

Longs Peak United Methodist Church

August Connection

1421 ELMHURST DRIVE | LONGMONT | CO | 80503
303-776-0399 | Website: www.lpumc.org

AUGUST 2023

Summer Worship Schedule:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
9 and 10:30 a.m. services will
resume on September 10th.

Pastor's Pen:

Happy August LPUMC!

Will Rogers once said "Be thankful that we are not getting all the government we're paying for." I have to admit there is a part of me that appreciates Will's observation! It's often easier for us to comment on the inefficiencies of government than to see the benefits. It's no small coincidence that as the Methodist movement put down roots at the same time as the American revolution, that the church would adopt similar democratic structures. The United Methodist Book of Discipline is the guiding handbook for our polity, and any changes to our own local church's governance requires a vote of the congregation through a church conference.

This past spring LPUMC had a dedicated group of volunteers who canvassed church circles listening for feedback about a more streamlined board of governance, called the Simplified Accountability Structure (SAS). One of the great benefits of SAS, is that it frees up the number of people required to sit on committees, in hopes that more time can be spent furthering the church's missional outreach. On Sunday, July 23, Pastor Josh Walker officiated our church conference as the presiding elder as LPUMC voted to move towards the Simplified Accountability Structure. The vote was unanimous in favor, with zero discussion. This landslide vote reflects all the hard work and dedication that the discernment team did to listen and educate the congregation.

The next step in our process is the where the "Accountability," fits into the Simplified structure. The existing nominations committee will begin the work of discerning candidates for the Leadership board, as well as a new nominations committee to elect future boards. Members of the board and the nominations teams will serve three-year terms before rotating off. It is your vote as the church during our church conference (in November) to approve these future board members. It is the election of the board by the congregation, and the term limits that ensures that church leadership reflects the values of LPUMC.

If you are potentially interested in serving on the Leadership Board or the Nominations committee, I would suggest that you begin with prayerful discernment as to how GOD might be calling you to share of your gifts. If you find that you are being called to church leadership, give me a call and we can discuss it further. The most exciting aspect of the SAS model is that it reduces the number of people required to serve on committees, so that there is more time to really be the hands and feet of the church! It's been a value of the SAS discernment team and the Church Council to be a transparent process, and so you will be being hearing more about this process in the months to come. In the meantime, thank you for being a great church, and having a vested interest in the wellbeing in the future of LPUMC.

Peace and blessings,
Jeremiah



AUGUST MISSION FOCUS- My Book Pal

Our August Missions collection is for My Book Pal Inc. We are again collecting coloring books (non-gender specific) and boxes of Crayola 24 count crayons. These will go in the literacy bags for 1st graders at two local Title 1 schools. In our first 2 years as a nonprofit, we have given out over 2000 books and 176 sets of coloring books/crayons.

Our mission is to provide literacy materials to first graders to help with their reading skills and help them develop a love of reading. During the school year each child will get a total of 12 books, a stuffed animal "Pal", a coloring book and box of crayons, a writing/reading workbook and a journal in which they can write and illustrate their own story.

Thank you and if you have any questions, please contact Kim Kittilson. You can check out our new website at: www.my-book-pal.org

Please place your donations in the collection barrel in the Narthex, just outside the Sanctuary doors.

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 and cereal. If you would like to contribute, please place your donations in the blue wheelbarrow in Fellowship Hall.

The **Garden Market table** will be back this summer as an opportunity to share excess produce from our church and home gardens. If you don't see it up by the time you have produce to share, zap us an email at LPUMCMissions@gmail.com, or contact a Missions team member.

The Missions Team will meet Tuesday, August 1st, 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.

SAVE THE DATE! Calling all Crafters, Bakers & Canners: We will be holding our Craft Bazaar & Bake Sale on **Saturday, November 4**. We are hoping to have a variety of handmade items donated by members of the congregation and community. This is our annual fundraiser for the Center for Health and Hope. Longs Peak UMC also provides salary support for social worker, Glorie Gitonga, through this organization as part of our global missions.

