



# Longs Peak United Methodist Church

## *July Connection*

1421 Elmhurst Dr.  
Longmont, CO 80503  
303-776-0399  
Website: lpumc.org  
**JULY 2023**

### ***Summer Schedule***

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

*Regular Sunday Worship Schedule resumes  
on Sept. 10th*

## ***Pastor's Pen:***

*For I hold you by your right hand— I, the LORD your God. And I say to you, "Don't be afraid. I am here to help you."*  
Isaiah 41:13

Perhaps there is nothing more reassuring than that of physical touch. When Peter attempts to walk on the water and begins to panic, sinking below the waves- it's Jesus's hand that that restores his faith. When we are afraid, the offer of another's hand gives us the same encouragement. The theme of this year's Mountain Sky Annual Conference was *Give Me Your Hand*, as an invitation for United Methodists to engage deeply in care for one another.

The past few years the church has known its share of fears. Fears around societal changes as we rebound from COVID, and realize that the church does not look quite like it used to. Fears that we are not regularly receiving new members or young families. Fears around the discussion regarding the possible ordination of LGBTQ+ clergy and the possible sanctioning of same sex marriages. Fears over the future of a fractured UMC denomination.

Last week the *Times- Call* ran a front-page article relating that thirty-eight churches in the Mountain Sky Conference (32 are from Colorado) have chosen to dissolve their connection to the United Methodist Church citing "reasons related to human sexuality." With the sole exception of Brighton UMC on the front range, these were small town rural churches from the southeastern corner of the state. To leave the UMC, these churches were required to pass a 2/3 church vote, pay fees for the release from the conference trust clause, pay clergy pension and mission shares, and remove all United Methodist symbols from their buildings. It was with the utmost grace, respect and grief that this work was approved by delegates of the annual conference. To see such news in the headlines is certainly another source of fear, and as painful as this was to navigate, let me give you a snapshot of where we are as the Mountain Sky Conference today.

In 2019 there were 376 churches in our conference, after this past weekend there are now 318 churches or 84%. This number also reflects church closures, in addition to new church starts. In 2019 there were 60,796 professing United Methodists, today there are 48,068, or 79%. This decline was not only around differences in theology, but also reflects those who quit attending church during the pandemic and have never returned. In 2023 70% of Mountain Sky churches worship less than 85 in-person attendees on Sunday morning. Those are certainly some fearful statistics! LPUMC's post-COVID is 159 in person and 80 online, or 239 on a given Sunday! This is a testament to your welcoming nature as the church!

## Pastor's Pen (cont.)

Now let me offer you my hand, with a hopeful statistic. In 2019 on an average Sunday in our conference there were 32,339 people in worship, today the average any given Sunday is 34,422 worshipers, that's a 106% from 2019! Where are all these people? Many are online. Online worship has become the new "back-row" for new visitors! So, while we might be tempted to lament where we are, the numbers show that our words, our actions, our love, and our inclusion are a witness to the life changing gospel of Jesus Christ. There is hope!

And as a reminder for those of you who were not able to attend the information session about disaffiliation held at our church in March, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will take place in North Carolina in April of 2024. At that time, delegates from UMC's all over the world will meet to determine if there will be changes to the Book of Discipline that would impact local churches. Until that is determined, we won't know if it is even necessary to take a vote regarding the sexuality issues at the local level. I mention this because there are some who have asked when we will be voting and the answer is not until after April, if at all.

Speaking of voting... IMPORTANT NOTICE...Coming up later this month will be an all church vote on adopting the *Simplified Accountability Structure*. This in no way has anything to with disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church! The SAS vote is a proposal to free up our church members from an unwieldy committee structures and move us towards being a more missionally focused church by reducing the number of our administrative committees to one that encompasses more areas. Anyone on our roll as a member will be able to vote.

Give me your hand, if you are feeling anxious or have question about any of these issues or trends, let's talk. I am always up for a cup of coffee with friends, it is a blessing to journey with you as your pastor.

