

Longs Peak United Methodist Church

March Connection

1421 ELMHURST DRIVE
LONGMONT | CO | 80503
303-776-0399
WEBSITE: LPUMC.ORG

MARCH 2022



In lieu of a Pastor's Pen – we are sharing an article from [ResourceUMC.org](https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/is-this-email-fake-how-to-avoid-phishing-scams) about how to avoid phishing scams.

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/is-this-email-fake-how-to-avoid-phishing-scams>

Sunday Worship Services:

9 a.m. – Praise Service
10:30 a.m. – Traditional Service
Fellowship time between Services

A couple years ago I sat down at my desk, fired up my computer, and saw an email from the senior pastor at the top of my email inbox with the subject "Hello." That was not his typical subject line, but I opened the email and read, "How are you? I need a favor from you, please email me back as soon as possible. Hope to hear from you soon."

It was fake, and it was the closest I've ever come to falling for what is known as a phishing email. [What is phishing?](#) Phishing emails are when a scammer impersonates some person or organization in hopes of getting the user to reply or click a link. When done well, these emails play on our automatic trust and reflex to reply. They are common and often use current issues to their advantage. Last year [Google saw 18 million](#) daily malware and phishing emails just related to COVID-19.

They aren't all as simple as the pastor email example. Some emails appear to come from your bank and redirect you to a page created to resemble your bank's login page. Once you put your username and password in, even if you don't hit submit, the scammer has what they need to log in as you and do real damage.

How do you avoid falling prey to phishing scams? Try these five simple habits that can help you protect yourself against this tricky tactic.

1. TRUST YOUR INSTINCT

If something feels off, assume it is. There are a number of things that can tip you off that something is not right:

- You don't have an account with the business that contacted you
- Grammar errors and/or misspellings are present in the email
- There is a direct ask for money
- They ask you to confirm personal information
- An unexpected invoice is attached
- They want you to click on a link to make a payment or log into your account
- You are addressed by the sender in an unusual way like "Hi dear" from your bank or "Sir" from your relative

Small things may feel off, but we may overlook them because they appear to come from a person or organization we trust. When something feels wrong: Pause. Don't click. Don't reply.

2. CHECK THE EMAIL ADDRESS

When you aren't sure about an email, first check the sender's email address. Though it may look like a legitimate address, email apps on phones and computers can mask the real address. To reveal a possible hidden address, with your mouse hover over the sender's email appearing in the "From" field. A bubble showing the sender's true address will appear. Instead of hovering you can also double click on the address in the "From" field to see the underlying sender.

You'll often notice it is not your friend's address or from the real company's domain. Instead of @yourbank.com, it may be from a yahoo or Gmail account. If that is the case, mark it as spam, delete it and forward it to the federal trade commission's anti-phishing working group: reportphishing@apwg.org.

3. GO TO THE CORRECT SOURCE

Advanced hackers are able to mask email addresses so that the right address actually appears in the "From" field. If something seems suspicious about the

email but the address appears valid, the next step is to go to the correct source of the email to verify the claims. If it's your friend, a call or text asking if it is legit is in order. If it's your bank, visit their website by typing it into the address bar of your web browser, log in and see if there are any notifications or if anything seems to be a problem. You can also call the company or find their customer service email address on their website to verify the message you received was legitimate.

4. ENABLE TWO FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Most accounts allow (and many require) you to enable two-factor authentication. When enabled, it requires you to prove you are who you say you are using two methods (like a password and a text message verification) instead of just a password. Though it doesn't deal with your phishing email directly, enabling two factor authentication means that even if someone is able to trick you into giving your password, they won't be able to gain access to your account without also having your cellphone or other second factor device.

5. CHECK THE URL

If you still feel the need to click the link in the email, there are several services that can help you check it before you click away. Some urls are "shortened" by using a service like bit.ly that give you an easy to type and remember url to replace the long, complicated urls generated by most websites. There are several tools like checkshorturl.com to know whether or not the shortened link is taking you where it claims. Copy the link in the email making sure not to click to activate it. Then paste it into the form and the link verifying app checkshorturl.com will let you see where it will ultimately take you. If the url doesn't appear to be shortened, but you still aren't sure, you can use Google's safe browsing site status to check whether or not the link in the email takes you to a site that has malware or other dangerous code.

Phishing emails are dangerous but avoidable. By enacting new habits and protections, you can feel confident that you are protected from this common and malicious threat.

