

Longs Peak United Methodist Church

April Connection

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

Pastor's Pen:

"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus." – Luke 24:2-3

Happy Easter Friends of Jesus!

Can you imagine the surprise of those who found an empty tomb? The book of Leviticus speaks of the year of Jubilee, a time in which slaves and prisoners would be freed, and debts forgiven. The wrongs of the world are righted, the clock is reset, and the world gets a do-over! I am in celebration that as a Church we have turned a corner. After a year of an empty church, we are making strides towards returning to worship and gatherings within the building. I am understanding jubilee in a whole new light! Perhaps in light of the pandemic, we will experience a deeper significance of Easter!

As the weather warms up we will resume our outdoor parking lot gatherings, while at the same time church leadership is finalizing

plans for re-launching gatherings within the building. Outdoor or indoor, either case is cause for celebration, as once again we can gather as community! I would invite you to keep tabs on the church website, or call the church office to keep apprised of worship opportunities. As Christians we recognize the symbolism of spring's new life, as God's promise that there is more joy to come! I am joyful that as a church we are entering into a new phase of rebirth, and am confident that as a Church the best is yet to come! Happy Easter Longs Peak, may God continue to bless you and fill you with a sense of joy and wonder!

Blessings,
Rev. Jeremiah

Holy Week

- March 28 - Palm Sunday
Outdoor Service at 10:30 a.m.
- April 1 - Maundy Thursday:
Service will be available to watch at 7 p.m.
- April 2 – Good Friday: Circuit recording will be available to watch at 7 p.m.
- April 4 – Easter Egg Hunt Drive Through – 1:00 p.m.
- April 3 – Easter:
 - 6:45 a.m. Sunrise Outdoor Service.
 - 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Service.

All services will be recorded and links will be available on the church website (Palm Sunday and Easter will be available some time after the service).

Music Notes:

Join us for Holy Week Services at LPUMC:

Palm Sunday (March 28) – outdoor worship* with Praise Team; and procession of the palms.

Maundy Thursday (April 1) airing at 7:00 p.m. – a dramatic filmed presentation of *Touched by the Christ* – a reflection of Jesus’ final days viewed through His eyes and the eyes of those surround Him with LPUMC actors and selections from the LPUMC music ministry.

Good Friday Service (April 2) – from our Circuit Pastors airing at 7:00 p.m.

Easter morning (April 4) – outdoor services* at 6:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. – celebrating the Resurrection with traditional hymns and Handbells at 10:30; and communion served at both services.

We hope you will join us for outdoor and virtual services as we journey through this Lenten week to the celebration of the resurrected Christ!

*Signup for Palm Sunday and Easter services can be found on the church’s website.

John 3:16
“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”



Missions:

Opportunities to be in service in April:

4/10 – OUR Center lunch: Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve lunch between 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (join us for just part of the time if that works best for you). New volunteers are always welcome and there are always easy tasks available. This is a great way to meet others and socialize a bit while being in service to our community. We will wear masks and adhere to social distance rules. Please contact Amy Mann-Miner, 303-931-8429, and let her know you can help out.

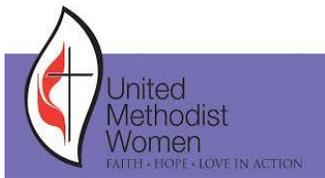
4/29 – HOPE meal: Each month we provide dinner for 30 individuals at the HOPE shelter site. Evelyn Fontanez coordinates this meal. She usually provides the main dish and needs others to provide a side dish, salad, or dessert. Delivery to the shelter site between 5:30 and 5:45 p.m. is preferred but other arrangements can be made. Contact Evelyn at 303-709-1710 for more details or to sign-up.

On-going: Remember that you can always drop off non-perishable food and hygiene items in the OUR Center wheelbarrow at the church during regular office hours (currently Mon.-Thur. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.). There is also a collection box for warm winter gear for HOPE. Items like new socks, hats, gloves, and coats are always appreciated.