Peace and blessings,  
Jeremiah

## Music Notes:

### August Drop-in Choir

Do you like to sing? Come sing with the choir for a Sunday! We will have a drop-in choir opportunity at the beginning of August. We will meet once on **Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:15-7:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary to learn one song. Then we will meet at **8:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>** to warm up and refresh our memories before singing in that morning's service. Everyone is welcome regardless of experience or talent level, and dropping in doesn't commit you to any future choir activities. No strings attached – just musical fun! Reach out to Parker ([music@lpumc.org](mailto:music@lpumc.org)) if you have any questions.

### Worship Attendance:

| Date:   | 9:30 a.m. | Online |
|---------|-----------|--------|
| May 28  | 117       | 73     |
| June 4  | 188       | 188    |
| June 11 | 118       | 134    |
| June 18 | 109       | 55     |
| June 25 | 122       | 64     |

### Finance Report:

|           | May '23  | YTD '23   | YTD '22   |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Income:   | \$26,910 | \$174,643 | \$185,272 |
| Expenses: | \$32,414 | \$180,750 | \$157,190 |

## Simplified Accountability Structure (SAS) Update

Based on congregant feedback and leadership discernment, the Church Council, at its June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, unanimously approved requesting to the DS to move to the SAS through a congregational vote tentatively scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup> following the church service. Pending the outcome of the vote, the Nominating Committee will begin its task of identifying persons to serve on the Leadership Board beginning January 1, 2024.

Many thanks to the Discernment Team, Mary Jane Mees, Carol Monhollen, Jean Werner, Bruce Richardson, Roger Wisheart and Joe Pieper for their dedication and commitment to successfully completing the first step of the process through being the hands and feet of Christ. Approximately 90-100 church members were informed of the SAS process followed by an opportunity to ask questions about the new structure.

We will continue to provide updates as the process unfolds. In the meantime, should you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact Barb Huner, Council Chair, at 720-480-7656 or Pastor Jeremiah.

Blessings,  
Barb and Pastor Jeremiah



## JULY MISSION FOCUS: HOPELIGHT MEDICAL CLINIC

We will continue our collections for Hopelight Medical Clinic this month. Housed next to the United Church of Christ on Collyer St, Hopelight Medical Clinic provides low cost medical care, lab services, pharmacy, behavioral health services and counseling to the uninsured and underinsured members of our community. In-kind donations have dropped considerably since before COVID, so we would like to collect some much-needed items: Over the counter allergy medicine, Saline nasal spray, Neti Pots and Neil-Med Sinus Rinses, Cough drops, Pill boxes, Children's and Adult's ibuprofen (Advil) and acetaminophen (Tylenol), Compression stockings for men and women, & Portable Automatic Blood Pressure Cuffs.

Please place your donations in the barrel in the Narthex – items will be removed promptly. Brochures and more information will be available on the Missions Board.

To make a monetary donation or for more information about Hopelight's many existing and new and exciting services, you can visit their websites:

[www.hopelightclinic.org](http://www.hopelightclinic.org), as well as <http://www.hopelightbh.org> and [www.ssshb.org](http://www.ssshb.org).

We are also continuing to collect food and personal hygiene items for the [OUR Center](#) Community Market. Some of their greatest needs include canned corn, canned beans (baked, pinto, black) and jars of spaghetti sauce. If you would like to contribute, please place your donations in the blue wheelbarrow in Fellowship Hall.

**The Missions Team will meet Tuesday, July 11, 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.

**Calling all Crafters, Bakers & Canners:** We will be doing a Craft Bazaar & Bake sale again this fall as our annual fundraiser for the [Center for Health and Hope](#). More details to come, but we wanted to give you plenty of time to start planning and crafting.

## July Missions Meals

**On July 8 (Saturday) we will provide lunch at the [OUR Center Community Cafe](#).** Volunteers are needed in two-hour shifts 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 to sign up, or call Amy Mann-Miner, 303-931-8429. (*Volunteers must be 16 years or older*). In June, we served 86 people.

## July Missions Meals (cont)

**On July 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 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church. If you are reading this online, click the [HOPE Meal](#) button to sign up, or contact Evelyn Fontanez, 303-709-1719.

## [OUR Center Meal - July 8](#)

## [Hope Meal - July 29](#)

## Young People's Ministry

### Church Movie Night!

Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 p.m.

Bring your own dinner

Popcorn, cookies, and Lemonade provided

Mary Poppins

### Young Adults Gathering

Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> - 5:45 p.m.

