



Longs Peak United Methodist Church

April Connection

1421 ELMHURST DRIVE | LONGMONT | CO | 80503
303-776-0399 | LPUMC.ORG
APRIL 2023

Pastor's Pen:

Dear Church Family,

As your Pastor, I want to give you a summary of the presentation that took place after church on Sunday March, 12th regarding the future of the United Methodist Church in general and Longs Peak in particular.

Seventy-two people gathered for lunch and a review of the history of the schism in the denomination regarding the ordination and marriage of same sex individuals and what it means for our congregation. The session included a video summary of the history and an outline of the process for those churches that are considering disaffiliation from the United Methodist church.

Our gathering was very positive and people from both sides of the issue were able to have some of their questions answered. Most people were very relieved to hear that we will not be asked to vote on the issue in the near future and possibly not at all depending on the outcome of the General Conference in 2024.

Based on the feedback forms, the priority of those who attended was to keep our church family intact while understanding that we do not all think alike on this and other issues. This includes the fact that Longs Peak UMC always has been and will remain open and affirming to all who enter our doors.

The feedback also indicated a strong interest in exploring the various Biblical perspectives connected to the issue so I will look forward to offering such an opportunity to those who are interested sometime this summer. In the meantime, I encourage anyone who missed the session or who would like to chat individually to contact me so we can have a cup of coffee and some helpful dialogue.

In Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeremiah

Sunday Worship Schedule

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

CELEBRATE EASTER

Sunday April 2nd Palm Sunday	9AM & 10:30AM
Thursday April 6th Maundy Thursday Open Table Communion	5:30PM- 7PM
Friday April 7th Good Friday Service	7PM
Saturday April 8th Easter Egg Hunt	10AM - 12PM
Sunday April 9th Easter	9AM & 10:30AM

Holy Week

SCHEDULE

For more information on the topic, check out these resources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjydUH-lfDo&t=4s>

A concise, unbiased explanation about how the UMC got to this point of schism within the denomination.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bo7dH72sR28>

This is a conversation that Adam Hamilton pastor of the largest UMC congregation (15k members) Church of the Resurrection. @ the 1hr 16min mark Adam offers valuable information on compatibilists representing the majority of the UMC.

<https://vimeo.com/799302437>

This an interview with Bishop Karen Oliveto answering questions about disaffiliation from the UMC within the Mountain Sky Conference

<https://www.mtnskyumc.org/files/websites/mountain/Disaffiliation+FAQs.pdf>

This is a resource from the Mountain Sky Conference which answer frequently asked questions about disaffiliation specifically regarding our conference.

Categories of Some UMC Perspectives: Excerpts from: “Getting to Church Vitality” by Tom Berlin

<https://revtomberlin.com/church-vitality/>

Progressive Non-Compatibilists: People in this space have deep concerns for the call of Scripture for justice to all people and Jesus’ deferential care of the marginalized. These two points of biblical interpretation, among others, lead them to work for full inclusion in the life of the church. This is such a high value for them that they only want to be in a church that reflects this belief and will work for change as long as the church does not.

Progressive Compatibilists: Many of these people have moved from Traditionalist Compatibilists into this area in more recent years. They would like to see the church offer ordination to all people and same-sex marriage to committed Christian couples. They understand that their friends on the right are not where they are and believe that the unity Christ prayed for the church can be upheld despite this difference. They respect the right of their traditionalist friends and do not want them to be forced into situations that would violate their personal beliefs. Most United Methodists are compatibilists. I would guess that 70% or more of us fall into one of these two areas.

Traditionalist Compatibilists: These people hold traditional views on human sexuality but understand that other pastors or churches would like to have the option of offering marriage ceremonies to same-sex couples. Some Annual Conferences want to have the ability to ordain people who are practicing homosexuals. While they do not want to be forced into performing such a marriage, they can live in a denomination where this occurs, understanding that there are many issues beyond this where they find unity in our connection.

Traditionalist Non-Compatibilists: People in this zone are satisfied with the current restrictive wording of the Book of Discipline on same-sex marriage and the ordination of people who are practicing homosexuals. They want to see the church live out what they feel are obvious prohibitions in Scripture regarding homosexual acts. For them it is an issue of personal holiness. They are concerned that if these passages are compromised, all passages related to practices of sexual ethics and personal holiness will be compromised. Their concerns about change are of such importance to them that they would rather be in a church where all agree on these matters than feel personally compromised by a church with a diverse view on human sexuality.