If you have any questions about these opportunities or have a suggestion for the Mission Committee, please send us an email at lpumcmisions@gmail.com or contact Rebekah Fisher at 303-834-8784.

Happy Birthday!

April 1	Seth Hagedorn Katie Pekarek Kaila Wisehart
April 2	Sauvren Reddick
April 4	Nadine Nelson Arlene Stiller
April 6	Linda Cochran
April 8	Susan Cooper
April 12	Don Christensen Tammy Moin
April 13	Stephanie Ohlsen
April 15	Sandy Stewart
April 17	Dan Ohlsen Kevin Osler
April 20	Amanda Billow Pam Howell
April 21	Thomas Anderson Shirley Cupp Kathy Harpole
April 22	Judy Scrimshire
April 26	Joy Long
April 28	Junie Davies
April 30	Melissa Hornbaker



United Methodist Women will have their officer board meeting on April 1st at church in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. All ladies are invited. The April circle/general meeting will be held on April 15th at 7:00 p.m. We are hoping to have it at the church but haven't gotten approval as of March 15th. We will send out an email to everyone a few days before the meeting to confirm the location. Even if we are allowed to have it at the church, those who are unable to attend can join us through Zoom. There will be a program. We have scheduled a gentleman to talk to us about a school in Uganda.

The date for the Conference Spiritual Retreat has been changed. It will be held on zoom on April 9th and 10th. Registration is now open on mtnskyumw.org.

The Peaks Pikes Peak District "A Day Together" will be held on June 12th on Zoom. Registration information will be available in the May newsletter.

You can still get a bowl for the Empty Bowls charity. There will be a silent auction from April 7th through 11th on the Crackpots website. Of course this charity is to benefit the OUR Center.

In March, UMW gave a \$100 donation to a charity called Dignity Period in Ethiopia. This charity employs several women and makes it possible for young women to go to school in Ethiopia.

It is our prayer that many of you have been able to get vaccinated and that we will be able to meet in person in the near future.

Blessings, Jan Spittler

To the LPUMC church family

I want to express my gratitude to the church and all of you for the support over the past months. The meals, gift cards, messages and notes you have sent me have meant the world, and have eased my recovery. The meals especially

have been nice; you can't imagine the relief I felt having home cooked meals after a month of hospital food.

Your Grubhub donations have also been more than welcome. I, along with many of you, haven't been able to sit down at a restaurant for a year now, and frankly I miss the experience. Your donations allow me to bring some of that experience home, and provides a measure of comfort.

Let me provide a quick update on my health. As of right now, I am still in the recovery process from my stem cell transplant. This stage of recovery, requiring strict quarantine procedures and no cooking, lasts through mid-May. To use an analogy, I'm not out of the woods but the trees are thinning. Despite that, I'm feeling quite well, despite some persistent fatigue, which will dissipate with time. The good news is that I should never have to undergo this procedure again. With this successful transplant and recovery, my disease will be completely cured and I will once again be a healthy young man.

Again, I want to express my sincere gratitude to you all for the support. I've never been a recipient of the meal ministries before, and I am still amazed by the generosity, and your willingness to provide. Specifically, I would like to thank Pastor Phil for the coordination and to each person who has participated.

Thank you,
James Jolly

Dear Church Family,

Words cannot express how grateful my family and I are for all of your continued support! James is steadily improving. Without any adverse developments, James should be able to return home after the first week of May.

This has been a difficult time and I do not know how we could have managed without the amazing assistance that we are receiving. I am especially grateful for all those who are participating in the meal ministry and how they are working with my crazy work schedule. Between the meal ministry and generous contributions to GrubHub, James and his caretaker are being well taken care of.

