



Longs Peak United Methodist Church

## February Connection

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LONGMONT, CO 80503  
303-776-0399  
LPUMC.ORG  
FEBRUARY 2021

## Pastor's Pen

Perhaps you remember the Bill Murray film, *Groundhog Day*? It was the story of a news anchor who covered the annual Groundhog Day event in Punxsutawney Pennsylvania, and somehow finds himself living February 2<sup>nd</sup>, over and over again. We are nearly at a year since we have been adapting to the “new normal” of pandemic living, and someday it may feel like living in the movie *Groundhog Day*! What you may not know is that *Groundhog Day* has its roots in the ancient Christian tradition of Candlemas, when clergy would distribute candles. The candles were a symbol of hope and represented how long and cold winter would be. This observance evolved in Germanic traditions by selecting an animal, often a hedgehog, to predict the length of winter. The German tradition came to America through settlers who adapted the Groundhog to do the hedgehog’s work of forecasting atmospheric trends.

No matter if it’s candles of hope, or a marmot casting a shadow, we can become anxious in anticipation of winter’s duration at this time of year. One of the ways that we can address the feeling of restlessness, is through practicing a new routine. February 17<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday as we begin our forty-day journey towards Easter on April 4<sup>th</sup>. This year our Ash Wednesday observance will be a contemplative circuit of outdoor prayer stations around the church, which will conclude with non-contact blessings by Pastor Phil and myself, where you are free to impose the ashes upon yourself or the members of your household. Ash Wednesday, is not unlike candles or groundhogs, in that it offers us a time to reflect, as we anticipate the coming of Easter. While last year Easter services were solely online, rest assured that this year the staff is working on outdoor live worship plans. Perhaps this year’s Easter Sunrise service will, we be even more memorable!

As we journey through Lent, we often think about the things that we give up to grow closer to God, but what about adding something new? We have a number of books/bible studies happening around the church. Two new opportunities you may look forward to in February is Adam Hamilton’s study “*Why*” which will be led by Robyn Morgan on Zoom Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:30 pm. Another option is “*Finding Peace in an Anxious World.*” Hosted by the UMW

## Church Events

- Feb 4 – UMW Board Meeting
- Feb 13 – OUR Center meal
- Feb 14 – OUR Center Food Drive
- Feb 13 – OUR Center meal
- Feb 17 – Ash Wednesday
- Feb 18 – UMW Meeting
- Feb 25 – Lent: A Time to Pause (Zoom)

## Pastor's Pen (cont.)

through Mission U, this study will be Sundays, Feb 7<sup>th</sup> to Feb 28, from 2 to 4 pm. Each of these studies are open to all who wish to attend, you may find further links or information on the church website, the *Weekly Reminder*, or by calling the staff at the church office. Invitations to join that Saturday morning men's group, the two Sunday morning bible studies, and the Monday night Women of the bible study, are always open. Reach out to the staff, and we can help get you plugged in.

Sharing our gifts with others is another a spiritual practice that helps us grow stronger in our faith, and what better way to observe Valentine's day than by spreading love? Sunday -Valentine's day, February 14<sup>th</sup> drop by the Church parking lot as the LPUMC Missions Committees collects items for the OUR Center, while all contributions (including food) are greatly welcomed for drive the focus will be on personal hygiene items. You may find a list of items requested by the OUR Center here- <https://www.ourcenter.org/donate-items/>

While Punxsutawney Phil the Groundhog will not necessarily give us a date as to when we may return to worship within the building, I am hopeful that we may anticipate our return this year. As required by the Mountain Sky Conference, LPUMC has pulled together safety protocols for in person worship. Our Bishop has directed that Churches may begin to move towards in-person gatherings when the country infection rate drops below four percent. We have a small committee that is monitoring Boulder county's infection rates, and as we get closer to an acceptable level, the committee will begin to meet in determining our timeline for in-person relaunch. What I can say with assurance, is that in the meantime, the staff has become experienced with facilitating outdoor worship, so as we move towards warmer weather, be on the lookout for more live outdoor gatherings. Friends, I love the words that Pastor Phil often prays, "may we grow to love God, just a little more each day!" This is the lesson during the season of Lent. If we fall short on giving up whatever, we chose to let go of, let's not cast our eyes on past failures, but rather focus on the big picture to grow to become just a little more like Christ each day! As we look towards Easter, I offer each of you prayers over of blessing on your Lenten journeys.

Peace be with you!

Rev. Jeremiah

## Music Notes

As we continue to have video worship services, we hope you have enjoyed the variety of offerings from our musicians. From solos, small ensembles, virtual acappella performances, vocal, instrumental, outdoor choir videos and handbells - we have tried to provide uplifting and glorifying music each and every week. Thanks to all those musicians and our amazing tech crew that have made this possible.

