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Pulse
of the Heart of Longmont

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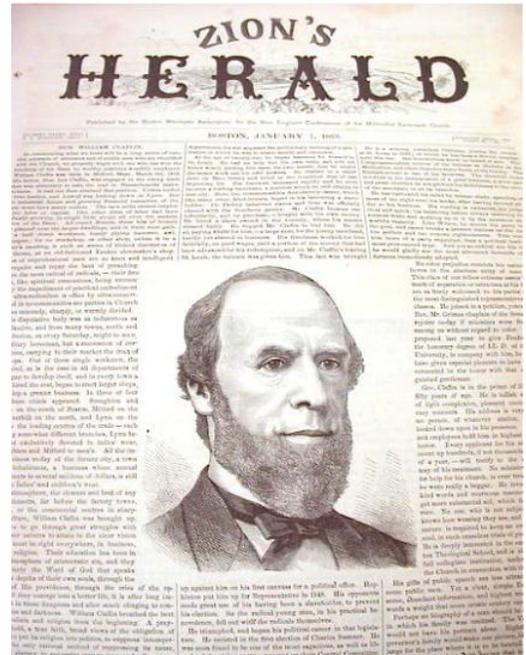
The Many Faces of Zion's Herald

by Sandi Austin

Having spent a 25-year career in the newspaper industry, I've always had an interest in all types of newspapers, magazines ... anything print-related. One thing I've learned about newspapers is that change is constant. If not family-owned, newspapers are sometimes subject to purchase by – or merged into – a larger newspaper group. These business moves can either be profitable or they can be the “kiss of death.”

As I was thinking of a topic for this week's Pulse, I thought I'd find out if the Methodists had a newspaper, and when it began. It turns out that they did and, typical of today's newspapers, this was a publication that really got around in its day.

In the early 1800s, Methodism was a small but growing denomination seen as intruders in Massachusetts by Baptists, Unitarians and others. It was during these hostile times, in 1823, that a group of clergy and laity came up with the idea of a weekly newspaper written by Methodists for Methodists. The people who read it were influenced to engage in discussions of its theological articles and to even write letters to the editor.



The publication was named *Zion's Herald*. The word “Zion” meant the rising up of a monument, and “Herald” referred to a messenger who proclaimed and advocated. Although it wasn't considered an official publication of the Methodist church, it was the first weekly Methodist publication in America, existing under the original name for five years.

In 1828, *Zion's Herald* was merged with the *Christian Advocate and Journal*, being published out of New York. With the masthead of *Christian Advocate*

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and *Journal and Zion's Herald*, it was thought to have the highest circulation of any newspaper in the world!

It was in 1831 that the Boston Wesleyan Association acquired *Zion's Herald*, replacing its *New England Christian Herald*. During the years through the turn of the century and up until 1992, the paper went through several name changes and became an insert in other publications before being published on its own again from then until 1996. For a while after that, it was a section of the *Cross Currents* news magazine.

A publication move in 2000 created an independent magazine with a new name – *The Progressive Christian*. The name change suggested by marketing consultants created a leap of more than 50 percent in its subscriptions. During its glory years, *The Progressive Christian* was a winner of numerous Associated Church Press awards before shutting down in 2012. From the *Zion's Herald* humble beginning, the publication always enjoyed editorial freedom – albeit controversial at times – to inform, enlighten and engage its readers throughout the years.

Christmas Poinsettias



Poinsettias are a part of the beauty of the Sanctuary during our Christmas Eve services. If you would like to contribute a poinsettia(s), please fill out an order form. Order forms are available at the church office and during service on Sundays. The cost is \$18.00 per plant. Enclose your check with your order and place it in the offering plate, or bring it to the church office during the week. The last day to order your poinsettia(s) is **Sunday, December 16**.

Comfort Us God



Most people around the world have struggled with the intense and desperate feeling of loneliness at some point in their lives. This feeling can be exasperated during the Holidays. When you experience loneliness, it can be overwhelming. If you've ever been lonely, you know that the feeling can exist when you're by yourself but also when you're around a crowd or with family and friends. These thoughts can be so

strong that it can cause us to feel completely isolated, and separate us from those who matter most to us. But you can conquer loneliness with God. When you're feeling alone, know that you are not because God reassures of us His presence, even in our loneliest hours. Jesus promises us this in the Book of John 16:32-22 when he says *"I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* John 16:32-33. Say this prayer if you are in need of comfort from God.

Comfort Us God

*Heavenly, Most Loving, Gracious Father,
we come before You to humbly ask
that You comfort us in our moments of loneliness,
that You be our shelter in the midst of the storm,
that You walk beside us every step of the way.
Lord, at times we feel so alone, crying out for attention,
in desperation, looking for some sort of
acknowledgement from a single soul.
Remind us that You are always there, right at our side,
whenever we call.
No matter the time, the hour, the situation,
You have promised to never leave us nor forsake us.
Give us strength, dear God, to carry on when we are
down and out and have no one to turn to.
Let us always remember that You are our friend and
our companion in our time of need. Amen.*

Original post: <https://www.beliefnet.com/inspiration/galleries/simple-prayers-for-the-lonely.aspx#ETBs5zalbRtkKCTd.99>

Children's Christmas Program

Come one, come all and be a part of our no fuss, no stress, Children's Christmas Program! During the service on **December 2** the children will lead you on an exploration of the history of some of our favorite Christmas tunes, and maybe introduce you to a few new ones. What better way to get into the holiday spirit than watching the fantastic kids of the Heart of Longmont explore the TRUE meaning of Christmas?

