

# *Longs Peak United Methodist Church*

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*Welcoming, Embracing, Nurturing, Serving*

## *June 2020 Newsletter*

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### **Good-bye and blessings, Pastor Steve and Tracy!**

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have a big send-off for Pastor Steve and Tracy in person. You may send them cards, email them, or call them to say good-bye. Moving day is June 8<sup>th</sup>. We wish them the best!

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*Pastor Jeremiah Harris and  
Pastor Lee Anderson-Harris*

Greetings beloved LPUMC Friends!

Let me begin by saying how excited I am to be coming back home to LPUMC! I am very much looking forward to rekindling old friendships, as well as making some amazing new friends. When I last attended Longs Peak in 2011, I found this to be such a warm, embracing, and supportive

community! I was brought up in the little Methodist church in Platteville, but had quit going to church while I studied at Colorado State University. A friend, who was attending LPUMC at the time, got me to return to worship by asking if I would be willing to be a substitute bass guitarist for the praise team. It was here at LPUMC, that you all gave me a glimpse of what God's kingdom might look like, as I met some amazing individuals who encouraged me on my own faith journey. During that time, I explored the call to ministry and subsequently enrolled in classes at Iliff School of Theology. For the past six years I have been appointed to FUMC, Loveland, and have had the joy of working alongside Rev. Steve Goodier.

In August of 2016, I married my wife, the Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris. That's right; we are one of those clergy couples! For the past 10 years Lee has served as a Deacon on the staff at Trinity UMC in downtown Denver. In a strange twist of fate, Lee will be replacing me as the associate pastor in Loveland. We both are very excited to be moving to the Longmont area and can't wait to call it home. Together, Lee and I enjoy history, hiking, camping, and traveling. It is our hope that even in the midst of COVID-19 that we can find meaningful ways to connect and get to know each of you.

I remember that while I was attending seminary, word got out that LPUMC would be receiving a new pastor, and someone told me that the conference should appoint me. My response at the time was, "there is NO way that I could be so fortunate!" Yet look at God's timing, even in the midst of

doing church as we have never done before, God continues to offer new beginnings. Friends, I feel deeply blessed to join you as lead pastor at Longs Peak United Methodist Church!

*Peace and Blessings*  
*Rev. Jeremiah*



**Associate Pastor Phil Rogers**

It is no surprise to most of us that the times in which we find ourselves right now are incredibly taxing, financially, on businesses

and non-profit organizations around the world. With the stock market taking a large hit earlier this year as well as a stunning number of unemployment stats being reported (and, unfortunately, growing every day), so many are stretching their budget in extra creative ways. Even those who still have jobs that are paying are nervous, unsure of how secure their job will be as we march onward in these unprecedented times.

Without the financial resources to fund projects and the staffing needed to run the projects, the question is how does the church do the good works that we are called to do? How does the church reach out to a world in need when the very thing they need is at a high premium right now? The really good news is that so many amid the church are finding creative ways to meet needs in the past many months. As of the writing of this article, Longs Peak United Methodist Church members have made and delivered 400 homemade cloth masks for church members, essential workers, senior citizens and other community members in need. There have been at least three small gatherings of church members to cheer for

hospital staff, graduating students, and the Longmont Police Force – decorating vehicles and colorful signs of encouragement. We can't gather close to one another – something I find increasingly challenging as someone who loves hugs – but we haven't allowed that to stop our indomitable spirit. We continue to serve lunch on our regularly scheduled day at the OUR Center in Longmont – a long standing tradition and mission of Longs Peak! I am over-joyed to report that those lunches have been donated by generous donors in our congregation IN FULL in recent months. Contact Amy Mann-Miner if you are interested in helping (either serving or financially supporting) with this critical outreach effort. We continue to provide meals to HOPE of Longmont every month. I am certain that the list of outreach goes beyond my short list here – GREAT WORK, CHURCH!