Thankfully,

Mary Jolly

Worship Attendance:

Feb. 28	120
March 3	196
March 14	217
March 21	193

LPUMC Staff

Pastor Jeremiah Harris- Lead Pastor
pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org

Pastor Phil Rogers – Associate Pastor
pastorphil@lpumc.org

Kay Lloyd – Music Director
music@lpumc.org

Katie Pekarek – Outreach and Family Ministry
katie@lpumc.org
kids@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



	Feb. '21	'21 YTD	'20 YTD:
Donations:	\$30,356	\$76,230	\$66,147
Expenses:	\$32,147	\$63,435	\$75,873
Difference:	(\$1,791)	\$12,795	(\$9,726)

May Newsletter Deadline: April 19th.
To submit your article, send to: alex@lpumc.org.

Note from the Lay Leader:

Church Family,

This past month marked one year since our pastors, lay leadership, and church council teams made the difficult, but necessary decision to close our doors for in person indoor worship. This has been a tremendously difficult time for our congregation, but it has also been a time filled with glimpses of hope and opportunity for continued spiritual and congregational growth.

This past year, we welcomed a new lead pastor who is helping us better fulfill our mission every day. We continued to serve our community in truly remarkable ways thanks to the work of our missions team. And, thanks to the incredible generosity of our congregation, we were able to get through the year without cutting staff or further reducing salaries. Which, considering where we were at the start of the year, is a spectacular achievement. I am so proud of every single person on our staff, and every member of our congregation who made that possible.

With that said, it's important to note that we still sit in a fairly precarious long-term financial position. Without continued budget cuts to important areas like Children's Ministries, Music, janitorial services, and apportionments, we wouldn't have been able to make it through the past year intact like we have. Furthermore, we have yet to be able to restore the three percent pay cut our staff took at the beginning of 2020 when SPRC made significant adjustments to our staff structure. All of this is to say that, despite the undeniable fact that we are in a better position than we were a year ago, we are not out of the proverbial woods yet.

Note from the Lay Leader (cont.)

With this in mind, last month we were approved for a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Loan in the amount of a little under \$46,000. This loan had been long sought after, and it took some persistent work on the part of our staff to be approved for it. Church Council voted to accept the loan in a special meeting last month. If you're not familiar, the PPP loan was created by the Federal Government during the first round of COVID related relief bills passed by Congress last year. The program provides small businesses, including churches, with a set period of funding for payroll and overhead costs that, if used only for those expenses, becomes 100% forgiven at the end of the loan term. Essentially, it becomes a grant as long as we use it in the ways we intend to use it. Our conference has been strongly encouraging churches to pursue PPP aid, and we have been working to secure a loan since last year. Unfortunately, different logistical and clerical issues unrelated to our worthiness for approval kept our application from being processed. Last month, we were finally approved, and as of now those funds have been dispersed.

I want to assure you our accepting of these dollars does not mean we are now free of any financial troubles. Quite the opposite, actually. Yes, these dollars will allow us to maintain our staff and allocate money elsewhere for a short period of time. Yet, the larger picture continues to be that we are operating at a much decreased budget. This money doesn't get us back to where we were. In fact, it doesn't even get us half of what we've lost since the start of COVID. Rather, it simply allows us to allocate money into some other necessary places that have been neglected in the past year. We would like to increase missional giving; we also have significant church maintenance projects on the horizon. We've also been neglecting our obligations to the larger global church in the past year. Traditionally, Longs Peak is one of the strongest supporters of the greater church through apportionment giving in our conference. That has had to change this past year. These dollars will allow us to return to some sense of normalcy in apportionment giving and ensure our broader church remains vibrant.

Simply put, these PPP dollars provide flexibility, but not a fix for our financial situation. If Longs Peak is going to continue to grow as we have in the last year, we must continue to rely on our congregation first and foremost. Your generosity in giving is what will determine how strong we are able to come out of this crisis and how quickly we are able to expand our outreach and mission work to bring Jesus Christ into our community. I know we can count on you to continue supporting that work.

These are challenging times, but God has abided, as he always does. I am so proud of what we've done in the past year, and so excited about the year ahead. As always, if you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at jakemarsing@gmail.com or (303) 775-6376. I'm happy to discuss the PPP loan or any other topic on your mind.

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

