

# Longs Peak United Methodist Church

## October Connection

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303-776-0399 | WEBSITE: WWW.LPUMC.ORG

**OCTOBER 2023**

### Pastor's Pen:

*1 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. 3 For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. 6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. Psalm 95:1-6*

**Worship Service Times:**  
**9 a.m. – Contemporary**  
**10:30 a.m. – Traditional**

### Happy Fall LPUMC Family!

It's hard to believe that the leaves are already turning and the days growing cooler, it seems to me that we just celebrated Memorial Day! Where has the time gone? As we have returned to our fall program schedule, a number of you have reached out to me to share your thoughts on our worship services. Thank you for doing this, I honestly appreciate your feedback. The feedback varies, so I would like to share with you some of what I am hearing, as well as some of the parameters that are being taken into consideration.

Since this past Spring, the staff, worship committee, and church council have received some comments that LPUMC should go to one service on Sunday morning year-round. The rationale behind this suggestion is that LPUMC would consistently have a full sanctuary. Some of the benefits to this option are that it would reduce the workload of staff, and volunteers who are involved in worship and the fellowship time. Another benefit is that everyone in the church gets to know each other, rather than seemingly feeling like there are two separate congregations. Admittedly, there is a greater sense of energy when the whole community of faith is gathered together, praising GOD in one space.

Now when we take into consideration the worship time and style, this is where the conversation gets a bit trickier. In consideration of what time a service should be held, I have received some comments that some prefer an earlier service time so that they may worship and then get on with other weekend activities. Others have shared that it is harder to get to church earlier so they prefer a later start time. In regards to worship style there are even more varying views around music, and rightfully so as music itself is a form of worship and a meaningful connection to GOD. I have received a full spectrum of views on praise music versus hymns. Even within the traditional service format, there is much opinion between hymns from the Red Hymnal vs. the black *Faith We Sing*. While on the topic of hymn selection, the staff tries to vary hymns based on sermon theme as well as including the old favorites. Both Parker and I want to ensure that we get your favorite hymns in the rotation so shoot us a list of the hymns or songs you would like to hear!

## Pastor's Pen (cont.)

Here are a few final thoughts on the matter. Those who study church trends suggest that if the sanctuary is more than 75% full, a visitor who has to search for a seat is less likely to return. This makes sense, as none of us like to attend a movie theater that is packed because we all like to have a little space around us. Another consideration is that the two services offer options, whereas a blended service tends to leave everyone having to accept more compromises. A final point that LPUMC leadership wants to continue to seriously consider, is whether moving to one service is one more step towards the overall decline in the health of the church. Again, folks who study church trends share that once a service is ended it is pretty much gone from the equation as it's much harder to start a new service. As United Methodists, we have experienced this by experimenting with Saturday night, midweek, or early Sunday morning prayer services. These tend to eek along with a handful of folks until it fizzles out.

Friends, though the world has largely returned to "normal" in the wake of the pandemic, we remain in uncharted waters. While we have known all along that mainline congregations have been in steady decline, the pandemic has exponentially accelerated the issue. As such, we are at a time in the life of the church in which we need to lean into each other more than ever. The church is only as strong as we make it together and so I thank you for your concerns and feedback. I ask for your grace and patience as we continue to navigate this conversation with careful discernment. I am deeply blessed to be associated with you as the most vibrant United Methodist Church in the St. Vrain Circuit. Thank you for being a great church!

Peace and Blessings,  
Jeremiah



**Young People's Ministries**  
LONGS PEAK UMC

**Youth Group Fall 2023**

**October**  
**Anderson Farms**  
*Sunday October 8th | 5:30pm*

**Ignite Youth Retreat @ Buckhorn**  
*October 13th-15th*

**Trunk or Treat**  
*Sunday October 29th | 4pm-6pm*

**Chili Cook- Off Mission Trip Fundraiser**  
*Saturday November 4th*



*Fall*  
**EVENTS**

**Trunk - Or - Treat**  
**Sunday October 29th**  
**4-6pm**  
Trunk Sign Up In Crossroads

**Chili Cook-Off**  
**Saturday November 4th**  
**11am-1pm**  
**\$7**  
Contestant Sign Up In Crossroads



United  
Women  
in Faith

United Women in Faith will have a potluck picnic on Saturday, October 7th at 11:30 a.m. in the backyard of Judy Scrimshire. Her address is 1717 Drake. Bring a dish to share and a chair. If it is too chilly, we will have it inside. All ladies are invited. Join us for food, fun and fellowship. Drinks will be provided. If anyone needs a ride, contact Judy at 303-702-9094 or Jan Spitler at 720-204-6583 or 720-600-3344.

