | Feb. 2020 | 2020 YTD | 2019 YTD |
|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Donations | \$38,225 | \$66,146 | \$67,978 |
| Expenses | \$38,678 | \$76,457 | \$81,810 |
| Difference | (\$448) | (\$10,311) | (\$13,832) |



March Worship Service Attendance

| Sunday: | 9 AM | 10:30 AM | Total: |
|---------|------|----------|--------|
| March 1 | 101 | 72 | 173 |
| March 8 | 82 | 67 | 149 |

March Online Worship Service Views

| Sunday: | Total Views: |
|----------|--------------|
| March 15 | 153 |
| March 22 | 258 |
| March 29 | |



Holy Week

Holy Week is coming, even if we can't be together in person. Please check out our YouTube channel – [LPUMC IT](#) to see recordings of our Sunday Services.

LPUMC Staff

Rev. Steve Reinhard – Lead Pastor

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Rev. Philip Rogers – Associate Pastor

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*Katie Pekarek - Outreach and Children's
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Kay Lloyd – Music Ministry

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Alex Anderson – Office Manager

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Paula Muncy – Pianist

*Rev. Sandy Stewart – Deacon-in-
Residence*

Glorie Gitonga – Kenya Social Worker

Rev. Granville Smythe - Retired

Pastor Charlene Smythe - Retired

Ministers – Those Who Call Jesus, Lord



Happy Easter!



| Day: | Name: |
|-------------|--|
| April 1 | Seth Hagedorn Katie Pekarek Kaila Wisheart |
| April 2 | Sauvren Reddick |
| April 4 | Jennie Fenton Nadine Nelson Arlene Stiller |
| April 6 | Linda Cochran |
| April 7 | Dolores Elkins |
| April 8 | Susan Cooper Nancy Tucker |
| April 12 | Tammi Moin |
| April 13 | Stephanie Ohlsen |
| April 15 | Sandy Stewart |
| April 17 | Daniel Ohlsen Kevin Osler |
| April 20 | Amanda Billow Frances Wilson |
| April 21 | Thomas Anderson Shirley Cupp |
| April 22 | Judy Scrimshire |
| April 24 | James Jolly |
| April 26 | Joy Long |
| April 30 | Melissa Hornbaker |