The staff of Longs Peak United Methodist Church are tirelessly working to cut our spending wherever possible while maintaining quality service to the church and our community. We've moved much of our work online and over the phone (out of necessity financially and also in order to limit potential virus exposure). Ministry groups are increasingly moving to online meeting formats. While certainly not the same as meeting in-person, these times have proven to be vital for those who participate in the gatherings. Church members are making phone calls to check on one another – a task that I simply could not do exclusively on my own. We continue to seek ways to help you refuel in a worshipful manner without being able to meet face-to-face. Know that I truly feel the pain and sadness the comes with the distance we have right now. We are working very hard on the plan and action steps to return to in-person worship as soon as it is safe for everyone in our

community to gather and we will communicate those plans as plans begin to solidify.

Furthermore, our financial outlook for the month May is looking to be positive at this point, with one Sunday remaining. Please hear me loud and clear – THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Year-to-date, however, we are seeing a pretty significant shortfall of somewhere around \$30,000 (final numbers are still being calculated at the time of writing this article). If that trend does not turn itself around, we will have no choice but to look at our spending even more than we are currently. Money is not something we like to talk about – it's HARD! It is also a deeply theological matter. God entrusts us with all that we have and asks us to steward all of our resources well, including our money. Furthermore, God asks us to trust God by offering a portion of our blessings back to God, fully expecting that God will do greater things with our resource than we ever could on our own. Biblically-speaking, we are asked to return the first 10% of all that we are given back to God. As one of your leaders in the church, I feel it is important that I am at the helm of this practice, setting the example. As such, I am committed to giving the full 10% back to the church every month. Please hear me when I say that I know not everyone is able to do that. It has taken me years to get to this place and I am humbled to be able to do it. Imagine though, if you will, how much we could do in God's world if everyone in the church were to give even just 3% back to the church (we're talking \$3 out of every \$100... that's less than \$100 out of every \$3000!). We would not only meet our financial budget needs, we would surpass them!

Would you prayerfully consider increasing the amount you give to the church? If you

are not currently giving any amount to the church, please pray about that and consider it. If you are giving to the church at any percentage, THANK YOU! If you are giving at less than 3%, would you consider increasing to just 3%? I know, with absolutely no doubt, that we can overcome our financial shortfall we are currently experiencing. I know that God is infinitely able to do far more than we can imagine or dare to think about. I know that God asks us to approach all of life through prayer first (Philippians 4:6). The key to this, however, is not to stop at prayer. Prayer does not change God's action in our lives, it changes OUR action. Listen for what God is placing on your heart and then proceed with joy. God will bless you ten-fold for your faithfulness, I promise!

Choose Kind,  
**Pastor Phil Rogers ><>**

## Music Notes



**Kay W. Lloyd, Music Director**

I recently shared this devotion at one of our staff meetings. It was written by the Director of Worship at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Honolulu. I hope you find some solace in it – and always remember to.....Look Up!

.....Do you feel as if the moments are melting into days, and the days into weeks, and through it all, we're finding new ways of filling our days. So much is not "normal" as we know it. Many of us are finding time we didn't think we had to grow closer to God.

Okay, so some days are easier to “grow closer to God” than others, for sure. Much of my time these days is spent trying to navigate through the technical mazes I’m facing, figuring out how to do things by myself at home that I used to have a whole team of people doing with me. I call friends for advice often, and I use technology (FaceTime) to show them my problem and hope they can help me fix things. But overall, what might have taken only a few minutes in the past sometimes takes hours.

So I have to remind myself to stop, stand, breathe, stretch, pray, walk, sigh, smile, and ... look up

A couple of weeks ago, after hours inside the house on online Zoom meetings, I finally felt a strong tug on my heart to go for a walk. I threw on my shoes, threw open the front door, and set out purposefully. I strode willfully to the sidewalk, eyes down, determined to exercise the stress out of me. And then ... I looked up! And oh, what I saw took my breath away!

The sky, the splendor! It stopped me in my tracks. I walked a few more steps and had to stop for a significant time and just stared at the beauty. My gaze was transfixed, and I know it’s kind of crazy, but the glorious sky got me crying.

I told God, “Goodness! But You’re showing off today, aren’t You?”

And I kind of felt like He said back to me, “Well, it’s about time you looked up.”

