



THE HEART OF LONGMONT

JULY/AUGUST 2023

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CLAIRE



Well, summer has finally arrived! The cool nights and heavy rains have given way to the heat of summer. I was recently reflecting how the seasons of the year mimic the seasons of life.

For me, the season of summer represents the time in our lives when everything is going smoothly and we find ourselves content and happy. The warmth of the sun and the length of days has the ability to make everything brighter, better, and more enriching. The summer of our spiritual life is when day to day life feels smooth. It's easy to pray and be thankful for our blessings. We soak in the love of God like our skin soaks in the warmth of the sun. Our little prayers and sacrifices seem to be

as fragrant and full of purpose as a field of summer wildflowers. We find acts of kindness to be almost effortless because we are in a joyous and giving mood.

Summer can reflect the state of grace in our souls. Just like the season of summer where nature is bursting with life, so our souls are fully awake and alive when we live in grace. We are renewed in God's mercy in the spiritual season of summer. Winter ice melts to summer growth.

In summer our routines change, often slowing down after a year of school schedules and commitments. If we are still busy in the summer, it is usually more a pleasurable busy from the rest of the year. We are going on vacations, having backyard BBQs with friends, and enjoying outdoor activities. We are able to take a break from our normal schedules and find refreshment. Just like the summer season of our spiritual lives, we find more space to rest and be at

leisure so that we are renewed and ready to face the harshness of the cold dark days again.

This summer, I'm trying to be intentional about my time and my need for renewing rest, both in my spiritual life and my family life. I have incorporated moments of grace, moments of delight, into my spiritual routine. Joel and I are taking dance lessons; getting outdoors for long walks; and lingering in the summer sun on our front porch, listening to the song of the birds—truly reveling in God's creation.

My prayer is that you, too, are taking deep breaths of God's love this summer season. May God's warmth shine upon you today and always.

See you in church.

- PASTOR CLAIRE

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- **And more!**

WORSHIPFUL MOMENTS



Mia, age 9, and Luis, age 8, were baptized after church on June 11.

Rev. Dr. Sam Bullington of Phoenix Trans Choir leading worship on June 11.





BASICALLY THRIVING

WORDS BY Emily Farrenkopf

A BUSY SUMMER FOR HOL'S YOUTH

The Heart of Longmont Youth Group is thriving!

We call ourselves BASIC, which stands for Brothers and Sisters in Christ, and it really does feel like a slightly chaotic family get-together every time we are together. We ended the school year with our last Sunday youth group meeting on

May 21 with multiple rounds of the game Underground Church. We will not be meeting for a regular youth group until mid-August because our summer is filled with preparation and traveling for two mission trips. We have not been on any mission trips since 2019 because of the pandemic, and we are so thrilled to go on

two trips this summer.

Middle School Mission Trip to Alamosa, CO

Brant Davis and Emily Farrenkopf will be taking nine middle school youth on a mission trip to Alamosa, CO, June 25 to June 28. For many of these youth, this will

be their first overnight trip without parents, so keeping this trip short and sweet was important to us.

We have partnered with the local non-profit Christian Community Service Projects. This incredible outreach program serves folks in the community who need a helping hand with weeding, painting, and light construction projects. The youth will have many opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ as well as learning life skills that they will carry with them for years to come.

Mission trips are not all work—we like to add in as much fun as we can! Alamosa has a wonderful hot springs pool that will be a treat to play in after a long day of work. We will also enjoy Great Sand Dunes National Park on our way home.

High School and Alumni Mission Trip to Nassau, Bahamas

From July 22 to July 28, a group of fourteen people from Heart of Longmont will be traveling to Nassau, Bahamas.

Brant and Emily are taking one extra adult with them on this international trip and we invited all BASIC alumni who were not able to have a trip their senior year due to the pandemic to come along. We are thrilled that two of them are able to join us! Nine current BASIC youth are coming on this trip. This will be the first time a few of our youth will fly in an airplane as well as the first time many will see the ocean!

We are partnering with Praying Pelicans Ministries and will be serving a Haitian Creole church located in the heart of New Providence Island. In the mornings, we will be running a VBS for the local children and in the afternoons we will be completing construction on a Sunday school room that the church has been working on for a long time. We will enjoy a day of play and plan on snorkeling and enjoying local cuisine.