There will be a board meeting on October 5th at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting is for officers but everyone is invited.





During October, we will be collecting the following items for [HOPE \(Homeless Outreach Providing Encouragement\) of Longmont](#). If you would like to donate, you may place your items in the big collection barrel near the Sanctuary doors, and a Missions Team member will deliver them to HOPE.



### Craft & Bake Sale – Saturday, Nov. 4th

The Mission Team's Craft & Bake Sale will be on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. This is our annual fundraiser for [The Center for Health and Hope](#). Please be sure to stop by and shop the wonderful handmade items donated by members of the congregation and our surrounding community. There will be lunch available from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. as our Youth Ministry hosts a Chili Cook-Off to benefit their mission trip to South Dakota.

We are still in need of more donations for the craft and bake sale. Popular items in the past include gift items (crochet/knit/sewn/woodwork), cards, wreaths, Thanksgiving & Christmas season decor & table items, Colorado-themed items, and pet accessories. Whatever you would like to craft for this great cause is most welcome. Pretty much everything in the bake sale sells well - from cookies, cupcakes, breads & pies to salsas, jams & pestos to cornbread muffins & waffles that will pair well with the chili!

If you have any questions or can let us know you plan to donate, please email [LPUMCMissions@gmail.com](mailto:LPUMCMissions@gmail.com). We will begin collecting donations at the church about a week before the sale. Thanks!!

**The Missions Team will meet on Tuesday, October 3 at 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.

#### Missions Meals

On October 14 (Saturday) we will provide lunch at the [OUR Center](#) Community Café, and on October 29 (Sunday) we will provide dinner for 20 participants at [HOPE \(Homeless Outreach Providing Encouragement\)](#). Sign up to help with either of these using the Meal Sign Up buttons below, or contact [LPUMCMissions@gmail.com](mailto:LPUMCMissions@gmail.com)

[OUR Center Meal](#)

[Hope Meal](#)

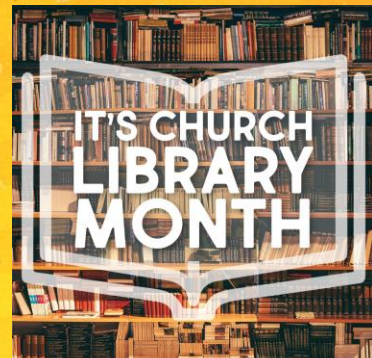
### Mountain View Elementary (MVES) Teacher Meals October 9-11

We are providing meals for the teachers at MVES during their parent-teacher conferences. We need to provide food for 35+ adults each night.

**Monday, Oct. 9 – Mexican Night**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 10 – Soup Night**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 11 – Italian Night**

Drop off food @ MVES between 4 and 4:45 p.m. If you are reading this online, click the link below for more information and to sign up.

[Link for MVES Sign-ups](#)



Come and check out our church library! We have hundreds of books to choose from. Below are listed a sampling of books from each library category with a short synopsis of each. These books are on display on the library shelves along with some newly purchased books. Have a look to see if one interests you!

#### Reference:

*Women of the Bible. The Life and Times of Every Woman in the Bible* by Sue Richards and Lawrence Richards. This complete and insightful guide to the Bible's most famous and infamous, named and unnamed, women of faith covers the matriarchs, the prophetesses and queens, the women around Jesus, and even the common ladies of the Bible. Learn how their lives teach us that the most extraordinary things can occur from ordinary beginnings and that the model for authentic femininity lies in God's plan for each woman. Who were they and where did they originate? What role did they play in the Bible story and how are their lives similar to the lives of women today? All these questions, and many more facts, can be found in this guide to the women of the Bible.

#### Biography:

*I can Only Imagine* by Bart Millard. "The Story that Inspired the Major Motion Picture." (The captivating story behind the bestselling single in the history of Christian Music and the man who wrote it.)

## Library Month (cont.)

### **Biography (cont.):**

MercyMe's crossover hit, "I Can Only Imagine," has touched millions of people around the world. But few know about the pain, redemption, and healing that inspired it. Now Bart Millard, award-winning recording artist and lead singer of MercyMe, shares how his dad's transformation from abusive father to man of God sparked a divine moment in music history. Discover how God repaired a broken family, prepared Bart for ministry through music, and wrote the words on his heart that would change his life forever. This story is a front-row seat to witnessing God's presence throughout Bart's life.