It amazes me how wonderfully creative our Heavenly Father is, never ceasing to use new ways to get the attention of us stubborn, reluctant creatures.

Psalm 19:1-4: *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech – they use*

*no words – no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth; their words to the ends of the world.*  
So, remind yourself to take a break from your labor, from your frustrations and from your worries and heavy hearts, and see what wondrous gifts God has for us, in the heavens, in our friends, in His Word, and in countless other places throughout each day and night. And don’t forget to look up!

Kay Lloyd



Katie Pekarek -  
**Outreach, Children &  
Family Ministry**

## Outreach:

May has been a busy month and full of events to show appreciation to our community! We could not do this without you. We are launching into a new way to outreach and invite others to Longs Peak. We are connecting with local businesses and learning how we can get more involved in Longmont! Stay tuned on how you can get more involved with Longs Peak to serve our community. It has been so much fun to be able to connect with you each day on our Facebook page, we are also making our website more user friendly! Thank you for letting me continue to be a part of your family!



**Love. Grow. Serve.**



**JULY 20 – 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**Children and Family:**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HAS GONE VIRTUAL!** It is time to be Courageous and know God gives us strength. We have decided to follow a Virtual Vacation Bible School template and are excited to be able to connect live with your families.

**Sign-ups will be open June 1st** with a suggested donation of \$5 per student. We need your help! We need leaders willing to help with videos and leading small breakout groups during the sessions. (ALL ONLINE!) Keeping our littles safe is very important and we are following CDC guidelines and the St. Vrain Valley School District as we navigate how we serve your families best! We miss you all and are excited to "get together" in July!

Spread Love,  
Katie Pekarek



Sunday:	Total Views:
May 3	133
May 10	138
May 17	104
May 24	111



Rebekah Fisher and Danielle Hagedorn

**Mission Committee Update**

We've been busy making masks and we've distributed 400 which includes:

- Meals on Wheels - 57
- Longmont United Hospital - 81
- HOPE - 32
- Agape Safe Haven - 15
- Individuals/Families – 215

We're still making masks and distributing them. Contact us if you'd like to help or if you or someone you know is in need of a mask.

We've also been busy with the church garden. A few volunteers met and cleaned out the beds, added new compost, and planted seeds and vegetable starts. The irrigation system is up and running. Now we just let time do its thing and here soon we hope to have an abundance of produce to share with the community. We're still working on a maintenance schedule for the summer to keep the beds weeded and fertilized. Let us know if you'd be willing to help with these efforts.

Our meal outreach with the OUR Center and HOPE is ongoing. We could use financial support to purchase the food for the OUR Center meal and we can always use volunteers. The next **OUR Center lunch** is **Saturday, June 13**. The next **HOPE meal** is **Monday, June 29**.

Contact the Mission Committee about any of these projects at:

[lpumcmisions@gmail.com](mailto:lpumcmisions@gmail.com) or through Rebekah Fisher at 303-834-8784.



## Trustees Update

Bruce Larsen

### Thank You from the Trustees

Thank you to the Hagedorn family, Rebecca Fisher, Debbie Sarlo, Alice Marshall, Darlene Chilson, and perhaps others for helping with the garden, yard cleanup, weeding, etc. at the church. So much appreciated! God bless you.

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Replacement of the Compressor for the Sanctuary Air Conditioning System has been completed. Some additional maintenance work is still required. This work will be completed by the end of June.

Please remember safety when planning Church activities. For any large event please remember to complete a safety review of the setup with a Trustee or Church staff member as a part of the planning process.

The Trustees are still looking for people who would like to serve on the Trustees as System Owners for the Church's building systems (someone who would keep an eye on their area and coordinate people to take care of it). The Trustees are asking anyone who has building trade skills and would be willing to share them with the Church in securing contractors to complete repair and maintenance work, to contact us through the Church office (Alex Anderson: alex@lpumc.org). There is much work to be done and the laborers are few. We need your help. Thank you!