Jeremy Steele is the associate pastor at Los Altos UMC in Los Altos, California, as well as a writer and speaker. You can find a list of all his books, articles and resources for churches, including his most recent book [All the Best Questions](#), at his website: JeremyWords.com.



Music Notes:

March and April are busy months in the music ministry with rehearsals in preparation for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. If you are interested in a short term commitment – singing some great music with some great people – this a time to try out choir. Feel free to drop in on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. for our rehearsals.

Mark your calendars for LPUMC's annual Flute Choir and Handbell Concert which will be held on Friday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. Always a favorite concert of our church and the community.

March Music Schedule

- March 6 – Choir
- March 13 – A cappella
- March 20 – Choir
- March 27 – Solo TBA



The United Methodist Women's monthly board meeting will be held on March 10th at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited.

The monthly general meeting will be held on March 17th at 5:30 p.m. at Crackpots for the painting of bowls for the Empty Bowls charity for the OUR Center. The cost is \$18 plus tax. If you wish to attend please contact Donna Chuang at dschuang@yahoo.com. Please let her know a few days ahead since we have to give Crackpots a count of attendees. A room is reserved for our group for two hours. We're glad to be able to participate in this charity again.

On March 8th, a Zoom program will be presented at 5:30 p.m. The title is *Voices from the Field: Love, Justice, Service: the Ministries of Deaconesses and Home Missioners*. The program will last for an hour with an optional breakout session afterwards. To register, go to unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Also, we want to remind everyone about the UMW Reading Program. For a list of this year's and past year's books, please go to unitedmethodistwomen.org. There are several books in the UMW library at the church and at our local Longmont library. For additional information, please contact our Program Resources officer, Denise Gaffney at denisegaffney@yahoo.com.

Blessings, Jan Spidler
Pres., UMW



Update from the Center for Health and Hope: Donald Messer, head of the Center for Health and Hope sent this update on how they are using the funds we sent from our craft fair back in October: “Just this week I authorized a special training session for community health workers who supervise the care of the orphans. They are a vital link between your social worker Glorie and the children who are often in very rural and isolated places. The workshop will be held in April and bring these 52 plus volunteers up-to-date information about human rights, child care, AIDS, and best practices in caring for persons living with HIV. It will also be a time to honor Jennifer who will be retiring after marvelous service. Your special gift at the end of the year helped to fund this program. The volunteers are poor so they need help not only with food but also with transportation by bus from the villages.”

Empty Bowls Update: This annual fundraiser for the OUR Center which has previously been held in March has been moved to Saturday, June 11 for this year. In spite of this change, bowl painting is underway at Crackpots. If you're interested in painting a bowl you can find more information at: <http://www.ecrackpots.com/emptybowls>. More details on the Empty Bowls event will be released later.

Mission Opportunities in March:

March 12 - OUR Center Lunch: Help us provide lunch at the OUR Center. Volunteers needed to help prepare, serve, and clean-up, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Come for all, or just part of the time. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. [Click here to sign up](#), or call Amy Mann-Miner, 303-931-8429.

March 29 - Meal for HOPE: Help us provide dinner for 20 participants at HOPE. Sign-up to bring a side, salad, or dessert. Drop off your part of the meal between 5:30-5:45 p.m. at The Journey. [Click here to sign up](#) or contact Evelyn Fontanez, 303-709-1719.

UMCOR Sunday, March 27th: Day after day the [United Methodist Committee on Relief](#) supports disaster relief near and far. Working through United Methodist response teams and other like-minded partners, UMCOR is committed to alleviating suffering and giving hope. Your designated gifts on this special Sunday help UMCOR keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific relief effort go towards that effort, not administrative costs. To give online, go to UMC.org/SSGive

Finance Committee News

Thank you LPUMC Community! Thanks to your generosity of time, talent and finances we have survived 2 years of COVID-19. Your generosity will allow us to grow the Ministry and spread God's love to our neighbors and friends.

We usually have increased giving during the November – January time frame as some members choose to contribute on an Annual rather than Weekly or Monthly basis. January 2022 was no exception as we had a few large donations that put giving \$13,820 higher than last year. We anticipate February giving will be considerably less than January.