Hard to believe that the season of Lent is almost upon us. Stay tuned to the mid-week reminders for information on an outdoor, contemplative Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 17. A service will be recorded as well in case of inclement weather.

**THESPIANS NEEDED** for a Holy Week production. As the music ministry has done in the past – we are going to present a Holy Week production – virtually! Three females (narrator, Mary – sister of Martha, and Mary – Mother of Jesus) and 5 men (Officer to Caiaphas, Judas, Peter, Jesus and Pilate) are needed for monologues. All parts will be filmed in the sanctuary individually. Since choirs are unable to meet, the music will be made up of solos or duets, instrumental pieces, hymns, a virtual choir, and handbells. Recordings will happen the week of March 15 – to be completed by March 22. The production will air on Maundy Thursday (April 1). **Please email Kay W. Lloyd ([kaylloyd1463@comcast.net](mailto:kaylloyd1463@comcast.net)) if you are interested.**

I hope you will join us for a very meaningful part of the Holy Week experience.

Kay Lloyd, Music Director

## Finance Committee –Year End Report

	Dec. 2020	Total 2020:	Total 2019:
<b>Donations:</b>	\$31,387	\$378,793	\$454,459
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$30,051	\$381,378	\$456,476
<b>Difference:</b>	\$1,336	-\$2,585	-\$2,017

## Worship Attendance

Sunday:	Attendance/Views
Jan. 3	197
Jan. 10	387
Jan. 17	188
Jan. 24	181



**Love. Grow. Serve.**



Good news from the OUR Center... Due to several large holiday food drives, the OUR Center pantry shelves are restocked with non-perishable food items. However they are still in need of hygiene items. These include:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body wash
- Bar soap
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toilet Paper
- Dish soap
- Laundry soap (both liquid and powder are fine)

We will be holding a drive-up collection for the OUR Center on February 14 between 1:00-2:30 pm. You can also drop off donations to the wheelbarrow in the church when the office is open (10 am – 2 pm, M – Th). While hygiene items are the most needed at this time, non-perishable food will also be gladly accepted.

#### **Mission Events for February:**

**February 13:** Our Center lunch 9:30-1:30 pm, volunteers needed. Contact Amy Mann-Miner, 303-931-8429, to participate.

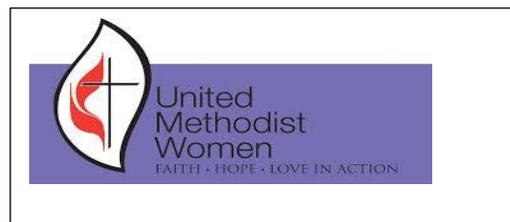
**February 14:** OUR Center Food Drive, 1-2:30 pm at LPUMC. Drive by and drop off your non-perishable food donations.

No HOPE dinner, next dinner will be March 29. Contact Evelyn Fontanez, 303-709-1710, to help prepare the meal.

#### **Meal Help Needed**

Jim Jolly, who grew up attending the ministries of Longs Peak United Methodist Church, will be having stem cell transplant surgery in early February. After the surgery, Jim will have a rather extensive stay in the hospital. Sometime around early March, Jim is expected to be discharged to an apartment in Denver which will be close to his hospital in order to continue his recovery. He is expected to be in Denver until (hopefully) early June. Jim will have one of his family members with him during his stay in Denver. Pastor Phil is seeking volunteers interested in providing meals for Jim and his caretaker during his stay in Denver. The meals would be delivered to Denver by his mother, Mary Jolly (also a longtime member of Longs Peak). An online meal train signup will be created as Jim's discharge date gets closer. If you cannot cook a meal, you are also invited to consider donating toward a GrubHub meal delivery gift card. More details can be given by contacting Pastor Phil at [pastorphil@lpumc.org](mailto:pastorphil@lpumc.org).

Choose Kind,  
Pastor Phil



United Methodist Women will have their monthly board meeting on February 4th at 1:00 p.m. This is an officer meeting, but anyone can attend. It will be a zoom meeting. The UMW General Meeting will be held on February 18th at 7:00 p.m. It will also be a zoom meeting. An email will be sent out a few days ahead of each meeting. If you wish to attend either meeting but have not been on the email list, please contact Jan Spitler at [janaspitler@gmail.com](mailto:janaspitler@gmail.com) or at 720-204-6583. Judy Scrimshire will send out an email 30 minutes prior to each meeting with zoom instructions.

