

Longs Peak United Methodist Church



December Connection

1421 ELMHURST DRIVE
LONGMONT, CO 80501
303-776-0399
WEBSITE: LPUMC.ORG
DECEMBER 2020

Pastor's Pen

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of
the LORD has risen upon you.
- Isaiah 60:1*

Happy Advent Longs Peak! In his book *The Fellowship of the Ring*, J.R.R. Tolkien wrote "May it be a light in dark places, when all other lights go out." His words, like the Prophet Isaiah's, speak to the hope that is offered through light. Light fosters hope as it illuminates our path, even the darkest of nights, a dimly path offers guidance and direction. I have recently seen on Facebook that a number of people have skipped over Thanksgiving and put up their Christmas decorations immediately following Halloween. There is even a house in my neighborhood that already has their Christmas light up! Any other year this might seem as jumping the gun, yet this year, I see this as a reflection of a deep cultural yearning for the light and joy of the Christmas season, to brighten a gloomy year. No doubt that 2020 has dealt each of us a number of hardships. This has been a year filled with grief as we have experienced the loss of important milestones, and connections with our family and friends as we practice social distancing. The virus, political divisions, racial tensions and wildfires, are just a few hurdles that have left us feeling emotionally and spiritually drained. Despite the weariness, people are still yearning for hope as they set out their Christmas decorations! Perhaps more than ever we eager to embrace Christ's lights of hope, peace, love and joy!

This advent we will journey together through a *Season of Light*. Our sermon series, as well as weekly devotions will focus on the imagery of Christ's light in a dark world. No doubt that this advent will be a little different than in years past, yet no less special. Our Bishop has requested that we protect each other through not worshipping or gathering in doors this advent. This Christmas Eve we will offer two outdoor services at 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. As it will likely be chilly, these will be short services. Yet, they will still offer us the opportunity to gather together to celebrate the coming of Christ's light. For those who are uncomfortable with

Church Events

- Nov 29 – Advent begins
- Dec 2 – Fireside Chat with Pastor Jeremiah (Zoom)
- Dec 6 – The History of Saint Nicholas (Zoom)
- Dec 9 – Fireside Chat with Katie (Zoom)
- Dec 12 – Church Conference (Zoom)
- Dec 13 – Blue Christmas Service (Zoom)
- Dec 16 – Fireside Chat with Kay & Gary (Zoom)
- Dec 18 – Handbell Concert (Facebook)
- Dec 20 – Movie Night (Zoom)
- Dec 23 – Fireside Chat with Pastor Phil (Zoom)
- Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Services @4:30, 6 p.m. (parking lot) and 8 p.m. via Zoom

Pastor's Pen (cont.)

gathering outside, we will be offering a recorded service, with Zoom fellowship at 8:00 p.m. Perhaps, as we gather in the dark of the cold and bleak midwinter, we might experience Christ in a new and more deeply profound way.

As hard as this last year has been, one of the blessings I have experienced is the resiliency of our church! Despite not gathering within our building, we have not quit being a church! Like our earliest Christian brothers and sisters who faced persecution, we too are gathering in small intimate settings. We are continuing to serve our neighbors through mission, and also like the early church, we are growing! It may be slow, but there are new people taking note of the ministry of LPUMC and wanting to get involved! That speaks to the power of the Holy Spirit, and who you are as the church! It proves that we are not a building, but rather a community! Friends, I invite that we might look at this advent through the lens of the early church. Much of what they experienced, we would not see as "comfortable" by our standards, and yet Christ was present to them in a palpable way. Christ gave them the light to face a dark world. May we anticipate and project the light of Christ this season meaningful ways that grow hope, love, joy, and peace in our community.

Peace in the name of the Christ born among us,

Rev. Jeremiah



**Reaching those without
access to Worship via the
internet**

We are consistently trying to ensure we are connecting with people more, particularly in the midst of a global pandemic that leaves us physically separated from each other for many months. COVID-19 has pushed us to new limits and forced us to get more creative than ever before. In an attempt to reach more of our church, we are seeking to create a list of individuals, couples, and families who do not connect with us in worship through the computer.

This could be for a myriad of reasons- lack of computer, lack of internet access, lack of confidence with technology, and so much more. Whatever the reason you are not connecting, we want to hear from you! In the coming weeks, we are looking to begin offering DVD videos of the monthly sermon series. These DVDs would be loaned to you for a month at a time with the intention to trade you the old DVD for a new DVD each time a new series begins. While you won't get the services in real-time, you can rest assured that we join you in heart, mind, and spirit whenever you watch the videos. If you are interested in receiving a DVD of our recorded services which you can borrow for a month, please call us in the church office, [303-776-0399](tel:303-776-0399), and we will add you to our list. We ask for your patience while we figure out the logistics of making this possible. We are working on this as quickly as possible and will do what we can to make this happen sooner than later.

Choose Kind,
Pastor Phil Rogers

Music Notes

Kay W. Lloyd, Music Director

As we continue through this pandemic, the music ministry is adapting to the ways we now make music. We hope you have enjoyed the choir singing during November – albeit recording on a very windy day!!

Handbells are still able to meet and we are looking forward to presenting our **Christmas Handbell Concert – Ring Christmas Bells**. The concert video will air **on Friday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.** on the Church's Facebook page. It is an evening of beautiful music from the Handbell choir – a respite from the busy-ness of the season.

Throughout Advent, we hope you'll enjoy music from our pianist, Paula Muncy, Handbell selections, Acappella, Flutist Kay W. Lloyd and the traditional Christmas hymns we all love to sing! Remember to tune in every Friday for a Music Moment. You are also invited to a 'Fireside Chat' with Gary and Kay Lloyd on Wednesday, Dec. 16 from 6:00-6:15 p.m. from the Sanctuary.

