

Longs Peak United Methodist Church

September 2020 Newsletter

“Invite, Embrace, Nurture, Serve”
1421 Elmhurst Drive, Longmont, CO 80503
lpumc@lpumc.org



“Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the One who made the promise is faithful. Let us always think how we can stimulate each other to love and good works. Don’t stay away from the meetings of the community, as some do, but encourage one another...”
~Hebrews 10:23-25a)

Church, you have spoken with a clear message! In mid-July we sent out a survey inquiring about your family’s comfort level and intentions with returning to some form of in-person worship and group gatherings. We had an OVERWHELMING response-rate, friends! I’ll get into the results of the survey in a moment. First, I need to convey our immense gratitude – on behalf of the staff, church leadership, Reverend Jeremiah and myself – THANK YOU! You have helped us have a better idea of who we can expect at a particular type of worship or other group gathering. Reverend Jeremiah, the staff, and myself, are busy looking into the months ahead and praying for faithful discernment from God with regard to how we will address the needs of the congregation. You have shown that you are remaining engaged in the life of the church, even amidst very challenging and unusual days.

It would be untrue, unfair, and down-right irresponsible of me to even remotely make a claim that we will be able to please every

single person all of the time with regard to their individual wishes. However, we are absolutely listening to your input and considering how we can proceed. As we traverse the pandemic, it has become clear that we are going to remain in this scenario for “some time yet.” We will be trying a few different manners of gathering safely in the coming days and I urge you to participate on your own comfort level – while keeping in mind that we are ultimately constrained to the legal parameters set out by the State of Colorado, the various health organizations, and the guidelines established by the Cabinet of Bishop Karen P. Oliveto, resident Bishop in the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church. There are limitations to what we are permitted to do and guidelines that dictates the “how” and when” of gathering. For those reasons, we will plan any and all gatherings with the safety of all as our leading priority. All of that being said, we earnestly urge you to get involved in the ways that make sense for your family.

It goes without saying that each of us cares deeply about the well-being of each person in our community and we would never desire that one of us would fall ill. That being said, we do have different levels of comfort represented with regard to gathering in-person. We received 91 total individual responses, representing 146 people (varying in age from infants to people in their 90’s). Keeping in mind that many respondents indicated their comfort with more than one option, the following results are reported.

Option 1: In-Person Worship	Option 2: Parking Lot Worship	Option 3: Virtual (internet) Worship	Option 4: Small Group/Commit tee Gatherings
29 people	24 people	109 people	37 people
19.86% of responses **	16.43% of responses **	74.65% of responses **	25.34% of responses**

***percentages are based on number of affirmative responses to each option compared to the 146 people represented by the responses. In multiple cases, more than one option was selected by a respondent.*

Regardless of your comfort level for church gatherings, I pray that you will continue to discern the ways that you can remain faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ – that is, how you will choose to stimulate each other to love and good works and how you will encourage one another in these days. Jesus steadfastly advocated for and reached out to the people on the margins of society. Who among us would consider themselves on the margins due to their inability or their unease with gathering amidst a global pandemic? How do we remain faithful to God’s call to the church (ALL OF US) in ministry to those in our community who are on the margins? We are praying for you and your family in this time. We are working hard for you always. We encourage you to remain involved in the ways that make sense for your family.

Choose Kind,
Pastor Phil ><>



Music Notes

Kay W. Lloyd, Music Director

Fall is just around the corner!! And this fall will be different than any we have had in the past due to Covid 19!

The music ministry continues to stay connected to all of you through our Friday Music Moments, and video offerings on Sunday mornings. In addition, we have been meeting on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 outside in the church parking lot. We gather to sing and lift one another up in fellowship and prayer. If you’d like to join us – bring a lawn chair – and of course - your mask. We are singing a mixture of traditional and praise music.

The Handbells are meeting again during the month of August. Since we are a small group, able to social distance and make music wearing masks, we are meeting in the Sanctuary for rehearsals and recording. Keep your eye out for upcoming Handbell videos on Sunday morning worship.

We hope you have enjoyed our music offerings throughout this pandemic. We appreciate your patience as we all learn a new normal for bringing worshipful music to you!



The Lloyd family would like to express

their appreciation for all the cards, emails, and prayers of support at the loss of Gary's Dad, James Lloyd. The LPUMC church family was very present during Jim's last weeks with us, and the encouragement of our church friends gave us strength and comfort during this time.