### **Caregiving and Grief:**

*Grieving a Suicide* by Albert Y. Hsu. "Albert," the neighbor said, "your mom needs you to come home." That's how it began for Albert Hsu when his father died. Anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide experiences tremendous shock and trauma. What follows is a confusing mix of emotions—anger, guilt, grief, and despair. Suicide raises heartrending questions: Why did this happen? Why didn't we see it coming? Could we have done anything to prevent it? After his father's death, Hsu wrestled with the intense emotional and theological questions surrounding suicide. While acknowledging that there are no easy answers, he draws on the resources of the Christian faith to point suicide survivors to the God who offers comfort in our grief and hope for the future. For those who have lost a loved one to suicide, this book is an essential companion for the journey toward healing.

### **Christian Fiction:**

*When Love Blooms* by Robin Lee Hatcher. From the moment Gavin Blake set eyes on Emily Harris he knew she would never make it in the rugged high country where backbreaking work and constant hardship were commonplace. She would wilt there like a rose without water. He'd be sending her back to Boise before the first snows. She could say what she wanted. Emily Harris didn't belong in the hard life of the Blakes. Though she had plenty of opportunities back East, she had come to the Idaho high country looking to make a difference. Gavin's resistance to her presence made her even more determined to prove herself. Perhaps changing the heart of one man might make the greatest difference of all.

### **Christianity/Faith:**

*Heaven* by Randy Alcorn. Have you ever wondered ...What is Heaven really going to be like? What will we look like? What will we do every day? Won't Heaven get boring after a while? We all have questions about what heaven will be like, and after twenty-five years of extensive research, Dr. Randy Alcorn has the answers. In the most comprehensive and definitive book on heaven to date, Randy invites you to picture heaven the way Scripture describes it—a bright, vibrant, and physical New Earth, free from sin, suffering, and death, and brimming with Christ's presence, wondrous natural beauty, and the richness of human culture as God intended it. The next time you hear someone say, "We can't begin to imagine what heaven will be like," you'll be able to tell them, "I can." "Other than the Bible itself, this may well be the single most life-changing book you'll ever read."  
—Stu Weber

### **Inspiration:**

*Thunder Dog* by Michael Hingson. When one of four hijacked planes flew into the World Trade Center's North Tower on September 11, 2001, Michael Hingson, a district sales manager for a network security systems company, was sitting down for a meeting. His guide dog, Roselle, was at his feet. Blind from birth, Michael could hear the sounds of shattering glass, falling debris, and terrified people flooding all around him. But Roselle sat calmly beside him. In that moment, Michael chose to trust Roselle's judgment and not to panic. They were a team. As you relive that fateful day in September 2001 alongside Michael and Roselle, you'll learn:

- The ways that grief and loss can lead the way for change
- How the rare trust between a man and his guide dog can inspire your own unshakeable faith
- The healing power of telling your own story

## Library Month (cont.)

### Relationships:

*Recreating Marriage with the Same Old Spouse* by Sandra Gray Bender. Drawing on years of experience counseling couples and groups, Sandra Bender contends that married people need intentional, focused direction to create the marriage they want. *Recreating Marriage with the Same Old Spouse* educates couples in the skills of being married. Beginning with a discussion of the Myers-Briggs personality framework, Bender covers topics like identity, intimacy, insecurity, and reflective listening.

### Spiritual:

*Laugh Your Way to Grace* by Rev. Susan Sparks. Laughter was honored by the ancients as a spiritual healing tool and celebrated by the world's great religions. So why aren't we laughing along the spiritual path today? What would happen if we did? In this personal and funny look at humor as a spiritual practice, Rev. Susan Sparks—an ex-lawyer turned comedian and Baptist minister—presents a convincing case that the power of humor radiates far beyond punch lines. Laughter can help you: Find perspective when faced with adversity, exercise forgiveness for yourself and others, and reclaim play as a spiritual practice. Whatever your faith tradition—or if you have none at all—join this veteran of the punch line and the pulpit in reclaiming the forgotten humor legacy found in thousands of years of human spiritual history.