On Native American Ministries Sunday, April 23, we join with others from around the country to support grassroot work within Native American churches and Native American outreach ministries. Through designated gifts, Native American students will receive scholarships to help them complete their seminary education; Native American local churches will offer vacation Bible school and after-school programs to reach children with cultural and Scriptural education. Elders will gather to study and learn within their own cultural community and annual conferences will conduct Native American outreach ministries. Thank you for your faithful and generous support of the UMC Special Sundays. ResourceUMC.org/SSGive

April Missions Meals

On April 8 (Saturday) we will provide lunch at the [OUR Center Community Cafe](#). Volunteers are needed to help prepare the meal (9:30-11:30 a.m.), and to serve the meal & clean-up (11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.). If you are reading this online, click the OUR Center Meal button below to sign up, or call Amy Mann-Miner, 303-931-8429. (*Volunteers must be 16 years or older.*)

On April 29 (Saturday), help us provide dinner for 20 participants at [HOPE \(Homeless Outreach Providing Encouragement\)](#). Sign up for a main, side, salad, or dessert. Drop off your part of the meal between 5:30-5:45 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran. If you are reading this online, click the HOPE Meal button below to sign up, or contact Evelyn Fontanez, 303-709-1719.

In April, we continue our **Mission Collection Focus** on the [OUR Center](#)'s Community Market: needs include feminine hygiene products, 8 oz. shampoo, large toothpaste. Food needs include fruit cups, canned: meats, corn, carrots, mixed vegetables. Place your donations in the collection barrel near the sanctuary door, or the blue wheelbarrow in Fellowship Hall.

The Missions Team will meet Tuesday, April 4, 5:30 p.m. at the church, in God's Harbor. This [Zoom link](#) is available, if you prefer to attend via Zoom. 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, please join us.

Thank you!

I truly appreciated all the cards, phone calls and prayers while I was homebound so long. Thank you all. I'm looking forward to joining my church family again. God Bless you all.
Jean Harper

Lonely? Sad? Discouraged?



Going through a tough time—emotionally or spiritually? Struggling with a crisis in life? Or simply feeling down?

Consider letting a Stephen Minister help. A Stephen Minister is a member of our congregation who is trained to listen, care, encourage, pray, and walk alongside you during difficult times. It's confidential, free, and very helpful.

To learn more, talk with a pastor or Stephen Leader.

Contact: Phyllis - 303-906-5055

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

— Galatians 6:2

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

Bible Studies:

Mondays:

7 p.m. (on Zoom) – Studying *Help Is Here: Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose on the Power of the Holy Spirit* by Max Lucado. The Zoom link is posted in the Weekly Reminders.

Sundays:

6:30 p.m. (on Zoom) – Studying *Do I Stay a Christian? A guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned* by Brian McLaren. Please contact Bruce Armstrong at brucearmstrong1213@gmail.com for more information and the Zoom link.

Thursdays:

10 a.m. – Ladies book study. Currently studying 1st and 2nd Peter. Meets in God's Harbor. For more information, contact Linda Orrell or Jan Spitler (lijorrell@aol.com or janaspitler@gmail.com)

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](mailto:judy scrim@gmail.com) for more information.

Happy Birthday!

April 1	Seth Hagedorn Katie Pekarek Kaila Wischart
April 2	Sauvren Reddick
April 4	Nadine Nelson Arlene Stiller
April 5	Brenda Peterson-Pieper
April 6	Linda Cochran
April 8	Susan Cooper
April 12	Don Christensen Stephany Larsen Tami Moin
April 15	Sandy Stewart
April 16	Pat Orrell
April 17	Kevin Osler
April 19	Parker Steinmetz
April 21	Amanda Billow Thomas Anderson
April 22	Judy Scrimshire
April 26	Joy Long
April 28	Juniper Davies
April 30	Melissa Hornbaker

Worship Attendance

Date:	9 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Online:
Feb. 26	108	48	84
March 5	107	47	81
March 12	71	82	80
March 19	107	41	82

Staff List:

Rev. Jeremiah Harris - Pastor
Pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org

Parker Steinmetz – Music Director
music@lpumc.org

Katie Pekarek – Program Director
katie@lpumc.org

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

Paula Muncy – Accompanist
Rev. Sandy Stewart – Deacon-in-Residence

Finance Committee:

	Feb. '23	'23 YTD
Income:	\$31,664	\$83,292
Expense:	\$33,733	\$76,168

May Newsletter Deadline:

April 17th.

Please send articles to
alex@lpumc.org