This is all thanks to your support and generosity!

The youth group would not be as successful as it is without the unending support of our incredible congregation. We will never be able to fully express our gratitude for the financial and spiritual support we receive. We can't wait to share stories and pictures from our trip in the next Heart publication!

Invest in the Youth and their missions! Help fund HOL youth projects and mission work.



Middle school youth receive a blessing during church service on June 25



The band poses together in front of the van before beginning their journey



BASIC middle schoolers in Alamosa

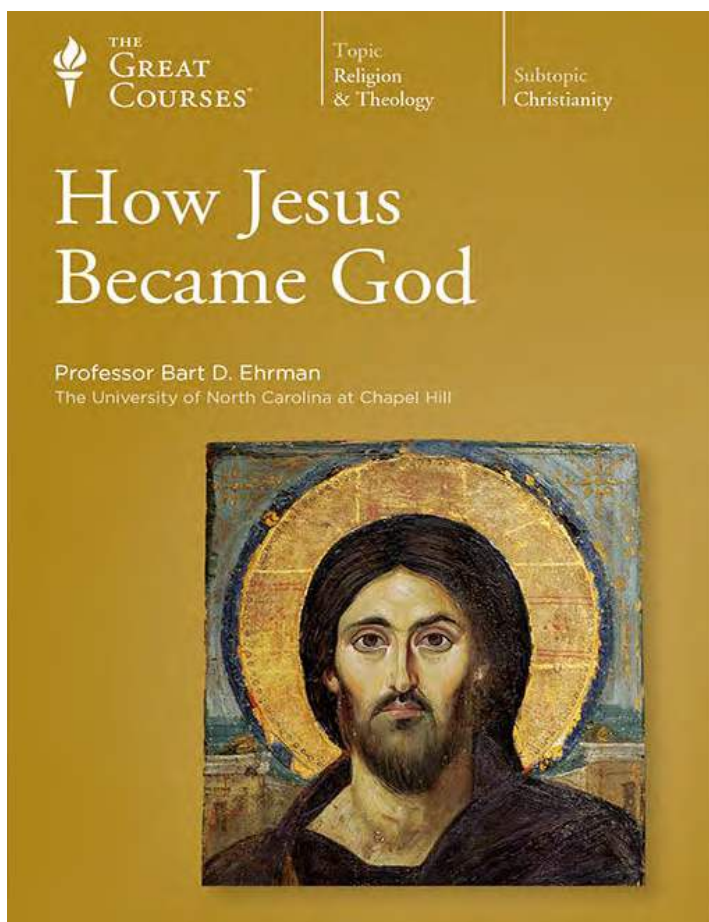


Posing together in front of Waverly Youth and Community Center, Alamosa



**OUR
YOUTH
THANK
YOU!**

FAITH AND REASON ADULT STUDY



THE FAITH AND REASON ADULT STUDY GROUP MEET ON SUNDAYS TO TAKE ON SUBJECTS THAT INFORM AND STRETCH THEIR FAITH.

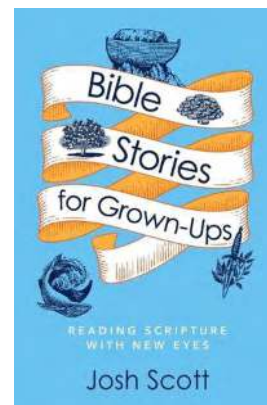
The Faith and Reason group are now studying Dr. Bart Ehrman's lecture series *How Jesus Became God*. In this video course from Great Courses, Dr. Ehrman discusses such topics as: Ancient Jews Who Were Gods, Jesus's Death - What Historians Can't Know, Jesus's Exaltation - Earliest Christian Views, and The Birth of the Trinity.

The group meets on Sundays from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM. Participants can join via Zoom or in person in Room 110 at the church. They view one video together then spend the rest of the meeting time discussing the video and topics it presents. Coffee is available.

If this sounds interesting to you, please consider joining! For more information or to join the group, please contact Sandy Rabenhorst.

ADVENTURERS ADULT MINISTRY

The Adventurers are an adult discussion group who meet on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM to 9:45 AM. This summer, they discussed *Bible Stories for Grown Ups: Reading Scripture with New Eyes* by Josh Scott. The book guided their discussions, allowing them to take a look at the most well-known Bible stories from a "grown up" perspective, and how that has changed for them individually over time. As you can imagine, these stories look very different now compared to when we first learned them as kids at Sunday school or at home.