Anyone who has not yet made a pledge for 2021 and wishes to should contact Linda Orrell at 303-776-8048 or [ljorrell@aol.com](mailto:ljorrell@aol.com).

We are still collecting blankets and other items for HOPE and there is a collection box just inside the door at the church for those items.

Please consider participating in the Reading Program. There are several books in the UMW library at the church and many of the books can be obtained at the Longmont Library. For a list of books for each year, go to [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org).

A virtual Mission u study will be held beginning Sunday, Feb. 7th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. There will be 4 sessions and each will be on Sunday at the same time running through Feb. 28th. It will be based on the book "Finding Peace in an Anxious World". A copy of the book is in the UMW library at the church or you can purchase it at [umwmissionresources.org](http://umwmissionresources.org). The Rev. Su Debree will be conducting this study and it is open to all men and women. This study will also be using the book of Proverbs and "The Serenity Prayer" as a guide. To register, go to [mtnskyumw.org](http://mtnskyumw.org).

In January, we lost two of our UMW ladies, Alice McLean and Elaine Weisgerber. Please pray for peace and comfort for their families.

We pray that everyone is safe and healthy and that we will all be able to get a vaccination soon.

Blessings, Jan Spitler  
President, UMW

# Happy Birthday!

Feb. 3	Kevin Calloway Les Hornbaker Gayle Zweck
Feb. 7	Joseph Dahlstrom Darlene Nemnich
Feb. 8	Kimberly Forsgren Sharon McBride
Feb. 9	Doug Branstetter
Feb. 10	Arlo Slough (Townsend)
Feb. 11	Rudy Adolf Griffin Taylor
Feb. 14	Brenda Powell
Feb. 16	Richard DelPizzo Maile Seifried (Dahlstrom)
Feb. 17	Bobbi Christensen
Feb. 19	Sean Billow
Feb. 21	Bob Foster
Feb. 22	Brendan Fisher
Feb. 23	Kris Coniway
Feb. 24	Jessica Eklof Jim Walker
Feb. 26	Jim Jones Kay Lloyd
Feb. 27	Douglas Larson
Feb. 28	Archie Pekarek

## LPUMC Staff

*Pastor Jeremiah Harris – Lead Pastor*  
[pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org](mailto:pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org)

*Pastor Phil Rogers- Associate Pastor*  
Pastor [Phil@lpumc.org](mailto:Phil@lpumc.org)

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

*Katie Pekarek – Outreach & Family Ministry*  
[Katie@lpumc.org](mailto:Katie@lpumc.org)

*Alex Anderson – Office Manager/Treasurer*  
[alex@lpumc.org](mailto:alex@lpumc.org)  
[finance@lpumc.org](mailto:finance@lpumc.org)

*Paula Muncy – Accompanist*

*Rev. Sandy Stewart – Deacon in Residence*  
*Glorie Gitango – Kenya Social Worker*  
*Rev. Granville Smythe – Retired*  
*Pastor Charlene Smythe – Retired*  
*Ministers – Those who call Jesus, Lord*

## *Bible Study Opportunities:*

### **Sundays:**

**9:00 am** – Book of Genesis: Contact Gran and Charlene Smythe at [gmcsmythe@q.com](mailto:gmcsmythe@q.com) to sign up. Class is currently held via Zoom.

**10:30 am** – *The Powers that Be* by Walter Wink. For more information, contact Bruce Armstrong at [brucearmstrong1213@gmail.com](mailto:brucearmstrong1213@gmail.com). Class currently held via Zoom.

**2:00 pm** – UMW Mission U study for Lent (Feb. 7-28). *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, edited by Erin James-Brown. More information can be found at [mtnskyumw.org](http://mtnskyumw.org). Class will be held on Zoom.

### **Mondays:**

**7:00 pm** – *Women of the Bible* by Ann Spangler and Jean E. Syswerda. Contact Jessica Miller at [j7Miller@mac.com](mailto:j7Miller@mac.com) or Dee Slowen at [dd.slowen@gmail.com](mailto:dd.slowen@gmail.com). Class currently held via Zoom.

### **Wednesdays:**

**6:00 pm** – (starting Feb 3 and running through Feb. 24). *Why?* by Adam Hamilton. Contact Robyn Morgan for more information at [robyn22m@yahoo.com](mailto:robyn22m@yahoo.com)

### **Saturdays:**

**7:30 am** – Men's Group Bible Study. Currently reading *The Spirit of the Disciplines* by Dallas Willard. Contact Steve Gaffney at [stvnffn@gmail.com](mailto:stvnffn@gmail.com) for more information. Class currently held via Zoom.

**Deadline to submit articles for the March Newsletter:**

**February 15th**