In addition to General Fund Giving, we had Designated Marshal Fire Donations which totaled \$7,050 (between gift cards and Angel Fund giving). As of January 31st \$5,454 in donations have been distributed to Marshal Fire Victims. An additional \$1,000 in Gift Cards were purchased using the existing Feed the Homeless Fund (formerly Little Pantry). The gift card distribution was managed by the Missions Committee to Louisville UMC and the Angel Fund distribution was managed by staff through our connections with the Salvation Army. It is wonderful to see LPUMC supporting our Christian neighbors.

	<u>YTD 2022</u>	<u>YTD 2021</u>
Income	\$59,694	\$45,874
Expenses	\$30,089	\$31,288

Trustees Committee News:

The Trustees series on things of Extreme Interest related to Building Systems and Maintenance continues Sunday, March 13. As mentioned during the last talk the subject matter will be: Clearing a Safe Path or Snow-removal. This is one talk you won't want to miss.

As a recap from my last talk - Springs of Living Water or Plumbing: there are costs for the annual inspection and maintenance of the Back Flow Preventers at the Church, as well as the Fire Sprinkler System's annual inspection. The valve and meter manifold for the Water Main need to be replaced as soon as warm weather allows (Which will be followed by a Special Report during the Trustees' Moment). Work continues on the irrigation system for church landscaping. Much of it needs to be replacement or repaired. We are trying to do some of this work each year as budget allows.

Your donations to the Trustees' Fund are greatly appreciated and help cover these types of expenses.

Upcoming topics are:

- Building Grounds Maintenance
- Up-Keep and Maintenance of the Parsonage

Thank You for your continued support.
The Trustees

Happy Birthday!

<u>March 3</u>	Carolyn Driver Wilma Meyer
<u>March 4</u>	Kristin Miller
<u>March 7</u>	Jan Baker Ginny Walker
<u>March 9</u>	Leigh-Ann Black Laurie Faye
<u>March 10</u>	Steve Gaffney Becca Marsing
<u>March 11</u>	Renee Comeau Jan Steger Kimberly Taylor
<u>March 12</u>	Brenda Henry
<u>March 13</u>	Jenn Ochs
<u>March 19</u>	Dennis Champlin Rebekah Fisher Matt Fisher
<u>March 20</u>	Wes Stiller
<u>March 25</u>	Lauren Billow
<u>March 26</u>	Wyatt Eklof
<u>March 27</u>	Emily Billow
<u>March 29</u>	Dale Sherrod
<u>March 30</u>	Randy Carlson
<u>March 31</u>	Tom Charles

Bible Studies:

Sundays:

9 a.m. – *Exodus* study with Gran and Charlene Smythe in person in God's Harbor and on Zoom.

6:30 p.m. – Currently doing a study using *The Bible Project's* videos in the Torah series. Contact brucearmstrong1213@gmail.com for more information and the Zoom link.

Mondays:

7 p.m. – Ladies Bible study on *Men of the Bible* by Ann Spangler and Robert Wolgemuth, Questions? Contact either Dee Slown (dd.slown@gmail.com) or Jessica Miller (j7miller@mac.com).

Thursdays:

10 a.m. – Women's Bible Study on *Engaging God's Word: Revelations*. Come join us! Contact Jan Spitler (janaspitler@gmail.com) or Linda Orrell (ljorrell@aol.com) for more information.

Saturdays:

7:30 a.m. – Men's Group. For more information contact Steve Gaffney at stvnffn@gmail.com or 303-702-9877.

Quilt group:

Wednesdays:

10 a.m. – Come and join us! Contact Judy Scrimshire at judyscrim@gmail.com for more information.

Worship Attendance

Date:	In person:	Online
Jan. 30	112	107
Feb. 6	136	128
Feb. 13	110	97
Feb. 20	132	63

LPUMC Staff

Rev. Jeremiah Harris – Pastor
pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org

Kay Lloyd – Music Director
music@lpumc.org

Katie Pekarek – Young People's Ministry Director
katie@lpumc.org

Alexandria Anderson – Office Manager/Treasurer
alex@lpumc.org and finance@lpumc.org

Paula Muncy – Accompanist
Rev. Sandy Stewart – Deacon-in-Residence
Rev. Granville Smythe – retired
Pastor Charlene Smythe – retired

Upcoming:

Ash Wednesday Service
March 2 – 7 p.m.

It's time to Spring Forward!
Daylight Savings Begins March 13th

April Newsletter Deadline:
March 21st

Please send your articles to: alex@lpumc.org