Most of the summer will be dedicated to a series of Podcast Ponderings, a series of discussions on selected podcasts shared to the group the week before the group meets. These podcasts present interesting and different perspectives and topics for discussion.

If you're interested in joining the Adventurers, please contact Tricia Grafelman.

The Adventurers not only meet for discussion, but for fun and fellowship, too. They recently held a Summer Solstice Party at Dawn Desai's home and had a ton of fun. On the longest day of the year, they spent time with good friends eating great food, laughing and connecting.





WESLEY HOMES MOVING FORWARD

SLOW AND STEADY PROGRESS IS THE BEST WAY TO
DESCRIBE THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT

PAINTING TIRES FOR THE OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER

Saturday is usually a day of fun and rest, but a handful of BASIC youth got up early to share their time and effort working on the new Outdoor Learning Center.

On May 27, the youth washed and painted a couple dozen tires that will be bolted together and filled with sand to provide and encourage tactile exploration and creative fun and learning for Wild Plum infants and toddlers.

Many thanks to the youth who volunteered and put love into this project!



Slow but steady progress is the best way to describe the Wesley Homes project's current status.

Most action regarding the project has been behind the scenes, including numerous meetings between the City of Longmont, The Inn Between, the contractor, the architect and Wesley Homes team members, but there is also some visible progress on site.

On Saturday, May 27th, BASIC youth rolled out of their beds early to tackle washing and painting tires for the new Outdoor Learning Center. The colorful tires will be bolted together, filled with sand and provide endless hours of tactile exploration and creative fun and learning for Wild Plum infants and toddlers. Fortified with donuts, the youth did an awesome job!

The storage building on the former Wild Plum playground will be moved during Mission Work Week in June. The basketball pole and hoop will be cut and removed. A new chain link fence will be installed in July. Astroturf and stone boulders will also be put in place. The goal is to have the Outdoor Learning Center completed by the time Wild Plum resumes school in August.

Jean Malchow and Karl Scott have done an incredible job in seeing the playground completed.

Clint Schahrer has been a good resource in planning meetings and overseeing the relocation of the Wild Plum storage unit and the removal of the basketball hoop.

Core drilling took place on June 7. The

contracted company marked the utility locations and drilled cores in various places on the Wesley Homes property. These cores are for testing and analyzing soil samples and will be used for planning and construction of subsurface structures.

Meetings with the City are going smoothly. It is a complicated process involving much planning around water and sewer lines, electrical connections, and fire mediation.

It is exciting and fulfilling to see this project moving forward. We've had good financial support with contributions from several members and non-members, plus grants from several organizations in Longmont. To date, we have covered over 90% of the project costs.

If you feel called to donate toward the Outdoor Learning Center and Wesley Homes land transfer, you can mark your contribution accordingly.

Contact any member of the Wesley Homes team for more information: Rod Edmonds, Joan Edmonds, Jean Malchow, Clint Schahrer, or Tricia Grafelman.



MAY 2023 FINANCIAL UPDATE

May income was lower than budget and was the lowest since last September. Even though expenses were less than budget by \$3,300, we finished the month with a significant deficit.

The favorable variance for expenses was primarily related to the fact that we had no major maintenance costs/issues in the month. In addition, our payroll costs were down due to fewer office hours and lower contract accounting costs.

Year to date, income is higher than 2022 by 8.2%, primarily related to several significant

contributions in January/February from longtime members. Expenses are higher than 2022 by 11.9% with the biggest increases in utilities, payroll, conference apportionment (due to higher income), and the leadership retreat. As a reminder, for most of Q1 2022, we were still having 'virtual services' and we had an open position for the first six months; currently all positions are filled.

The year to date loss is roughly 50% of the budgeted loss through May. In setting the budget for 2023, we identified several opportunities to mitigate the budgeted loss. The two largest opportunities were to seek

a grant from within the denomination to share in our investments in new ministries and missions, and to seek a 'second mile' contribution from some of our members. Through May, the denomination has not been receptive to sharing in our investments. Accordingly, we are now in the early stages of discussing strategies to increase giving from our members. More details on this will be shared in future Financial Updates.

