



Longs Peak United Methodist Church

December Connection

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

DECEMBER 2022

Pastors Pen:

*The days are coming,' declares the LORD, "when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah."
-Jeremiah 33:14*

Sunday Worship Schedule

9 a.m. – Contemporary
Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m. - Traditional

Happy Holidays LPUMC Family,

What a joy it was to gather as a church family for our Thanksgiving pot-luck celebration! One of the things that I have always found comforting about LPUMC is the close-knit sense of being a “family church.” This church has some wonderful traditions of gathering together. I am also reminded that as we gather for the holidays, families can be both wonderful as well as complicated. On one hand you can’t choose who your family is, and family members don’t always agree with each other. On the other hand, family (not only limited to blood relationships) tend to be the ones who stick with you through thick and thin. As we gather with loved ones and friends, I offer John Wesley’s teaching to the family of Christ, “though we may not think alike, might we love alike?” What a great perspective to hold before us! In the words quoted above from the prophet of Jeremiah, the prophet was offering a promise of hope to a divided family. The Hebrew people had become split into the nations of Israel and Judah, and despite their division, GOD promises them good things in the coming days.

In our nation, in the global church, and even in our own individual families there is no shortage of things to disagree over. However, difference does not have to ruin the family gathering! As we come in anticipation of the Christ child, and gather as a family, I would invite that during this season we look for the light of Christ’s promise of good things. When the Amazon delivery is delayed, when the store is sold out of that perfect gift, when you can’t figure out which bulb in the string of lights that is the burned out one, when the family dinner turns to politics... focus on the good things. Look for light that comes from the things that matter most, and there you will experience the joy of Christmas.

This advent I am looking forward to our gathering together as a family of Christ, and there will be a number of opportunities. Throughout the four weeks leading up to advent, LPUMC will be offering a **Wednesday potluck meal** with activities for children and a book study for adults (sign up for the meal in Crossroads). Look for additional information in the *Weekly Reminder*. In recognition that the holidays can be full of emotions, there will be a **Blue Christmas service** on Monday December 19 at 6:30 p.m. Whether you are grieving the loss of a loved one, or just not getting into the Holiday Spirit you are invited to this service of reflection. Sunday, December 18th will be our all **music service** during the usual worship times of 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve services will be at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Pastor's Pen (Cont.)

On Christmas morning we will be having a family service with cookies and cocoa as we anticipate our special guest Saint Nicholas to stop by and share about his story. This will be an informal service and you are welcome to come in your jammies! It is with great anticipation that I look forward to celebrating the promise of Christ's joy with you the LPUMC family!

May the light of Christ shine upon you this advent season.

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Jeremiah



United Women in Faith will have our yearly Christmas Party on Sunday, December 4th at 11:30 a.m. This is a potluck lunch. Ham and drinks will be provided. So please bring a side dish, bread or dessert. We will have the installation of new officers. Also, we will be making ornaments and we'll play Christmas Bingo. **All women are welcome as well as the men.** This should be a fun and festive time and we hope many of you will be able to attend.

The Christmas Party will be our only event for December. We will not have any other meetings.

We already have fun and interesting things planned for January so watch for next month's newsletter.

We hope everyone has a safe and blessed Christmas.

Jan Spitler

Dinner for 7 or 8

Greetings! We are again starting up Dinner for 7 or 8 and could use a few more people. It will run January through April, typically the 2nd Friday or Saturday of each month depending on what works best for your group.

Each person/couple will host one month and provide the main dish. The other months you will be scheduled to either bring a salad, vegetable or bread or a dessert. It is a fun way to get together outside of church.

If you are interested in participating, would like to be a sub or if you just need more information, talk to Kim Kittilson or email kkittilson@gmail.com

Thank you! We hope to get the schedules set and out by mid-December.

Library News

A new book has been added to the church library by Pastor Jeremiah on which he based a recent sermon. The book is entitled *The Year of Living Biblically* by A.J. Jacobs. It is displayed on the library shelves and will eventually be filed under "Inspirational." A.J. Jacobs writes about his fascinating and hilarious year of obeying the 10 Commandments and following Biblical rules. You will be totally absorbed on his true memoir.



So you know...

LPUMC Stephen Ministry *VISION* Statement:

LPUMC Stephen Ministry Vision is about inviting new souls to find God, nourishing the souls of the faithful, and sending God's people to serve the world as the hands and feet of Christ. We will transform the world by demonstrating love and grace, praising God, and nurturing others in Christian living. Christ sets all free!

LPUMC Stephen Ministry *MISSION* Statement:

The LPUMC Stephen Ministry Mission is to serve God by training lay caregivers who will provide a source of one-to-one emotional and spiritual support to those who are facing life's challenges. This ministry of confidential Christian presence will be available to those in our congregation, as well as those in the broader community, and will result in strengthening our bonds as Christians who care for the world and each other.

If you believe you, or someone you know, may benefit from the support of a Stephen Minister, please call Phyllis Crow at 303-906-5055.