Don't forget, the Annual Chili Cook-off is after the Children's Christmas Program!

Contact Misty Bone with any questions at kidsofhol@hotmail.com or text/call at **720-628-7261**.



Annual Chili Cook-off



The year's most anticipated event is almost here! Heart of Longmont's Annual Chili Cook-Off is coming **December 2**. Get your best chili or homemade

dessert to Wesley Hall by noon on Sunday, December 2, and prepare to enjoy food, friends and fun! Will anyone be able to oust last year's champions?

Winners receive trophies as well as bragging rights.

Habitat for Humanity Build Day - Dec. 8



An opportunity to give hope to a family in need has come up again on **Saturday, December 8, from 9-4 pm**. It's Habitat for Humanity Build Day and, if you've participated in this event before, you know what it's all about. If you haven't, it's a day of working to build a home with other volunteers. You just need the will to give of your time and whatever

talent you may bring to the build site. We have a job for everyone and all are welcome! If you are thinking about volunteering on Build Day, please make sure to email Terry Monroe at terrymonroe00@gmail.com or **303-587-1064**. You will receive additional information via email.

Prospective New Member Luncheon

On **Sunday, December 9**, right after the worship service, we will have an informational luncheon to learn more about the United Methodist Church and Heart of Longmont, up to and including membership. You will be able to meet some of our team leaders, and Pastor David will share his faith



story and answer any questions. Pizza and salad from Abos will be served, and childcare will be provided. You may sign up at the Hospitality Center, or feel free to make last minute plans to attend.

“Merry & Bright” - Longs Peak Chorus

On **Friday, December 14, and Saturday, December 15**, the Longs Peak Chorus will present their 2018 Christmas Concert “Merry and Bright” at our church. Many members from our church family sing in the Chorus. Performances will be at 7:00 pm on Friday evening and 2:30 pm on Saturday afternoon.



The Longs Peak Chorus is a cappella singing organization of the Longmont Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the world's largest all-male singing Society, with 22,000 members across North America. Through active programs in music education, publishing, performance, and outreach, the Society preserves and extends the reach of a uniquely American close harmony musical art form whose roots lay in African-American improvisation and European harmony traditions.

Tickets are on sale NOW! \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door, kids 12 and under are FREE. To purchase go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/longs-peak-chorus-annual-christmas-show-merry-bright-tickets-51346041392longspeakchristmas2018.eventbrite.com>, <http://longspeakchorus.org>, or call **720-675-8247**. \$2 of each ticket sold will go to “HOPE for Longmont” (<http://hopeforlongmont.org/>). Featured on the show will be “Landlocked,” a top 10 regional quartet from Denver, and the “5280 Youth Chorus,” also from Denver.

Christmas Music Spectacular



Join us on **Sunday, December 16**, for our Christmas Music Spectacular from 10 to 11 am. There will be performances from all of Heart of Longmont's musical groups (Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, God's House Band and the Soul Singers). Come join in the fun and sing-a-long to all your Christmas favorites!

Christmas Eve Services



We will have our regular service at 10 am on **Sunday, December 23**, and then on Christmas Eve, **Monday, December 24**, we'll have a 4:30 pm family oriented worship celebration and a 7:00 pm traditional worship service featuring vocal choirs and a bell choir. Each service will conclude with a traditional candle-light singing of Silent Night. All are welcome, please join us!

Have you finished your holiday shopping?

As you shop for your holiday meal or a Christmas gift card, may we suggest coming in and purchasing grocery gift cards that give back to the church?

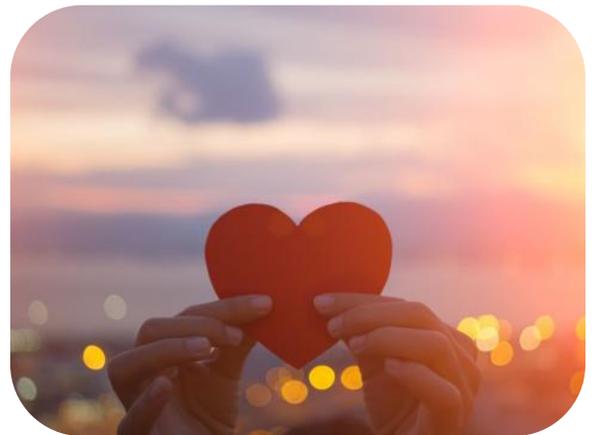
\$10, reloadable grocery cards are available for King Soopers and Safeway, while \$50, non-reloadable grocery cards are available for Sprouts and Lucky's Market. Grocery cards can also be used to purchase prescriptions and gas.