In the meantime, if you would like more information, please contact Rod Edmonds, Treasurer.

	May 2023	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Income	\$ 27,146	\$ 169,100	\$ 156,339
Expenses	\$ 35,108	\$ 191,373	\$ 171,064
Income greater than (less than) expenses (deficit)	\$ (7,962)	\$ (22,273)	\$ (14,725)

May 2023 Financial update spreadsheet with YTD 2023 and comparison to 2022.

LEGACY GIVING

Verb: To convey one's values through creation of a future gift to charity

Noun: A foresighted action to strengthen a favorite cause

The Heart of Longmont has been blessed for many decades by the legacy gifts of current and former members. The Church has several endowment funds at the Methodists Helping Methodists Foundation; a Permanent Endowment, a General Scholarship, the Paula Johnston Children's Fund, a Library endowment and the Margaret Patterson Scholarship fund. Distributions from these endowments have provided support to many of our capital improvement projects (flooring and roof to name a couple), and annually support our scholarship programs for youth members pursuing post-secondary education.

Thanks go to those who felt the call to support in perpetuity the ministry and mission of our Church. Through their support we've been putting more of God's love into the world.

If you would like any information on legacy giving, there are numerous resources available to you from the Methodists Helping Methodists Foundation and from member's familiar with our endowment programs (Paul Johnston, Rod Edmonds, Keith Watson to name a few).



DID YOU KNOW...

Through Mountain Sky United Methodist Foundation, you as an individual can invest your savings in accounts similar to CDs and Money Markets where you will earn above-average interest rates. The fund is called the Methodists Helping Methodists Fund. Your investments allow the Foundation to provide capital improvement loans to United Methodist Churches throughout the region.

Investment options include:

- **Fixed-Rate Investments** (one, two, three, four, and five-year) are available for amounts \$1,000 and above. Interest is paid out quarterly or reinvested, depending on investor wishes.
- **Variable-Rate Investments** are available with a minimum investment of \$500. Withdrawals can be made at any time upon written notice.

Effective March 1, 2023, rates for fixed-rate investments range from 3.6% for a 12-month term on deposits of \$1,000 to \$4,999 to 3.05% for a 60-month term on deposits of \$10,000 and over. Variable-rate accounts starting at \$500 pay .50%.

For more information, including access to the full rate schedule, go to <https://www.mountainskyumf.org/faith-based-investments-giving/>.



A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE

A story from Carol Barnett,
HOL Office Manager

My name is Carol Barnett, and I'm the office manager here at Heart of Longmont. I wanted to share with you all a memorable experience that happened here recently, one that began some time ago and culminated in a happy ending.

As some of you may know, sometimes people who are in need call or come into the church office. We have a special fund set aside that we can use to give some assistance to those who need it. This is the Acts4Love fund. This story is about a woman who came to us for help. Her name is Kathy.

Kathy first came by while Pastor David Burt was still here. She had two sons, one who was disabled, and she was disabled herself, walking with the help of a cane. Kathy needed some money for supplies and equipment for her disabled son so that she could continue to care for him. Things were very difficult for her. We helped her several times over the next few months, but then she stopped coming by.

It was several months later that Kathy came to the office again. She sat down with me and told me that her disabled son had passed away. She was still grieving, but felt he was in a better place now. Her other son had gotten a job at Walmart but wouldn't be paid for a couple of weeks. We gave her a \$25 Safeway card to help her during that time.

Three weeks passed, and Kathy came back to ask for help getting gas for her son's car

so he could get to work each day until his next paycheck. She also told me that she had talked to Social Services and her disability check had been increased substantially and she would be getting a tax refund this year. With those new sources of income and her son holding a regular job, she would be able to pay her bills and overdue rent.

As I gave her a gift card for the gas, I said, "I guess we won't be seeing you anymore, but I am so happy you seem to be in a good place now."

Kathy smiled and said, "I am, too."

She thanked me and the church for all the help we had given her.

We are able to help people like Kathy through your generosity. If you would like to donate to the Acts4Love fund, compassion offerings, or other HOL projects, you can do so online from our website or scan the QR code below.



