

Longs Peak United Methodist Church

January Connection

1421 Elmhurst Drive
Longmont, Co 80503
303-776-0399
Website: lpumc.org
January 2021

Pastor's Pen

*With my mouth I will greatly extol the Lord;
in the great throng of worshipers I will praise him. For he stands at the right
hand of the needy, to save their lives from those who would condemn them.
(Psalm 109:30-31)*

I don't recall exactly where I heard it once upon a time. I admit at times that it's so simple that it's almost cliché and dismissible; a cutesy little saying that rolls off the tongue, sadly too often with little thought. "Truly give so that others may truly live" is short and easy to remember. So short and easy that we too often overlook its clear instruction. God's promise to never leave us nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6) is partly experienced through the love and care of those around us, extending the hands and feet of Christ. Saint Teresa and Avila once said "Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now." If we are not intentionally offering from our abundance, we are missing the mark. I give immense thanks to God for the seemingly generosity of this congregation, however! You have remained faithful to God's call to worship God in all situations, giving back God that which God has gifted to you.

2020 was a doozy of a year for so many in our community and the need for support has been perhaps greater than any other time in many of our lives. When we had to close the building in the spring due to the pandemic, we unfortunately also had to close the vestibule which housed our Little Free Pantry, a food, hygiene, and cold weather apparel cabinet which our congregation has stocked for the past few years. Given that the old cabinet was made of wood, we could not store it outdoors. Recently we were able to purchase plastic cabinets which will stand up to the weather- now just outside the east main entrance to the church. A generous couple in our church who wish to remain anonymous donated two cabinet stands to keep them up off the ground and protect them better from the weather and the cable to secure them to the ground.



LPUMC Staff

Pastor Jeremiah Harris – Lead Pastor
pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org

Pastor Philip Rogers – Associate Pastor
pastorphil@lpumc.org

Katie Pekarek – Outreach & Family Ministry

katie@lpumc.org

kids@lpumc.org

Kay Lloyd – Music Ministry

music@lpumc.org

Alex Anderson – Office Manager/Treasurer

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

Pastor's Pen (cont.)

This has afforded us the opportunity to reopen this vital ministry to so many in our community who have previously depended on our hand up in order to survive and hold onto hope. While it will inevitably take a little bit of time for the word to spread regarding this resource, I am ecstatic that we are able to once again offer this gift to those who need it most.

I am asking for your help, friends. Would you be able to stop by the church with some nonperishable food items, travel-sized hygiene supplies, basic cleaning supplies, and/or new winter hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, or underwear? If you're willing to help shop and stock the shelves from time to time, I have the funds available and can pay for the items you purchase (donations are always appreciated, of course!)- just be sure to turn in a receipt for reimbursement 😊. Particularly in a time when we are limiting our hours in the office in order to help stop the spread of the corona virus, I could use your help to keep the shelves stocked for those who need to use the Little Free Pantry.

In the midst of struggle, Longs Peak United Methodist Church continues to remain steadfast to God's call to look out for people on the margins of society. Despite the fact that some among us have lost their own income source and could themselves use some assistance, you have risen to the occasion throughout the pandemic to ensure that others are cared for and not forgotten. With every ounce of my being, I give you great thanks and I thank God for your faithfulness. Let's continue to CHOOSE KIND and to SPREAD LOVE, Beloved Church!

Choose Kind,
Pastor Phil

Music Notes:

On behalf of the music ministry at Longs Peak, we hope that the music of the Advent Season and Christmas Eve opened your hearts to the love, peace, hope and joy of Jesus Christ. **Thank you to all of those involved in this ministry for your dedication to continuing to bring the joy of Christmas to the congregation and our community throughout this pandemic.** A special thank you to our tech team, who has helped us all navigate our new normal of video services and virtual offerings. We are all looking forward to the time when we can gather together again – in person – to sing praises to God!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy (and healthy) New Year!
Be safe – Be well.

Kay Lloyd – Director of Music

Thank you!

Nancy Randolph would like to thank people for all the cards and calls. She appreciates the concern and care she has been shown by our wonderful congregation.

Thank you also to the people who helped prepare the Sanctuary for Christmas:
Scott Anderson, Kathy Crier, Paula Gamble, Barb Huner, Jessica Miller, Jeanne Werner and Wanda Wilson

Are you experiencing Pandemic Fatigue?

Are you experiencing pandemic fatigue – that feeling of being mentally and emotionally exhausted by everything that's going on right now? We're all facing different kinds of life challenges during this time:

- Isolation and loneliness
- Anxiety over health
- Grief
- Juggling work, childcare, and schooling responsibilities
- Financial strain or job loss
- Uncertainty about the future...

The list goes on. It's no wonder we may be hit by pandemic fatigue.

