

Longs Peak United Methodist Church

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Welcoming, Embracing, Nurturing, Serving

May 2020 Newsletter



Pastor Steve Reinhard

Pastor's Ponderings... "Moving Forward..."

Dear People of Longs Peak United Methodist Church, Dearly and Eternally Loved by God, This will be my last installment of "Pastor's Ponderings" to you as your Lead Pastor. As you might imagine, my newsletter article is *not about me*. My article is about the future of God's Church through the Longs Peak faith family and about continuing to build strong, loving relationships among Staff, leadership, the people of our church, and the people of our community. In large part, my thoughts are also related to *building a strong, loving relationship with your new Lead Pastor, Pastor Jeremiah Harris, from the very outset of his tenure here.*

Recently I recommended to the leadership of our church that we institute "The Mutual Encouragement Action Plan" (or something like it) which was collaborated upon and adopted by your church Staff in September. These scripturally-guided principles will be key in moving forward with healthy loving relationships among Staff and leaders and will make all the difference in giving Pastor Jeremiah every opportunity to succeed in trusting, forgiving, encouraging relationships that will continue to move toward a very bright future for our church in reaching one another, the community, and the world with God's loving, forgiving, healing, renewing, restoring, compassionate love.

I include here, in full, our Staff Covenant, as well as the Staff Mission Statement created together last September:

Longs Peak United Methodist Church Staff
"Invite, Embrace, Nurture, Serve!"

Mutual Encouragement Action Plans— September 25, 2019

~**Romans 1:11-12:** ¹¹I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— ¹²that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

- **LOVE ONE ANOTHER. ~1 John 4:7**
- **Pray daily for one another by name.**
- **Hugs, handshakes, high-fives, and fist bumps.**
- **Compliment one another.**
- **Apologize. Ask forgiveness. Offer forgiveness.**
- **Offer help to one another.**
- **Show confidence & trust in one another.**
- **Suggest "Stretch" assignments to one another to encourage learning, risking, and growing.**
- **Thank you's: verbally, cards, notes, texts, phone calls, emails**
- **Check-ins in person: Be alert in caring. Follow up on personal needs that other Staff members have shared.**
- **Speak/write to—and about—one another in positive ways—with positivity.**
- **Spend time with one another one-on-one. Listen.**
- **Celebrate one another's successes.**
- **Plan outings together.**
- **Be involved in inter-departmental meetings and attend one another's events as often as possible to show support.**
- **Close the loop by completing conversations.**
- **Be on time for meetings.**
- **Remember: "It's not about me!" We are a Team.**
- **"A.T.B.": Assume the Best of one another.**

Vision/Purpose Statement—October 9, 2019

Through prayer and action, we will UPLIFT* one another, so that our leadership will be an example of Jesus' love to our congregation, community, and the Body of Christ. *UPLIFT: Unity, Passion, Love, Integrity, Fun, Trust

Thank you for the privilege of partnering with you in the ministry of Christ's love over these last three years. Thank you, most especially, for the friendship, kindness, and support you will share with Pastor Jeremiah from the beginning of his time with you and continually throughout his ministry to you and with you.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve



Associate Pastor Phil Rogers

So, today – Monday, April 27 – I hit my breaking point. I could stand it no longer. I HAD to give myself a haircut. Not being super coordinated (both as result of my disability as well as just my general clumsiness), I didn't try to take scissors to it! Instead I took out my beard trimmer and started "buzzing" away. I've always wondered what it would be like to have a Punk Rock-style Mohawk. You know, the one where you have hair that stands straight up the center of your head while the rest remains neat, tidy, and short (or shaved all together). I've never felt drawn to the "Punk Rock" lifestyle, though I do occasionally enjoy listening to some of its music. Instead, I've just been drawn to having such confidence that I could pull off a "wild" hairstyle. Today was the day, friends! I figured if I couldn't try it while I'm mostly sequestered to my apartment for the time being, I wouldn't ever have the guts to do it. I've included a photo of my "not-so perfect" attempt for your entertainment (how's THAT for confidence?).

It was fun and brought some good laughs to my soul. Side note, it was also far more challenging

than I imagined to keep my lines straight! I also now wonder what sort of hocus-pocus hair gel they use to get hair to stand as straight as it does in the movies! I looked pretty ridiculous.

This all got me to thinking as I was pondering what to say to you in this month's article. By the time you read this, we will have lived through roughly 50 days of quarantine. It's lonely at times. It's boring a lot of days. It's disorienting nearly all the time lately. Having just preached about finding joy in the midst of a pandemic, I felt it prudent that I tell you that God is still with us. Even on the tough days when we don't feel like we can keep it all together, God is with us. On the days when we are lonely, perhaps even afraid, God is still with us. That doesn't mean the days aren't hard and we shouldn't feel lonely- we have feelings for a reason. However we can take a bit of comfort knowing that God who dwelt among us knows our pain and suffering greater than even we do.