COMPASSION OFFERINGS

JULY
CAMPING MINISTRY

AUGUST
WILD PLUM

July's compassion offering supports youth summer camping ministries including clean up and support of Buckhorn Camp.

August's compassion offering supports Wild Plum Head Start.

Make a donation to these compassion offerings in church or online.

If you are giving in church, write a check to Heart of Longmont with "Compassion Offering" and that month's offering on the memo line. Put your check in the offering plate or bring it to the church office.

[To give online, click here or visit our website.](#)

Thanks to your generosity, we are able to support many local programs and put more of God's Love into the World!

PUTTING SOME LOVE INTO OUR CHURCH BUILDING

With the introduction of the Heart newsletter, we will provide regular updates on facility repairs and maintenance, including planned and major maintenance or repair projects.

The newly formed Facility Management Team has been active on a number of fronts:

- Overseeing the completion of the new HVAC system (completed in Q1)
- An assessment (with Wild Plum and Pastor Claire) of our numerous and varied facility maintenance issues, with

a prioritization and initial cost estimate. The team will use this assessment to plan for work days and HOL Mission Week in June.

- Out of the assessment, a critical air conditioning need was identified resulting in the replacement of a rooftop unit over the education wing. This work was approved by Leadership Council and at the date of this writing is under contract to be finished in June.
- On the financial support side, we set a capital

campaign goal last September of \$150,000 to be raised over three years. The campaign ran concurrent with the annual Stewardship campaign. This goal was to cover most of the cost of the new HVAC system (budgeted at \$175,000). Through the end of December 2022, we received commitments of just over \$64,000 (43% of the goal).

If you have any questions or seek additional information, please contact any member of the Facilities Management Team.

MISSION WORK WEEK JUNE 12 - 16, 2023



NEW AC UNIT

The education wing has a new rooftop AC unit, installed and completed during Mission Work Week in June.



REPAIRS

Many volunteers took on various repair tasks in our church building and across the church grounds.



OUTDOORS

Our flower beds and out door areas got some love and attention during Mission Work Week!



MAINTENANCE

Some maintenance tasks are a challenge to complete without the right equipment, like cleaning and repairs to the lighting in our parking lot.



INDOORS

The inside of the church was not neglected! Indoor tasks included cleaning, re-organizing, and other housekeeping tasks.



HEAVY LIFTING

This Mission Work Week required some creative thinking and heavy lifting, especially for the task of relocating storage sheds.



WORDS BY
Lynn Greenhalge

LIBRARY AND CHAPEL CHANGES

Library Renovations - Beloved Space Taking On New Life

Many volunteers worked to go through books in our church library and condense our collection. Don't let the photo of empty shelves worry you—there are still many wonderful books for you to browse through and check out!

Renovations weren't limited to the book collection. The different rooms and interconnected spaces also received some love. The Adult Sunday School section is organized and available to anyone who wants to use the space for a small group. Room 104—the Audio/Visual Room—is now a multi-purpose meeting room. A Smart Board or TV will be installed on the wall in Room 104 for groups to use. If there's a need for a larger space, the accordion door can be folded back so larger groups can use part of the Library.

Book shelves emptied by trimming the book collection were donated to the Girl Scout History Center, which has opened up extra space in the Library for new uses. This fall, we will be providing Library Time for approximately 46 Wild Plum students. There is also a sensory corner created for children with special needs.