Jan Spitler

Even though our United Methodist Women's group hasn't been able to meet the last couple of months, we are still working as advocates for women, youth and children in need. Examples of this are making masks, donations, prayer, working at the OUR Center, donating food, reading books from the UMW Reading Program and more. I received an email recently from Linda Orrell about another opportunity to serve. Meals on Wheels of Longmont is in need of lap blankets/lap robes for their clients. They need approximately 425 by early December. The size should be 36 x 36 up to 30 x 48. They can be sewn, knitted, or crocheted. They do not want tied fleece. They need to be washable and smoke free. So this is a good project for us to work on.

Unfortunately, our annual summer picnic has been cancelled. Hopefully we can reschedule this later in the year. Also, we hope to be able to have our regular meetings starting in September. Information will be sent out in late August regarding this.

We know it is difficult for many that are either ill or alone during this difficult time. We would like to share the words from the song "Women Called to Act in Love". This song was written by Laurie Zelman and music by Mark Miller. It was written for the 150th anniversary of United Methodist Women.

Women called to prayer and study,  
Women called by God to serve,  
Women called to works of justice,  
Called by God to act in love!  
In the company of sisters,

Seeking strength in prayer and praise,  
 Faith and hope and love in action,  
 Finding God in many ways.

Grant us courage, send us vision,  
 May we know God's heart this day,  
 Share the tears that God is shedding  
 and refuse to turn away.

Dwell in us, Holy Spirit!  
 Bring us to the greatest needs!  
 Cast out fear and mend division,  
 Show us where the promise leads.

These lyrics were published in the latest UMW Response magazine as a prayer. It is so fitting also for this situation we are experiencing. We pray that all remain healthy and safe.

Blessings,  
 Jan Spitler – President  
 Long's Peak United Methodist Women



## Congratulations to our Graduates!

You had a tough last semester. We are so proud of you as well as all of our young people who had to adjust to so many things during this whole Covid-19 shut-down.

### Our Graduates:

Emily Billow – Longmont High School  
 Ree Hauger – Skyline High School  
 Avery LeBlanc – Silver Creek High School

Mackenzie Black – University of Montana  
 Eliza Larson – Stephens College  
 Jenna Latsko - John Carroll University  
 Jake Marsing - University of Colorado  
 Christiana Vasquez – University of Northern Colorado



Terry Larsen - Chair

Thank you for continuing to tithe to the church. Your support is appreciated! In case you are concerned, the church mail is picked up daily.

April Expenses were higher than normal; we had some expenses that we had to pay that were missed during the staff turnover. We are now up-to-date, and May should be back to normal.

	April 2020	2020 YTD	2019 YTD
<b>Donations</b>	\$25,853	\$120,940	\$145,196
<b>Expenses</b>	\$41,940	\$150,389	\$160,912
<b>Difference</b>	(\$16,087)	(\$29,449)	(\$15,715)





Day:	Name:
June 1	Becky Champlin Christopher Kittilson
June 4	Wilma Andre
June 8	Evelyn Fontanez Mike Grine
June 11	Jane Carlson Hugh Johnson
June 12	Morgan Goertz Rehanna Karki Amy Mann
June 15	Scott Anderson
June 17	Denise Gaffney
June 18	Beth Bailey Clay Douglas Marcus Vasquez
June 19	Greg Kittilson Tracy Reinhard Rick Stewart
June 20	Roger Wisehart
June 23	Courtney Goertz
June 24	Phil Henry Jennie Pike
June 27	Russell Stacey
June 29	Joy Lanz
June 30	Roger Driver Steve Mudd

## LPUMC Staff

*Pastor Steve Reinhard – Lead Pastor*  
[Pastorsteve@lpumc.org](mailto:Pastorsteve@lpumc.org)

*Rev. Philip Rogers – Associate Pastor*  
[pastorphil@lpumc.org](mailto:pastorphil@lpumc.org)

*Katie Pekarek - Outreach and Children's  
& Families Coordinator*  
[katie@lpumc.org](mailto:katie@lpumc.org)

*Kay Lloyd – Music Ministry*  
[music@lpumc.org](mailto:music@lpumc.org)

*Alex Anderson – Office Manager*  
[alex@lpumc.org](mailto: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 to submit an article for the July Newsletter, the deadline is: **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!