



December Connection

LPUMC Info

1421 Elmhurst Dr.
Longmont, CO 80503
303-776-0399
Website: lpumc.org
Email: lpumc@lpumc.org

Office hours:

Monday – Thursday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9 and 10:45 a.m.

Services are available on

YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/
@LongsPeakUMC](https://www.youtube.com/@LongsPeakUMC)

Follow us on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
LongsPeakUMC/](https://www.facebook.com/LongsPeakUMC/)

Staff:

Rev. Jeremiah Harris, Pastor

pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org

Parker Steinmetz, Music Director

music@lpumc.org

Jase Lucas, Program Director

jase@lpumc.org

Thomas Chuang, Tech Support

thomas@lpumc.org

Alexandria Anderson,

Office Manager, Treasurer

[finance@lpumc.org/](mailto:finance@lpumc.org)

alex@lpumc.org

Joanna Lynden, Accompanist

January Newsletter

Deadline: December 16

Please send any articles to:

alex@lpumc.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

One of my favorite secular Christmas songs has always been the original Bing Crosby version of "I'll Be Home for Christmas." While the lyrics are hope-filled, the tune has a deep sense of longing, to the point of melancholy. We hear this sentiment in the lyrics "I'll be home for Christmas...if only in my dreams." The song, first released on October 26, 1943, was written from the perspective of a young soldier writing home from overseas in the midst of World War II. The song addresses the tension between the excitement of returning home for the holidays and the uncertainty that the singer will actually make it back home in time to be with family.

Isn't this tension between excitement and anxiety relatable? On one hand, we may be excited to return home for the holidays, while on the other, there may be a touch of sadness through the realization that the nostalgia of the season is simply not to be. The season of Advent is an invitation. For many, it is the invitation to get into the Christmas spirit, to count down the days to the grand celebration, and to let the holiday transform everything around us. But there is a deeper and more profound invitation being offered in the season of Advent. The invitation is to remember that we are heading for home. Or if we're not, if we've forgotten that there is a home toward which to head, it is the invitation to long for the home we call the kin-dom of God. It is where family resides, where peace resides, where justice abides, and hope will rise.

This December we are inviting you to "Come Home for Christmas" through our sermon series, seasonal gatherings, and worship services. While not everyone has the same warm feelings of returning back to their ancestral homes, this season we are inviting EVERYONE to join the LPUMC church family where peace, justice, and hope reside. Here at LPUMC, we are about Christmas, the Mass of Christ, the celebration of the Incarnate One who comes to remind us that we are not alone, and God is with us. We are about the longing for the coming kin-dom, where we will study war no more, where people will walk in the light, where joy will be found, and love will be the tie that binds us together. That's the home for which we long. That's the invitation this Advent season to our church and the world: "Come home for Christmas." Will you join us during this season of anticipation, for the hope that is to come?

Yours in Christ,

Jeremiah

*Merry
Christmas*



Christmas Gifts



Join us in fulfilling some Christmas wishes of residents of [Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley](#) and their children, and some local school children from SVVSD. You will find gift tags on the Christmas tree in the narthex detailing the requested gifts. Please take a tag (or tags) of your choice and purchase the requested items. **Return the wrapped gifts with the tag attached by December 15th.**

We are also collecting donations that will go towards \$25 gift cards for families served by [The Inn Between](#): "This way, parents can provide a magical Christmas morning. It greatly reduces financial stress, while preserving dignity and allowing them to assume that wonderful role of organizer and giver. They can practice money management which is a key part of our Self-Sufficiency focused program." You can donate through our website ([click here](#)) or indicate on your donation to the church that it is for Inn Between. **We need to have these donations in by Wednesday, December 4th.**

HUGS for HOPE

During December we are continuing to collect warmth items for [HOPE \(Homeless Outreach Providing Encouragement\) of Longmont](#). We are focusing our collection on Hand and Feet Warmers, but they can also use blankets, Sleeping Bags, Coats, Long Underwear, Gloves, Wool Socks, Boots, and Men's T-shirts. If you would like to donate, you may place your items in the big collection barrel near the sanctuary doors or the purple bins in Fellowship Hall.

Our suggested collection items for the OUR Center this month are maxi-pads and pull-up Depends (sizes Large and Small).

Missions Meals



On **December 7** (the FIRST Saturday) we will provide lunch at the [OUR Center](#) Community Cafe. We will have festive red aprons for the volunteers to wear that day! BYOSH - Bring your own Santa Hat!

On December 29 (Friday) 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.

[OUR Center Meal](#)

[Hope Meal](#)

Ring the Bell for The Salvation Army



After missing out last year, we are again signed up to ring the bell and fill the kettle in front of the Safeway on Hover Rd. The funds we collect will go directly to helping people in St. Vrain Valley to provide vouchers for rent assistance/homelessness prevention, utility assistance, and automobile repair.

LPUMC's assigned date is **Friday, December 20 between 10 am and 6 pm** and we need people to work a 1 or 1.5 hour shift. You can even work in pairs if you want!!

Look for the signup sheet in early December or contact Robyn at robyn22m@yahoo.com if you just can't wait to sign up or have questions.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith will have the annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 7th at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a potluck lunch. Ham and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Also, there will be an ornament exchange. Please bring a Christmas tree ornament wrapped as a gift with paper or in a bag. There will also be a program. Installation of officers will also take place. The office of vice-president is still vacant. Anyone interested in this position should contact Jolene Mechtly at 303-772-4644 or jomartymec1973@gmail.com. All ladies are invited to the Christmas party. Please join us for fun, fellowship and food.