Furthermore, God doesn't ask us to be anyone other than the person we already are. Sure, God is working on us and perfecting us at all times, but that's the work of God and we don't have to create ourselves into any image that isn't who we feel called to be in the first place. One last thing – no matter how silly we feel (like me with a poorly executed punk rock mohawk), God thinks you're AWESOME! God is cheering you on and believes in who you are created to be, no matter how big a stumble you think you've made.

In Romans 8:18-39, Paul tells us that we will experience suffering in this life. I don't know why, but I know it's true. It's true and it's hard. We also are promised, however, that we will experience God's glory one day. And no matter how we feel we've failed to measure up on a particular day or in a particular season of our life, "...nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:39). You don't have to put on a smile when you aren't feeling happy. You don't have to engage in every single social media post while you're at home during this pandemic (or ever, for that matter). You don't have to look a certain way or play a particular part in order to

fit into the God-sized mold created just for you. All you've got to do is be you. That is more than enough, Beloved. Be kind to yourself and others today, we are in tough days for sure.

Choose Kind,
Pastor Phil

Music Notes



Kay W. Lloyd

Dear Longs Peak Family and Friends:

During this time of isolation, Gary and I are increasingly thankful for all of your efforts to stay connected with one another through emails, Zoom meetings, phone calls, and through the music that we offer on Sundays and Thursdays by virtual means. At a time when we most need to feel connected – it is difficult to be physically apart from one another. I know that Gary and I have felt a 'hole' in our lives. When so much of our joy and inspiration comes from making music together with all of you – we are now trying to fill that void making music videos by ourselves in our home – but it's just not the same.

We have managed to stay connected in other ways – connecting to God through prayer, walks, and quiet time (yes – Kay can be quiet!); connecting to our family through phone calls, emails, and video chats (but can't wait to hold our granddaughter again in person); connecting to all of you through our weekly meetings, emails, and joys and concerns. We grieve for those that have lost loved ones and for the lives that will be forever changed by this pandemic. We are continually thankful for the first responders, doctors and nurses, and those working in essential businesses to provide services for us. We are thankful for teachers as

they keep students engaged virtually so their learning can continue. We are thankful for the technology we have to stay connected even though we are not tech savvy! We are thankful that we have the means to sustain us through this time when there are so many others that do not. We are thankful for our health, and that of our family.

And..... we are constantly reminded that God is our Rock.

From Psalm 18: 1-2: ***I love you, Lord; you are my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.***

We look forward to the day we can be together again! Until then, be safe, be well, and be strong. And don't forget to sing a song of praise and thanksgiving every day!

Gary and Kay Lloyd



Katie Pekarek –
Outreach, Children & Family Ministry

It has been such a fulfilling experience being able to connect with you virtually. I love seeing everything that you share with us. It is overwhelming to see how you have stepped up to help out community with masks, checking in with our congregation, and supporting our frontline workers. Don't forget to connect with us on Facebook for our weekly devotions with your staff.

Our summer plans are still in the works and we are looking to see how we can best serve you. Please feel free to reach out with ideas, questions, and just to say hi! Stay tuned for family ZOOM game nights! Keep Spreading Love.

- Katie Pekarek



Missions

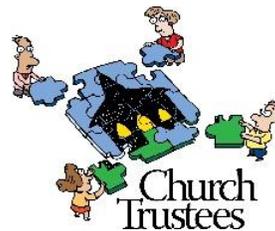
Rebekah Fisher and Danielle Hagedorn

The work of our church in the community is more important now than ever before. In April we served our regularly scheduled meals at both the OUR Center and HOPE. At the OUR Center we prepared 100 packaged meals to hand out to those in need. At HOPE we prepared dinner for 30 guests. These ministries will continue with modifications throughout the pandemic. In May we will serve lunch at the OUR Center on Saturday, May 9 and we will provide dinner at HOPE on Friday, May 29th. Contact the Mission Committee, lpumcmisions@gmail.com, if you'd like to be involved with either of these opportunities.

In addition to these on-going ministries, a group of 9 volunteers from our congregation have been sewing masks. Through their efforts and 2 additional volunteers working on the delivery side, we have been able to distribute 98 masks to 40 families within our congregation, and have donated 32 masks to HOPE, 15 masks to Agape Safe Haven, 36 masks to Longmont United Hospital and 25 masks to Longmont Meals on Wheels, for a grand total of 206 masks at the time of writing this. This effort is on-going so if you'd like to help, or if you are in need of a mask, please reach out to the Mission Committee.