But you don't have to go through it alone. If you or someone you care about is experiencing difficulties like these, our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and be there to offer support.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately – by phone, video chat, or possibly in person when it is safe to do so – to focus on you and your needs. It's free and completely confidential, and it offered real care, comfort and hope.

You can find out more by calling Phyllis Crow, 303-906-5055 or John Mees, 303-506-7979.

Looking to the Year Ahead

Jake Marsing - Lay Leader Longs Peak UMC

Dear Church Family,

There's an old Will Rogers quote that I love to use from time to time, "Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

I've been thinking about that quote quite a bit in recent days as I look back on the extraordinary year Longs Peak United Methodist Church has just passed through and look ahead to what's in front of us.

When I took over as Lay Leader at Longs Peak one year ago we were faced with challenges on multiple fronts, including organizational and financial difficulties that required us to take swift and immediate action. Staffing changes needed to be made to adjust for a new reality we were facing, and we needed to refocus our mission and vision to better serve our congregation and our community. After a visioning session early in the year, we were unquestionably headed in a positive direction.

Then, COVID-19 hit.

From that point on, it was all hands on deck to ensure LPUMC survived the crisis. I'll confess, I was nervous about our financial solvency and whether we would be able to even maintain our staff through the pandemic, much less grow our congregation.

Today, with 2020 thankfully in the rearview mirror, I can say with confidence that Longs Peak is truly blessed. Thanks to the dedicated work of our staff, the time and effort of our committee members, and the countless volunteer hours given by people like Roger Wisheart and Tom Chuang to get virtual services put together and out to our congregation, LPUMC didn't just survive 2020, we began to turn a towards growth and prosperity.

With the installment of Rev. Jeremiah Harris as our lead pastor in July, LPUMC now has one of the youngest and, I believe, most talented staffs in the Mountain Sky Conference. Our team is constantly innovating and growing together as they work to reach our community and bring more people into relation with Jesus Christ. We've added members, we've planned baptisms, and most importantly, we've continued doing the vital missions and ministry work that our community relies on. Despite all the challenges we've faced, we have remained the hands and feet of Christ. That is a testament to all of you who make up our church family.

Still, I'm mindful of that old Will Rogers quote and constantly thinking about how we can avoid "just sitting there," even as we find ourselves on the right track. Our work isn't finished. Despite the steps forward we've taken and the growing confidence we should all have about our

church, Longs Peak still faces an uncertain long-term future.

We are dependent on our congregation to continue your generous giving throughout the New Year, especially as we look towards hopefully returning to in-person worship while expanding our technological capabilities in order to continue to provide virtual services that reach a broader community of Christ followers not just in the Longmont area, but around the world.

Our church and broader denomination will still face challenges this year, but I'm hopeful that, by the grace of God, we will remain on the right path while continuing to invite, embrace, nurture, and serve. I look forward to working with and worshiping beside you in the coming year and want to make sure you know I'm always available to talk or pray or answer your questions or just catch up. Feel free to email me at jakemarsing@gmail.com or give me a call anytime at (303) 775-6376.

Thank you for being a part of our church family. Thank you for the generosity you've shown this past year, and the generosity you will continue to show in the year to come. God bless you and your family in this new year.

In Christ,
Jake Marsing
Lay Leader
Longs Peak United Methodist Church



Finance Committee

	Nov. 2020	2020 YTD	2019 YTD
Donations	\$41,215	\$347,400	\$405,719
Expenses	\$29,237	\$351,794	\$417,506
Difference	\$11,978	(\$4,394)	(\$11,787)

New Bible Studies:

Mondays - 7:00 PM (Begins January 4th) Ladies Bible Study with Jessica Miller and Dee Slown

Join this year-long study of "Women of the Bible" by Ann Spangler and Jean E. Syswerda. All women are welcome any time. Books are not required.

Questions? Contact either Jessica j7miller@mac.com or Dee dd.slown@gmail.com

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/98375370929?pwd=Znlub1Zqc2g5>

[SFM2L2o4YnpaZHJZdz09](https://zoom.us/j/98375370929?pwd=Znlub1Zqc2g5)

Meeting ID: 983 7537 0929

Passcode: 612857

New Book/Bible Study in February: WHY? By Adam Hamilton

Robyn Morgan will conduct this Zoom study that will explore questions like:

Why does God allow pain and suffering?

Why do my prayers go unanswered?

Why can't I see God's will for my life?

When: Wednesday 6:00-7:30 pm on Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24 (only 4 sessions)

Where: On Zoom! Link to be sent after signing up.

Materials: You can order the book (\$10.29) or Kindle (\$9.79) on Amazon or you can order it at the Barbed Wire bookstore on Main Street and avoid shipping costs. Please do so right away so you have time to read Chapter 1 before we begin.

Register: Please email Robyn by January 20th so she knows how many people to expect.