The Hover Community is welcoming us to their open house on December 5th, 6 pm at the Manor.



Advent at LPUMC

Sunday, December 1— 1st Sunday of Advent

Services at 9 and 10:45 am

Sunday, December 8—2nd Sunday in Advent

Services at 9 and 10:45 am

Sunday, December 15—Music Sunday

One service at 9:30 am

Sunday, December 22—4th Sunday of Advent

Services at 9 and 10:45 am

Blue Christmas service at Heart of Longmont at 6 pm



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

Christmas Eve—Tuesday, December 24

Services at 5 and 7 pm

Sunday, December 29

One Service at 9:30 am

News from the Leadership Board

Newsletter Communication for November

Updates from the Board meetings from the November 20 meeting. It was exciting to have a guest attend our meeting- Thanks for coming Jase- we hope you appreciated your time with us. We had a very exciting meeting with lots of discussion and visioning for the future.

Barb led us in an exercise of remembering where God was at work within our church over the past year- we are grateful for the many things that happened over the year that were clearly divinely inspired and will help us face a new year ahead: having a full staff, an amazing congregation, increased participation for activities outside of the worship service and feeling God's presence in all these areas. We, as the leadership board, are very grateful to Barb Huner, as our Board Chairperson, for leading us through the first year of Simplified Accountability Structure (SAS) - she will be missed tremendously next year.

Our Leadership formation for November was to discuss potential topics to dive into for next year. Jeremiah is tasked with finding an appropriate book that can help us focus our efforts for 2025 on mission, engagement, and technology that is especially relevant to a post-pandemic world.

We were happy to review the missional outcomes of our church's big efforts over the past quarter including the Block Party, Halloween Bash, as well as the budgetary concerns for this year and next.

Other business items included an in-depth review of our 2025 Budget (with a special thanks to Susie, Phil, Barb, and Caren for their efforts to make this non-accountant friendly), the Tree of Life campaign outcomes to date, our new Mission Statement, Goals for 2025 and the Board Covenant. We are excited to share these all with you in the packet that will be available for our upcoming annual Charge Conference. We hope to see you all there on December 1st.

As always- Thanks to all for your support of YOUR leadership board!

Barb Huner (Chair), Caren King, Phil Wilson, Susie Sisson, Blaise Stephanus, John Mees, Phil Henry, Stacy Dewitt, Roberta Shanahan, and Rev. Jeremiah Harris



Christmas Poinsettias

We will be decorating our sanctuary with poinsettias this Christmas season. If you would like to contribute \$10 (or more) to our poinsettia fund in honor or remembrance of someone, please fill out the form (at the Welcome Center or at the front desk by the offices) and either put it in the offering box or drop it off by the church office with your check/cash by Sunday, December 15th.

Dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.

Bible Studies and other groups

Sundays:

6:30 p.m. (on Zoom) - We are reading and discussing the book: *Rethinking Life: Embracing the Sacredness of Every Person* by Shane Claiborne. Contact Bruce Armstrong at brucearmstrong1213@gmail.com for information and the zoom link.

Mondays:

7 p.m. (on Zoom) – Ladies Bible Study: We are studying: *52 Weeks with Jesus. Fall in Love with the One Who Changed Everything*, by James Merritt. Zoom link is in the *Weekly Reminders*.

Wednesdays:

10 a.m. - Quilt Group. Meets in God’s Harbor

Thursdays:

10 a.m. – Ladies’ Bible Study (in Fellowship Hall): We are studying the book: *Becoming Heart Sisters* by Natalie Chambers Snapp. Contact Jan Spitler for more information.

Saturdays:

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

Finance—Oct. 2024

	Oct. '24	Oct. '23	2024 YTD
Income:	\$51,832	\$38,062	\$311,937
Expense:	\$35,078	\$30,126	\$316,844

December Birthdays

Margaret Vann
Terry Larsen
Jase Lucas
Corky Brooks
Ken Black
Dolores Hall
Ed Sobanski
Jan Giovino
Pam Ernst
Caren King
Katelyn Lawley
Tom Hubner
Alan Dines
Wanda Wilson
Soleil Reddick

Worship Attendance

Date:	9 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	Online:
Nov. 3	99	45	53
Nov. 11	99	44	66
Nov. 17	93	31	60
Nov. 24	-	140	36

Four ways you can donate to Longs Peak UMC with your normal everyday spending:

- Kings Soopers Rewards:** If you shop at King Soopers using their loyalty program, you can link LPUMC with your account. Longs Peak receives 5% back on every purchase you make. We have earned \$1690 in rewards this year. It’s easy to sign up: sign into your King Soopers account. Click on “Community Rewards” and search for Longs Peak United Methodist Church or TW440 and enroll the church as your organization.
- iGive.com:** Turn your online shopping and searching into much-needed donations. Click on this link www.iGive.com/LongsPeakUnitedMethodistChurch and then shop at your favorite online stores.
- Christianbook Giveback:** If you shop online at Christianbook.com, we get cash back! Our Giveback code is: QSXFYU
- RaiseRight App:** if you use egift cards, you can purchase many of them through the RaiseRight™ app. If you sign up with LPUMC, we earn a percentage of your purchase. Scan the QR code to get set up.