Join us on **Christmas Eve** as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with **two outdoor worship services at 4:30 and 6:00 p.m.** There will be a video worship available that evening as well.

On behalf of the music ministry at Longs Peak, we wish you all a season of love, hope, and peace.

Merry Christmas!





Rebekah Fisher and Danielle Hagedorn

Gift Cards for Families at the Inn Between

The Inn Between is a local non-profit agency that provides transitional housing with supportive services for local families facing homelessness. Each year they house over 200 individuals and nearly 100 of these are children from our local school district.

Homelessness is a common issue in Boulder County due to a shortage of affordable housing. Those experiencing homelessness do not necessarily live on the streets. They lack a primary residence. They might be occupying a motel room, “doubled up” with friends or family, sleeping in a vehicle, or living in any other unstable or non-permanent situation. In the constant struggle to make ends meet, they spend their time and energy struggling to maintain housing and fulfill other basic needs.

At Christmastime, most of us can celebrate the season free from the tremendous stress of choosing between paying bills, placing food on the table, or buying something special to put under the tree. We can determine for ourselves what we serve at Christmas dinner and what gifts we will buy to make Christmas morning magical. We know better than anyone how to delight those we love.

To help reduce the stress these low-income parents are facing during this time of year, the Inn Between offers parents gift cards to Walmart and Target, so that they can assume the wonderful role of making Christmas magical for their kids.

LPUMC is helping the Inn Between gather these gift cards so that everyone in their program can have a joyous Christmas. We are collecting funds and then we will purchase the gift cards in one large batch. To participate simply write a check to LPUMC for any amount that you’d like to contribute, make sure to put Inn Between gift cards in the memo line. We need to receive all contributions at the church by December 7. If you have any questions contact the Mission committee at lpumcmisions@gmail.com, or Rebekah Fisher at 303-834-8784.



Jan Spitler – UMW President

United Methodist Women will have a Zoom meeting on December 17th at 7:00 p.m. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have our Christmas party this year in person, but we will have some sort of Christmas program on our Zoom meeting.

Don't forget to turn in your Reading Program list to Jane Carlson. We hope that several of you were able to take advantage of this program. There are many books in the UMW library at the church. Also, check out the UMW main website for lists of books for many years. The list for 2021 is already published on the site.

Also, in January the District Leadership Development meeting will be held on January 30th. It will be on Zoom. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Jan Spitler at janaspitler@gmail.com so that she can add you to the registration and make sure you receive the Zoom link.

We understand that this Christmas season may be different for many of you. Our prayer is that we can all focus on the birth of our Lord, help others when we can and thank Him for all our blessings,

Have a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

United Methodist Women



On behalf of the Trustees:

Thank you so much to everyone who has helped with leaf cleanup. It is very much appreciated.

Thank you,
Janet Armstrong



	Oct. 2020	2020 YTD	2019 YTD
Donations	\$32,194	\$306,185	\$382,861
Expenses	\$28,158	\$322,558	\$383,682
Difference	\$4,036	(\$16,373)	(\$821)

Upcoming December Events

Zoom links & sign-ups available at lpumc.org



Church Conference

Saturday, December 12 – 3 p.m.
On Zoom

Please join us for our Annual Church Conference. It will held Zoom this year.
Here is the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93922903810?pwd=b2RaVjZKNHZBRnkrSXJOOHZXYWhBQT09>

To dial in by phone:

Meeting ID: 939 2290 3810

Passcode: 653926

Find your local number:

<https://zoom.us/u/abNuFIuBS6>

Ways you can contribute to Longs Peak with your every-day spending.

Amazon Smile: when spending on Amazon, use smile.amazon.com to contribute 0.5%.

Raise right app: Buy gift cards and earn for Longs Peak. Download the app and enter the enrollment code to join : 36F363FL13955.

King Soopers: you can support Longs Peak with your King Sooper rewards card. Sign into your account and click on community rewards and look for Longs Peak United Methodist Church or TW440 and enroll us as your organization.

Worship Attendance	
Sunday:	Attendance/Views
November 1	144
November 8	149
November 15	235
November 22	274



December Birthdays	
Dec. 2	Charlotte Comeau Joanne Lanz Margaret Vann
Dec. 5	Bill Mandry
Dec. 6	Terry Larsen
Dec. 8	Hogan Reester
Dec. 9	Corine Brooks
Dec. 11	Kenneth Black
Dec. 12	Dolores Hall
Dec. 13	Edward Sobanski
Dec. 14	Jacob Callaway
Dec. 16	Pamela Ernst Caren King
Dec. 18	Philip Huff
Dec. 21	Pat Blatzer Donald Taylor
Dec. 23	Robert Henderson
Dec. 24	Jameson Townsend
Dec. 25	Andrew Callaway
Dec. 26	Tom Hubner
Dec. 27	Alan Dines Nancy Randolph
Dec. 28	Wanda Wilson
Dec. 30	Soleil Reddick Charlene Smythe

LPUMC STAFF

Pastor Jeremiah Harris – Lead Pastor
pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org

Pastor Philip Rogers – Associate Pastor
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Katie Pekarek - Outreach and Children's & Families Coordinator
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Kay Lloyd – Music Ministry
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Alex Anderson – Office Manager/Treasurer
alex@lpumc.org
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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

Have
A
Merry
Christmas !

January Newsletter Submissions:

To submit an article for the January 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:
December 21***