Questions or registration: robyn22m@yahoo.com or 303-588-7804

Continuing Bible Studies:

Saturdays at 7:30 a.m.

Men's Group

Currently studying *The Spirit of Disciplines*, by Dallas Willard. For the Zoom link, please email Steve Gaffney at stvnagaffn@gmail.com or call him at 303-702-9877.

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Gran and Charlene Smythe are leading a Bible study on Genesis. Please email the Smythe's for the Zoom link: gncsmythe@q.com.

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study led by Bruce Armstrong. Contact Bruce for more information and the Zoom link: brucearmstrong1213@gmail.com

Mission Committee 2020 Year in Review

OUR Center: Through church food drives and on-going wheelbarrow collection we gathered and donated 1,813 lbs of food and hygiene items. We made and served lunch for approximately 100 people on the second Saturday of each month. We were a sponsor of the Empty Bowls event through a \$500 donation.

HOPE: We provided 12 monthly meals to serve 20-30 HOPE clients. We provided a Thanksgiving meal to 15 participants of the Safe-Lot program. We donated many warm winter items through our HUGs campaign.

TRI (The Reentry Initiative): We provided 10 monthly dinners to the residence of the TRI apartment in Longmont.

Agape Safe Haven: We had guests stay in our fellowship hall Thursday nights from January-March.

Longmont Helping Hands: We partnered with them and offered a room in the church to be used as their clothing pantry.

Masks: we made and distributed more than 400 hand sewn facemasks to members of LPUMC and various organizations within our community.

Garden: As a form of community outreach within our neighborhood we planted and maintained our church garden and made it open to the community to harvest the produce.

Crop Walk: With 9 participants and a unique format we raised \$2,105 to fight hunger locally and globally.

Center for Health and Hope: We continued our \$3,000 financial support of Kenyan social worker Glorie Gitonga. We participated in the virtual "Gathering to H.E.A.L. fundraiser.

Inn Between: We collected \$1,800 to purchase gift cards for families at the Inn Between.



United Methodist Women will have an officer's meeting on January 7th at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. Anyone interested please contact Judy Scrimshire so she can put you on the list for instructions to join the meeting. Her phone number is – 303-702-9094. Even if you aren't an officer, you are welcome to attend.

Also, there will be a general meeting on January 21 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Everyone is invited. One of the topics will be our pledge service for 2021.

On January 30th at 9:00 a.m. the District will conduct its annual Leadership Development Event. It will be on Zoom. There will be a speaker and then there will be short break out sessions according to which office you are interested in. If you are not an officer there will also be a UMW 101 breakout session and the person in charge will talk about what UMW does. The deadline to sign up is January 22nd and you will need to contact Jan Spitler at 720-204-6583.

Our focus for January will be blankets for HOPE. We have been in touch with Andy at HOPE and he has requested that the blankets be either fleece or quilts or thermal. They prefer new but will also accept gently used with no holes. They need to be at least 6 feet long. They need all sizes, but they prefer twin size for thermal blankets. They need a few larger quilts and blankets for people who sleep in their cars and outside. This is not just a UMW project. We would appreciate donations from anyone in the church. There will be a cardboard box inside the church for donations. We will probably be doing this all winter so anytime you want to drop off a blanket is fine.

Another focus for the entire year will be Mountain States Children's Home. We will be letting everyone know their needs at a later date.

Also, don't forget to start reading books from our Reading Program. We have a separate library in the church next to the door to God's Harbor. Also, you can go online to the UMW National website to see the new list. Some of the books may be available at the Longmont Library. Congratulations to those who read five books or more for 2020.

This past year was somewhat difficult for UMW, but we hope this new year brings hope for better things to come. We pray that all of you had a blessed Christmas.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Faith - Hope - Love In Action

Worship Attendance:

Sunday	Attendance/Views
Dec. 6	398
Dec. 13	399
Dec. 20	358
Dec. 24	312
Dec. 27	158



Jan. 1	Janet Armstrong Barbara Bowman
Jan. 2	Angela Larson
Jan. 4	Ree Hauger
Jan. 5	Haley Stewart
Jan. 8	Magnus Henry Mary Jolly John Tarpley
Jan. 10	Chuck Everitt
Jan. 11	Debbie Sarlo Jan Spitler
Jan. 15	Jacob Marsing Adele Reester
Jan. 17	Chris Adams
Jan. 19	Adrienne Maxwell Lois Olin Jerry Orrell Jeff Spontarelli
Jan. 24	Wilson Bryant Mary Ann Hayden
Jan. 25	Rick LeBlanc Rick Nelson
Jan. 27	Don Davis
Jan. 28	Milton Briggs
Jan. 29	Carla Henderson Donna Huff Irene Lambert
Jan. 30	Grace Holmquist Bruce Richardson

February Newsletter
Deadline - **Jan 18**