*Thanks and Blessings,
Gary and Kay Lloyd*



Jan Spitler – President

United Methodist Women will not be meeting in the church in September but we may schedule another parking lot meeting similar to the one we had recently. An email will be sent out to announce a meeting.

The recent parking lot meeting was a great success. Our new Pastor Jeremiah attended along with his wife Pastor Lee and our Pastor Phil. Some of us had not met our new pastor in person so it was great to have him there. Several UMW members attended along with a couple of people who had never attended a UMW meeting. We discussed those who needed prayers and how we can help our community.

The UMW Western Colorado/Utah District is continuing their book review every month on the 4th Thursday at 6:00 p.m. They always review a book that is on the UMW Reading Program list. If anyone needs the zoom info and the book info, please contact Jan Spitler at 720-204-6583.

The Peaks/Pikes Peak District will have our Annual Meeting on September 19th on zoom. We believe the time will be 9:00 AM until 2:30 PM. The speaker is yet to be announced. New officers for 2021 will be installed and the budget for next year will be approved. Again, if you need zoom info, please contact Jan Spitler. When the plans are finalized, an email will be sent out.

Also, if anyone is interested in the UMW Reading Program please contact Jane Carlson at 303-678-0748. You can also access the lists for each year through the UMW national website.

We are also continuing to collect new twin sheets and new towels for the Inn Between. Anyone wishing to donate these items, please contact Denise Gaffney at 303-845-2479.

Even though we are not able to meet in the church at this time, we are continuing to pursue our purpose with God's help.

We pray that everyone is staying safe and healthy.

Blessings, Jan Spitler, President

COVID 19 Task Force at Work

Longs Peak United Methodist Church has been in Red Phase since our last service on March 8, 2020. At that time, all in-person worship, small group meetings, and office hours were suspended. The church moved to video worship and Zoom meetings. All these were initially done off-site. Since July, the church has moved video worship to our Sanctuary with 3-4 essential personnel present for the recordings. Offices have slowly re-opened with limited hours, staffing, and visitors by appointment.

In mid-July, a Task Force was convened by Church Council to outline re-launching guidelines for in-person worship in the Yellow status. This six member Task Force represented a cross section of age, occupations, and diverse opinions on the re-launching process from within our congregation. They met over the course of a four week period developing the protocols for safely reopening our church. Those measures were based on several resources, including documents and policies from the State of Colorado and the Boulder County Department of Public Health, but primarily the *Mountain Sky Conference's (re)Launch Church Study Guidebook*.

Yellow Status begins when state and local officials have reported a 14-day downward trend of cases, hospitals are treating patients without crisis care, there is a robust testing program in place, including antibody testing, and there is no evidence of a rebound in case numbers in the local area – at which point church leadership and the conference will advise us we are Yellow Status. This phase is likely to last several months. Under the Yellow Phase, we would move to limited building usage and small in-person Sunday Worship gathering(s).

The Task Force work has now been completed and the recommended reopening guidelines were sent to Church Council and were approved at their August 19 meeting. The guidelines will now be sent to the Bishop and will need to be approved by the conference before we can reopen. It was not the goal of this committee to decide when to open – but to ascertain the best protocols to safely open LPUMC when given approval.

In addition, a survey was taken by church members in early August to discern their preference for in-person worship and/or meetings during this pandemic. With close to 150 responses, the majority (74.65%) wished to continue with video worship for the time being with another 25% feeling comfortable with the addition of in-person small groups, such as bible studies and meetings. Smaller percentages wished to start in-person worship with safety protocols and the possibility of some type of outdoor service (Please note that since respondents could select multiple choices, the percentages add up to more than 100%).

A huge thank you to those members of the Task Force for their time and dedication to this committee's work; for the number of people who responded to the survey; and

to church council, staff, and pastors for their leadership in discerning the best way forward to re-opening LPUMC safely.

Kay W. Lloyd
Task Force Chair
Music Director and Worship Committee Chair



CARING FOR THOSE WOUNDED BY RACISM

Dear Friends in Ministry,

This is a difficult time for us as a nation and as a people of God. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought disease to so many, and touched our lives with disruption, fear, anxiety, and loss. Now, another sickness commands our attention. Recently, we've seen a continuation of the history of violence against Black Americans at the hands of police officers and private citizens.