### Mystery/Adventure:

*The Righteous Men* by Sam Bourne. A teenage computer prodigy is mortally strangled in Mumbai. A far-right extremist is killed in a remote cabin in the Pacific Northwest. A wealthy businessman is murdered in Thailand. A pimp in Brooklyn is found stabbed to death and mysteriously covered by a brown shroud. What connects the victims is an ancient prophecy that leads to the end of the world, and it's up to Will Monroe, a fledgling reporter at the New York Times, to stop it. But Monroe's investigation quickly makes him some shadowy enemies, who kidnap his wife and hold her hostage. Desperate to find the link between the killings and to save his wife, he enlists his college sweetheart, an eccentric artist and Kabbalah expert. What will happen when the one secret that has kept the world safe for thousands of years is revealed to all? In *The Righteous Men*, a blistering thriller filled with mystery, romance, and suspense, Sam Bourne takes readers deep into the hidden worlds of fundamentalist religion, mysticism, and biblical prophecies. Readers won't stop turning the pages until the very end.

### Worship Attendance:

Date:	In Person:	Online:
Aug. 27	119	67
Sept. 3	144	62
Sept. 10	111	84
Sept. 17	134	52
Sept. 24	125	62

### Finance Committee:

	August '23	'23 YTD	'22 YTD
Income:	\$30,617	\$265,016	\$320,531
Expense:	\$32,189	\$276,682	\$278,792

### Guatemala Mission Trip 2024 February 8-17th

Greetings missionaries and supporters! It's time to sign up for our 2024 Pura Vida construction trip to Guatemala. Our 2024 trip is Feb 8th through 17th (10 days/9 nights, last two nights in Antigua). We will work on two cinder block homes, building half of each. The trip price is \$2,000/person including air and ground transportation, double occupancy rooms, most meals, translators, and medical/evacuation insurance. There is still time to sign up! An application and a \$250 deposit are due ASAP (the original date was September 15, but we are looking for more team members). In addition to in-person trip sign-up, there are \$250 virtual team memberships and an opportunity to contribute construction funds at [https://www.puravida.org/virtual-trip.html?trip\\_id=106](https://www.puravida.org/virtual-trip.html?trip_id=106). For more information or if you would prefer to help sponsor someone to go in your place, contact Keith Flaming trip #106 Team Leader at: [kflaming1@yahoo.com](mailto:kflaming1@yahoo.com).



# Bible Studies:

## **Mondays:**

**7 p.m. (on Zoom)** – We are studying the book *Ragamuffin Gospel*. Contact Lina Liken for more information at [linaliken@yahoo.com](mailto:linaliken@yahoo.com).

## **Thursdays:**

**10 a.m.** – Ladies Bible Study on *Ecclesiastes: Wisdom for Living Well* by Courtney Joseph and Beverly Wise.

## **Saturdays:**

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

## **Sundays:**

**6:30 p.m. (on Zoom)** – We are reading and studying a book entitled *When Christians Get It Wrong*, a book by Adam Hamilton. We would encourage anyone interested to join our group and try it out. Please contact Bruce Armstrong at [brucearmstrong1213@gmail.com](mailto:brucearmstrong1213@gmail.com) to get on the notification list for the Zoom link and class details.



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.

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

**Time:** 6:30 – 8 p.m.

**Where:** Longs Peak United Methodist Church; Rm 137

**Cost:** \$15 for GriefShare workbook

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

Sign up in Crossroads 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. Childcare and transportation can be arranged if needed.

## Happy Birthday!

Oct. 2	Bonnie Van Deursen
Oct. 3	Marty Mechtly
Oct. 7	Eleanor Pekarek
Oct. 9	Lisa Osler
Oct. 10	Jeanne Werner
Oct. 12	Carol Monhollen
Oct. 15	Pamela Mills Judy Wilde
Oct. 17	Jamie Lanz
Oct. 18	Evan LeBlanc
Oct. 21	K Nelson
Oct. 22	Holly Adams
Oct. 23	Jerry Long
Oct. 24	Gary Bailey Kim Kittilson Gran Smythe
Oct. 25	Lee Anderson-Harris Jean Harper
Oct. 27	Sue Bailey
Oct. 28	Jeremiah Harris
Oct. 31	Patrick Coniway

## 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 – Young People's Ministry Director  
[katie@lpumc.org](mailto:katie@lpumc.org)

Alexandria Anderson – Office Manager/Treasurer  
[alex@lpumc.org](mailto:alex@lpumc.org) and [finance@lpumc.org](mailto:finance@lpumc.org)

Angelique Scully – Pianist

Rev. Sandy Stewart – Deacon-in-Residence

Ministers – All who call Christ Lord



## November Newsletter Deadline:

**October 16**

Please send articles to:

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