Thank You! Yes you! Everyone in this congregation was part of the Mission Committee work this past year. Maybe you participated by making a donation to the general budget, a specific mission project, or a special Sunday collection. Maybe you picked up a requested item or gift card for one of our specific drives. Maybe you donated of your talents through a craft or baked good for our bazaar, or donated your time to help with one of our meal outreach programs or special projects. Maybe you handed out a TAG Bag, or you lifted up the work of this church in your prayers. However you participated, you made this past year successful for the missional outreach at Longs Peak UMC and you helped us make a difference in the lives of many here in Longmont and around our world. Take a look at the Mission Committee year in review and celebrate all we've been able to do and consider how you will participate going forward. [Click here to read our 2022 Year in Review.](#)

Christmas Gift Cards for the Inn Between

Help us collect gift cards to bring the joy of Christmas to local families living at the Inn Between. Parents will use these cards to purchase gifts for their children. There are two ways you can participate:

1. You may purchase **\$25** gift cards to either **Target or Walmart** and bring them to church. Look for the collection boxes in the Narthex.
2. You can make a donation for LPUMC to purchase the gift cards in one large batch. Fill out your check to LPUMC with Inn Between gift cards in the memo line of your donation.

We need all funds collected by December 4 and cards will be collected through December 11. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Inn Between contact the Mission committee at lpumcmisions@gmail.com

Mission Meals in December:

- **December 10 (Saturday) - OUR Center Lunch:** The Empty Nesters fellowship group is filling the volunteer slots for December. [Click here to sign up](#), or call Amy Mann-Miner, 303-931-8429.

December 29 (Thursday) - 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 Messiah Lutheran. [Click here to sign up](#) or contact Evelyn Fontanez, 303-709-1719

The Missions Team will meet Tuesday, December 6, 5:30 pm via Zoom. Watch the weekly reminders for the link, or email LPUMCMissions@gmail.com to get it. All are welcome. If you would like to learn more about the committee, get more involved with current activities, or bring ideas for Mission opportunities in 2023, please join us.

Worship Attendance:

Date:	In person:	Online:
Oct. 30	145	69
Nov. 6	152	59
Nov. 13	139	77
Nov. 20	153	75
Nov. 27	125	60

Finance Committee:

	Oct. '22	'22 YTD	'21 YTD
Income:	\$39,430	\$360,057	\$317,666
Expense:	\$30,594	\$316,635	\$288,902



Advent Happenings:

Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6 p.m. through Dec. 21st.
Sign up in Crossroads.

Music Sunday – Dec. 18
(at both services)

Blue Christmas Service – Monday, Dec. 19
6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services
5 and 7 p.m.

Christmas Day Service – 9:30 a.m.

Bible Studies

Sundays:

9 a.m. – Studying the Book of **Luke**: Meets in person in God’s Harbor and on Zoom.

6:30 p.m. (on Zoom) – Using the books of Luke and Acts (actually a single book) to study the birth, life, death, resurrection of Jesus and the continuation of his ministry by his first century followers and the birth of the Christian Church. We will be using a combination of Bible Project videos and a Disciple study guide. Please contact Bruce Armstrong on (303) 772-0449 or at

brucearmstrong1213@gmail.com for more information and to get on the email list for Zoom links and reading each week.

Mondays:

7 p.m. – Ladies Bible study on *Men of the Bible* by Ann Spangler and Robert Wolgemuth, Questions? Contact Dee Slowen (dd.slowen@gmail.com).

Thursdays:

10 a.m. – Ladies book study: Meets in God’s Harbor. The book is *Angels* by Billy Graham. For more information, contact Linda Orrell or Jan Spitler (ljorrell@aol.com or janaspitler@gmail.com)

Saturdays:

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

Quilt group:

Wednesdays:

10 a.m. – Come and join us! Contact Judy Scrimshire at [judyscrim@gmail.com](mailto:judy scrim@gmail.com) for more information.

Happy Birthday!

Dec. 2	Joanne Lanz Margaret Vann
Dec. 5	Bill Mandry
Dec. 6	Terry Larsen
Dec. 7	Lincoln Davies
Dec. 9	Corky Brooks
Dec. 11	Ken Black
Dec. 12	Dolores Hall
Dec. 13	Ed Sobanski
Dec. 16	Pam Ernst Caren King
Dec. 18	Phil Huff
Dec. 21	Pat Blatzer
Dec. 22	Katelyn Lawley
Dec. 23	Bob Henderson
Dec. 26	Tom Hubner
Dec. 27	Alan Dines Nancy Randolph
Dec. 28	Wanda Wilson
Dec. 30	Soleil Reddick



Staff List

Rev. Jeremiah Harris – Pastor: pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org

Parker Steinmetz – Music Director: music@lpumc.org

Katie Pekarek – Young People’s Ministry: katie@lpumc.org

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

Paula Muncy – Accompanist

Rev. Sandy Stewart – Deacon-in-Residence

January Newsletter Deadline:

December 19

Please send your articles to:
alex@lpumc.org