The horrific and tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and others are just the most recent wrongs inflicted upon people of color. At Stephen Ministries, we grieve with those who have lost loved ones through racial violence. We grieve with those who have suffered the pain and abuse of racism. And we grieve for a country stained by the sins of slavery, the false promises of Reconstruction, the injustices of decades of Jim Crow and segregation, and the ongoing acceptance of racism in all its forms. *Stephen Ministries condemns the sins of racism and the impact that historic, deeply rooted, and systemic inequities have on our staff, the congregations and communities we serve, and our nation.*

Whether recent, or sustained over generations, the wounds of racism are deep. And while we yearn to come together to support and care for those who are hurting right now, many churches are closed or operating at a limited capacity due to concerns over the coronavirus. Yet I am encouraged by the work of Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers throughout the country and the world who continue to let the light of Christ shine into the lives of wounded people. The skills you have honed as Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers are vital in caring for those suffering from injustice. The simple act of genuine, respectful listening can start the healing process. Listen, empathize, and validate the suffering person's feelings, remembering that the anger and pain people of color may be expressing now is rooted in hundreds of years of denial and neglect.

From the thousands of people who participated in my research for the book *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart: How to Relate to Those Who Are Suffering*, I learned something important:

"The very best gift you can offer a suffering person is a heart full of understanding, eyes filled with tears, and ears ready to listen."

This is especially true today and speaks to what Stephen Ministries as an organization strives for.

May God continue to work in and through your ministry as you bring Christ's light and hope to all in need of His comfort and care.

In Christ,
Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D.
Founder and Executive Director

CHURCH LIBRARY

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind."



Pam Ernst - Librarian

The library committee wants to thank members who are still making good use of our library! There are several checked out books that have not been returned. Please check your shelves and return them.

The following new books are now on display on the shelves:

Christianity and Faith

"Closer Than You Ever Imagined" by Karen Salisbury. This book with its easy to understand Biblical Truths will bring you closer to God and change your life.

Inspirational

"How happiness Happens" by Max Lucado. Discover what true joy looks like and where to find it. If you want to experience life-altering joy, read this book!

"The Gift of Forgiveness" by Katherine S. Pratt. The path to forgiveness is difficult, and this book relates personal stories of those who share the process they went through.

"The Faith of Dolly Parton" by Dudley Delffs. This book is sometimes poignant, sometimes funny, frequently surprising, and also true to Dolly's spirit of joyful generosity.

Prayer

"The Daniel Prayer" by Anne Graham Lotz. The ancient prayer from the book of Daniel is unpacked – a prayer that can move heaven and change a nation!

Spiritual

"Jesus in Me" by Ann Graham Lotz. Anne says the Holy Spirit is our constant companion and shares in this book about this vital member of the Trinity.

Thanks!

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to my church family for all the food, cards, phone calls and prayers during my recovery from open heart surgery. Having a loving church family is one of God's blessings to us!
-Jean Harper



Missions

Rebekah Fisher and Danielle Hagedorn

September Service Opportunities:

September 3: HOPE virtual concert fundraiser featuring Jessica Carson Clandestine Amigo and Friends. More information can be found here:
<https://hopeforlongmont.org/upcoming-hope-events/>

September 12: OUR Center lunch. Volunteers are needed from 9:30-2:00 (or any portion of that time). We could also use financial support to cover the cost of the meal.

September 19: TRI (The Reentry Initiative) meal. We're looking for someone to provide dinner for 2 residents at their apartment in Longmont.

September 29: HOPE (Homeless Outreach Providing Encouragement) dinner. You can help by providing a side dish, salad, or dessert to feed 30.

For more details on any of these opportunities or to sign-up please contact the mission committee at lpumcmisions@gmail.com or call Rebekah Fisher at 303-834-8784.



Bruce Larsen - Chair

Thanks to Janet and Bruce Armstrong for keeping the grounds of the church looking beautiful! We could always use more help, both in the yard and to keep the inside of the church running smoothly. If you would like to help out, please call or email the church office to let them know. Thanks!
(303-776-0399 or alex@lpumc.org)

Labor Day Weekend Live Worship @ Longs Peak September 6th at 8:30 AM

Please join us for in-person worship in the Church Parking lot. You will need to bring your own chair, communion elements, and your facemask.