Missions Meals

On August 12 (Saturday) we will provide lunch at the OUR Center Community Cafe. Volunteers are needed in two-hour shifts to help prepare the meal (from 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.*)

On August 29 (Tuesday), 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 Journey 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 Sign up](#)

[Hope Meal Sign up](#)

Youth '23 Team

From Longs Peak, Niwot and Mountain View UMC





SUMMER SPRUCE UP!

Saturday, Aug 5 – LPUMC Church Cleanup Day
8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The LPUMC Trustees seek several able-bodied volunteers to assist in another round of summer spruce-up activities. Everyone is welcome to pitch in, and coffee and iced tea will be provided.

We're looking for people who can help with such activities as:

- **PAINTING** (North storage shed & benches for the meditation walk)
- **SPRINKLER REFURBISHMENT** (perimeter of property)
- **MULCH REPLACEMENT** (Northwest beds & playground)
- **TREE TRIMMING** (Playground & North doors)
- **PLAYGROUND CLEAN UP** (replace sand in sandbox)
- **GENERAL PARKING LOT CLEAN UP** (remove pine cones and rocks)

Bring your own hat, sunscreen, work gloves, water bottle.

To let us know we can count on you, or to find out more information about what's needed, please contact one of these Trustees:

Jo Ann Hauger

(hauger4129@gmail.com; 720-985-1247)

Joe Pieper

(pieperj@hotmail.com; 563-580-2337)

Finance:

	June '23	'23 YTD	'22 YTD
Income:	\$24,742	\$199,384	\$214,291
Expense:	\$32,519	\$213,269	\$189,255

Giving Statements

Giving statements for January through June 2023 were sent out on July 26th by email - if we had an email address for you in our finance system. Please check your spam folder if you expect to receive one and you didn't. The rest were sent in the mail. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in the world!



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 – 8 p.m.

Where: Longs Peak United Methodist Church; Rm 130/131

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

Facilitators: Wendy Reed, Kathy Crier, and Jan Spitler

Sign up in Crossroads starting or email wlr8555@aol.com. For more information, contact:

Wendy Reed at 303-772-3290 or

Kathy Crier at 720-480-8203.

Childcare and transportation can be arranged if needed.



RETURN OF READING BUDDIES!

After a COVID-imposed hiatus, we are happy to bring back our in-school reading tutor partnership with Mountain View Elementary School. We're looking for 10-15 volunteers who are available to tutor 1 or 2 hours per week, during the school day. Materials and some training will be provided. Please contact Jo Ann Hauger (hauger4129@gmail.com; 720-985-1247) if you are interested. Informational meeting to be held in late August. Volunteers must be willing to submit to background check.

Bible Studies:

Mondays:

7 p.m. (on Zoom) – We just started a study of the book *Ragamuffin Gospel*. Lina Liken will be leading. If you would like to join us, please notify her at linaliken@yahoo.com.

Saturdays:

7:30 a.m. – Men's Group. For more information contact Steve Gaffney at stvngffn@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 for more information and the Zoom link.

Worship Attendance:

Date:	In person:	Online:
July 2	136	65
July 9	147	59
July 16	106	61
July 23	124	74

Happy Birthday!

August 1

Karl Bogle
Lyn Dines
Ellen Fish
Lexi Opatril

August 2

Kris Simpson

August 5

Wendy Reed

August 8

Morgan Fisher

August 11

Darlene Chilson
Jessica Miller

August 14

Bruce Larsen

August 15

Shirley Roberts

August 17

Danielle Hagedorn

August 23

Karen Bunker

August 28

Alex Anderson

August 31

Tom Charles

If you would like your birthday to be celebrated in the Newsletter, please call or email the church office with your birthdate.

LPUMC Staff

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
Ministers – Those who call Jesus, Lord



Happy Back to School!

September Newsletter Deadline:

August 21st

Please send your articles to:
alex@lpumc.org