Heart of Longmont receives 5% of the purchase amount from King Soopers and Safeway, and 7% from Sprouts and Lucky's Market. What a great way to support Heart of Longmont! If you need to purchase grocery cards, come visit us in the church office or stop by the Hospitality Center on Sundays. The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after.

Also, while you're shopping online for Christmas gifts on Amazon, use the link below and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to our church. Make sure to bookmark the link!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-0444737>

Thank you for all you do to support our church, we are so blessed!



It's time to RING those Christmas Bells again!



Each year our church folks help to ring the bells for the Salvation Army red kettles! I've already heard requests "Are we going to ring the bells again?" Well YES we are!! Saturdays **December 8** and **December 15** are our opportunity to help support this worth while project where all the funds raised stay in Longmont.

With the money earned last year, the OUR Center has been able to help 285 people with rental assistance, utility assistance and emergency shelter. The needs for support just continue to increase throughout the community.

Please sign up for a 1 hour shift for either or both days at the Hospitality Desk in the Gallery. Our hours will be from 9:00 am until 8:00 pm. We will be at the Hover Street Safeway store (1632 Hover Rd, Longmont, CO 80501). We will be staffing BOTH doors so extra help is needed. It is a wonderful family event! Bring the grand-kids to help out. And Youth bring your parents along for the fun.

For questions, please contact Marty Allison at [303-772-7816](tel:303-772-7816) or martyallisonco@gmail.com. Thanks a bunch!!!

Peaks Sub district Lay Ministry Council

Leadership Training

Saturday, January 19 at FUMC Loveland, 9:00 to 11:00 am

Training designed for incoming chairpersons of these church committees:

- SPRC
- Church Council
- Finance
- Lay Leaders

Please let us know if your committee chairs are interested and/or have questions. **Please include name, church,**

leadership position, email address and phone number.

Respond by **December 1** to Bill Cosbey at bcos7@outlook.com or Judy Stout at jstout@lpbroadband.net so we can make adequate plans.



November Compassion Offering Results

NOVEMBER COMPASSION OFFERING RESULTS



that give them **hope** for the future: a soft bed, warm walls to surround them, food in their cupboards, and most importantly mentors to help them access resources and offer assistance setting goals and actions plans for progressing from crisis to stability. **You've done that!** It wouldn't happen without people, such as yourselves, who are there to keep others from falling between the cracks, or to offer a helping hand to those who have. Thank you so much for your generous donations.

The proceeds for the November Compassion Offering, The Inn Between, totaled a whopping **\$1,127**. And because every \$1 was matched, The Inn Between will receive **\$2,254** from our church!

Because of your gifts, you've softened hardships faced by many, many people. Your caring support has provided those living at The Inn with essentials and opportunities

December Compassion Offering

The compassion offering for December as well as the Christmas offering will go to Habitat for Humanity. The Heart of Longmont has been committed to Habitat for Humanity as an apostle build church for many years. This means besides participating in aiding in the construction of housing locally, we are also committed to make a yearly offering to them of \$6700. All of the funds stay here in Boulder County to finance the homes that are built. Recently, Habitat finished its 80th house that has been built locally. Therefore, our December compassion and Christmas offerings will go to fulfill our financial commitment.



Habitat for Humanity is committed to building homes for people who cannot afford to buy a home in a conventional method. A Habitat family finances their new home by taking out a low interest loan through Habitat. In addition to this every family has to donate a certain number of hours on the construction of their new home. By contributing sweat equity in the construction of their home, participants have a deep sense of ownership for the home. The Heart of Longmont takes pride in their long-standing commitment to this worthy organization.

It's that time of year again!

Angel Tree ~ We are blessed once again to have the honor of sponsoring Head Start families. Starting this **Sunday, November 25:**

- Take a tag (or a few!) from the tree in the Gallery
- Purchase and gift wrap the item requested on the tag.
Be sure to attach the tag to the package!
- Bring the gift, with tag attached, to the church and place it in the barrel in the office **NO LATER** than **Sunday, December 16**



Know that you made a difference in our community by showing these families the generous love of Christ! Call, text or email Misty Bone at **720-628-7261** or kidsofhol@hotmail.com.

Mitten Tree ~ As the Angel Tree is emptied of tags, please fill the same tree with new gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, undies and/or socks for our Head Start children (sizes 2T-5T) who attend preschool in our church building. This is a special UMW (United Methodist Women) project.

Operation Donut Delivery

Operation
DONUT DELIVERY



Looking for a simple, fun way to enrich the lives of others on Christmas Eve? Be a part of Operation Donut Delivery! What is ODD? Well, you either take half a dozen donuts or a full dozen donuts, (provided by the church of course) to a business, hospital, fire station, or anywhere else that is staffed on Christmas Eve. Each box has a note attached thanking the people there for taking time away from their family to serve our community. Donuts will be available to pick

up after service on Christmas Eve. If you'd like to claim a place, see the sign up sheet at the Hospitality Center in the Gallery.



Heart of Longmont, 350 Eleventh Avenue, Longmont, CO 80501
heartoflongmont.org / 303-776-3523 / WIFI Password HOL2016M