Sign-ups are required as we have room for 40 families. Here is the link to sign up:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4fa8a62fa3f49-labor>.

We hope to see you there!





Terry Larsen - Chair

Thank you to all faithful supporters of LPUMC. The Finance Committee figures that we can break even each month during restricted activity if our giving is \$30,000 per month. During the last 2 months we were only \$500 and \$1,300 short of this goal which was really close. In order to support the greater church, we are going to resume payment of the Principle on our Roof Loan, and minimal partial payment of our monthly tithe to Conference. This will require an additional \$800 in spending per month. We appreciate your continued support of LPUMC so we can keep the Ministry intact so when we resume meeting together we will be able to provide the outstanding teaching, worship and community support for which LPUMC is known. Thank you again for your support.

Terry Larsen
Finance Committee Chair

	July 2020	2020 YTD	2019 YTD
Donations	\$28,722	\$216,016	\$281,777
Expenses	\$25,307	\$236,688	\$277,482
Difference	\$3,415	(\$20,672)	\$4,295

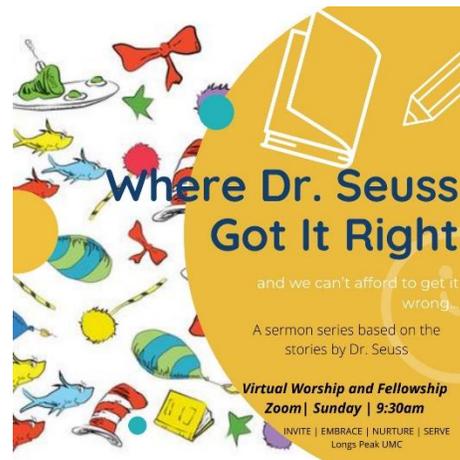
Outreach and Children and Family Ministry

Fall is here, school has started, and we keep rolling along. That means more opportunities to have fellowship together. Stay tuned for a **Fall Festival** (October 4th) and even a **Trunk-or-Treat (COVID Style)**.

With no Sunday school this fall, it is important that we connect with our families. We will be sending out a mini care package to our families in the next two weeks. If you were not able to attend our backpack blessing, we will send you that goody bag as well!

The sermon series is all about Dr. Seuss and what we can learn from his stories. On Wednesday nights at 7pm, we will be reading the story on our Facebook page! We miss you all!

Spread Love,
Katie Pekarek
Outreach & Children and Family Ministries
Coordinator



August 30 – What Was I Scared Of (Psalm 23)

September 6 – Horton Hears a Who (Acts 2: 42-47)

September 13 – Yurtle the Turtle (John 10:1-10)

September 20 – Green Eggs and Ham (Acts 17:22-28)

September 27 – Zaks (James 1: 19-20)



Day:	Name:
Sept. 1	Linda Wisheart
Sept. 2	Fred Williams
Sept. 3	Mike Johnston Mary Jane Mees
Sept. 5	Debbie Adolf Jannelle Johnson John Mees
Sept. 6	David Monhollen Jacolyn Tarpley
Sept. 7	Katie LeBlanc
Sept. 8	Karen Hubner
Sept. 11	Diane Kirby
Sept. 12	John Chilson
Sept. 13	Mark Werner
Sept. 15	Norma White
Sept. 18	Zachary Champlin Jolene Mechtly
Sept. 19	Betty Schlagel
Sept. 20	Marshall Allen Julie Stockert
Sept. 21	Alice Marshall
Sept. 22	Phyllis Crow
Sept. 23	Isla Briggs Jacob Dalstrom
Sept. 25	Edith Johnson
Sept. 28	Alicia King Vincent Shryack
Sept. 29	Susie Foster Russ Lambert

Sunday:	Total Views:
August 2	331
August 9	205
August 16	236
August 23	218

LPUMC Staff

Pastor Jeremiah Harris – Lead Pastor

pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org

Pastor Philip Rogers – Associate Pastor

pastorphil@lpumc.org

Katie Pekarek - Outreach and Children's & Families Coordinator

katie@lpumc.org

kids@lpumc.org

Kay Lloyd – Music Ministry

music@lpumc.org

Alex Anderson – Office Manager

alex@lpumc.org

finance@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

To submit an article for the October Newsletter, please email Alex at alex@lpumc.org. You are welcome to advertise your small group meetings! Please put "Newsletter" in the subject line.

Due Date:

September 21st.