Another way you could help out during this time is by becoming a pen pal with one of the residents at Agape Safe Haven. Here's an update from Agape: "Our ten guests are all doing well at our Day Shelter. They are all holed up there for their health and safety. We currently have three guests over

the age of 60 and one guest with a compromised immune system. We are trying to keep them as isolated as possible to minimize the risk of any of them coming into contact with COVID-19. This brings up an idea we had: PEN PALS! This is a great way to keep everyone's spirits up and keep us all engaged as a community." If you'd like to be connected with a pen pal, reach out to Jessica Bennet at agapesafehaven.jessica@gmail.com.



Trustees Update

– Bruce Larsen

Safety continues to be a concern for Church activities. Please help us keep everyone safe by keeping all exit hallways clear. This is critical for exiting the facility during an emergency. For any large event please complete a safety review of the setup with a Trustee or Church staff member as a part of the planning process.

Quotes for the repair of the Sanctuary Air Conditioning System have been received and trustees are currently working through the approval process to fund the work. Target is to have this work completed sometime in May or early June 2020.

A list of System Owners for the Church's building systems is currently being developed and should be available sometime this summer.

The Trustees are asking any Church members who have building trade skills and would willing to share them with the Church in securing contractors to complete repair and maintenance work to contact us through the Church office. Call 303-776-0399 or email alex@lpumc.org. Thank you!



UMW events that have been cancelled or postponed:

- Western Jurisdictional - rescheduled to September 11-13, 2020 Tempe, Arizona
- UMC General Conference - Minneapolis May 5-15 - POSTPONED
- All Mission u Events



A hearty thank you to everyone who blessed me with loaned items, food, cards, phone calls, visits, prayers and friendship during my recent recovery from hip surgery. I came through it with flying colors because of EACH of you. I miss my former staff and congregation a whole bunch. You do, however, remain in my thoughts and in my heart. I was only one of thousands who lost employment. So indeed, we are sad; yet happy knowing our Lord is still our Savior and Father watching over us!!

Blessings always,
Kathy Crier

A message from Bishop Oliveto:

As we continue to monitor rates of COVID-19 infection throughout the Mountain Sky Conference, as well as look at models for removing Shelter in Place Restrictions, I am updating my request to keep our churches closed at least through May 2020.

So, for the time being, Longs Peak UMC will continue to hold online worship services and offer various ways to connect virtually through this time.
-Staff of LPUMC

Faith Talks

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women hosted by Jennifer R Farmer, Spotlight PR. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put **faith, hope and love into action.**

- **Thursday, May 14 at 2:00 pm ET: Faith Talks: Caring for the Body with Ghylian Bell - [register now](#)**
- **Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 pm ET: Faith Talks: Emotion and Anxiety with Trudy Rankin - [register now](#)**



Finance Committee

	Mar. 2020	2020 YTD	2019 YTD
Donations	\$28,940	\$95,087	\$105,130
Expenses	\$31,985	\$108,443	\$122,196
Difference	(\$3,045)	(\$13,356)	(\$17,066)



Day:	Name:
May 1	Dallas Powell
May 2	Niola De Tar
	Avery LeBlanc
May 3	Thomas Grengs
	Mae Katschke
May 4	Tori Menard
May 5	Bruce Armstrong
	Bryan Hauger
	Faviola Henry
May 6	Phil Wilson
May 9	Mae Danzl
May 11	Susie Sisson
May 12	Evelyn Conquest
May 14	Mark Gaffney
	Mackenzie Nelson
	Jan Richardson
May 15	Gavin Fisher
May 22	William Anderson
	Kate Bogle
May 26	Roger Clark
May 27	Becky Everitt
	Melody Lanz
	Ben Sarlo
May 28	Linda Orrell
May 29	Bradley Worrell



Sunday:	Total Views:
March 29	255
April 5 – Palm Sunday	282
April 9 – Maunday Thursday	123
April 10 – Good Friday	352
April 12 – Easter	233
April 19	157
April 26	169

LPUMC Staff

- Rev. Steve Reinhard – Lead Pastor*
pastorstever@lpumc.org
- Rev. Philip Rogers – Associate Pastor*
pastorphil@lpumc.org
- Katie Pekarek - Outreach and Children's & Families Coordinator*
katie@lpumc.org
- Kay Lloyd – Music Ministry*
music@lpumc.org
- Alex Anderson – Office Manager*
alex@lpumc.org
- 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*

If you would like your article included in the June Newsletter, please submit by: Monday, May 18th.