Collision Brewery

### Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

We have partnered with Niwot UMC and Mountainview UMC to head to Youth 2023 in Daytona Florida. On our way we will be in Jacksonville doing local mission work.

Please pick up an envelope with number with your desired donation!

Have you begun planning your Lip Sync yet? We are kicking in the fall with lots of fun, and we can only that with your help!

Spread Love,

Katie Pekarek - Programs Director

## THANK YOU

### "CHRISTMAS IN MAY" VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS!

Profound thanks to each and every one of you who helped put my life and property back in order after several very difficult years. Whether you wielded a paintbrush, served on the grounds crew, donated labor or supplies for interior repairs, prepared/provided food on Volunteer Day, or helped pray this project into existence and completion, you blessed me beyond measure.

Special thanks to Joe Pieper for shepherding the entire project. I pray God's richest blessings on you all. You truly served as the hands and feet of Jesus. You called this mission "Christmas in May." I call it a miracle.

Signed: An Extremely Grateful "Christmas in May"  
Recipient

## 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.

### **Saturdays:**

**7:30 a.m.** – Men's Group. For more information contact Steve Gaffney at [stvnngffn@gmail.com](mailto:stvnngffn@gmail.com) or 303-702-9877.

### **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](mailto:brucearmstrong1213@gmail.com) for more information and the Zoom link.



Longs Peak is starting a 13-week GriefShare session on **September 12**. GriefShare is a support group for people grieving the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend that allows you to be around people who understand the pain you feel. The group meets weekly, but you can join at any session.

**When:** Tuesdays from September 12 to December 5

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**Where:** Longs Peak United Methodist Church; Rm 130

**Cost:** \$15 for GriefShare workbook (scholarships available)

**Facilitators:** Wendy Reed, Kathy Crier, and Jan Spittler

**Sign up in Crossroads starting in August or email [wlr8555@aol.com](mailto:wlr8555@aol.com).** For more information, contact Wendy Reed at 303-772-3290 or Kathy Crier at 720-480-8203. Child care and transportation can be arranged if needed.

## LPUMC Staff

Rev. Jeremiah Harris - Pastor

[pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org](mailto:pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org)

Parker Steinmetz – Music Director

[music@lpumc.org](mailto:music@lpumc.org)

Katie Pekarek – Program Director

[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

Ministers – Those Who Call Jesus, Lord



## July Birthdays:

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| July 2  | Shirley Joelson<br>Gary Lloyd<br>Robyn Morgan |
| July 3  | Bridgett Champlin                             |
| July 6  | Glen Shanahan                                 |
| July 7  | Alex Latsko                                   |
| July 8  | Joanna Kunselman<br>Dick Young                |
| July 12 | Jeff Linroth                                  |
| July 13 | Karen Ward                                    |
| July 14 | Nate Marshall                                 |
| July 15 | Rowanna Bobo                                  |
| July 16 | Patrick Shanahan                              |
| July 17 | Michelle Crain                                |
| July 19 | Bridget Hauger                                |
| July 21 | Avis Davis                                    |
| July 22 | Helen Douglas                                 |
| July 24 | Beth Huff                                     |
| July 25 | Peter Zigterman                               |
| July 26 | Darlene Delpizzo                              |
| July 28 | Jack Crow                                     |
| July 30 | Angela Leonard<br>Lew Scrimshire              |
| July 31 | Karen Charles<br>Nancy Rezac                  |

### What Does It Take to Become a Stephen Minister?

We are seeking men and women of our congregation who are willing to answer Jesus' call to

serve as Stephen Ministers, beginning with 50 hours of stimulating and useful training in Christian caring skills. The training will be led by trained Stephen Leaders and will include a variety of relevant topics and skills.

Please think and pray about this opportunity to serve. More information will be available by attending one of two meetings on Sunday, July 9 at 10:45a *or* Wednesday, July 12 at 7:00p.

Stephen Leaders,  
Mary Jane Mees, Phyllis Crow, Barb Huner

**August Newsletter Deadline:  
July 17<sup>th</sup>.**

To submit your article, please email  
to: [alex@lpumc.org](mailto:alex@lpumc.org).