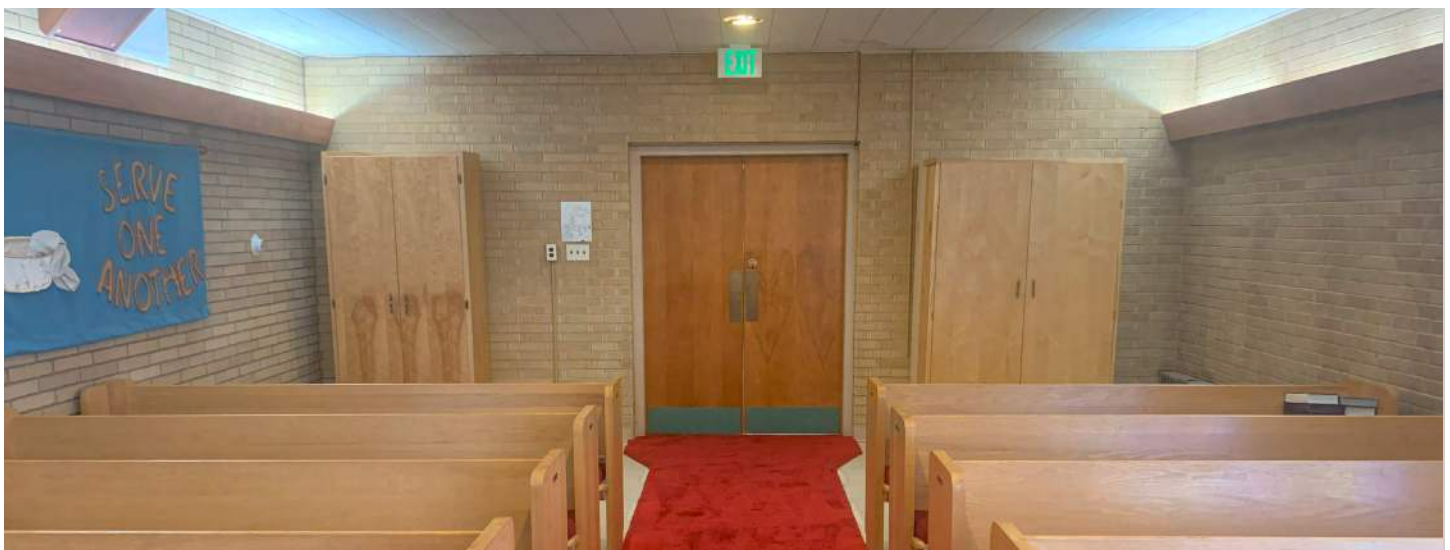
On Sundays, our Sunday Kids Children's Church Program uses the Library space for class. We continue to envision new and interesting ways to use the space creatively and effectively.

New Visions for the Chapel

You may have seen in past newsletter editions that we removed six pews from the back of our Chapel. The pews were removed as a partial renovation project to make room for cabinets from the Library at the back of the space. These cabinets now serve as indoor storage for our Blessing Box food program.

Before, nonperishable food and other supplies were stored in bins and boxes on the pews themselves, making for a cluttered and chaotic space. Now these items are housed in organized closed cabinets, still easy to access and manage while keeping the Chapel space usable, as well.

Our vision for the future of this space is to remove all of the pews and replace them with movable chairs to make a flexible worship and meeting space.





Summer Kids Events

Check out these summer events for kids and families!

- **Picnic in the Park:** July 22 at 12PM at Lake McIntosh Park (1905 Harvard Street). Bring your lunch and your family and join us for a picnic. Yard games available as well as a paddle board to go out on the lake. If you have other water crafts, bring them along! Please contact Tricia Grafelman with questions.
- **Courtyard Campout:** August 12 at 6PM to August 13 at 8AM. Bring your camping gear (tent, sleeping bag, flashlight, bug spray, toiletries and PJs) for a campout in the church courtyard. We will have an entire evening to play games, roast marshmallows, and sing songs around the campfire. Please RSVP Tricia Grafelman so we can provide enough food for everyone.
- **Saturday Night Family Movie Series:** Join us at 6PM on the dates below for a family movie. Child care will be provided. Pastor Claire's Sunday message will be about each movie following the viewing.

Aug 5
Mitchells vs the Machine

Aug 19
The Greatest Showman

Aug 27
Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Sept 3
Black Panther

WORDS BY
Lynn Greenhalge and
Kevin Lattu

KIDS' CORNER

Our Children's Ministry is growing and we have many events planned for the summer!

Much to our delight, the Children's Ministry program at Heart of Longmont has grown tremendously over the last year. From nursery care to children's church, to children's choir to family movie nights, we provide opportunities for children and their families to gather in community and grow in their relationships with God and each other.

Our Sunday Kids attend Children's Church (or the Nursery, for the "littles") during worship service on Sunday morning. Once a month, Sunday Kids participate in a mission project for a local need, like packing sack lunches for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. We are also hosting some special summer events for the whole family, which we invite you to attend!

Over the Summer, we will continue to offer both nursery care (infant through pre-K) and a children's activity (pre-K through 6th

Grade) during worship service. Children's choir will also be meeting once per month for a "pick up choir," every 4th Sunday of the Summer months: June 25, July 23, and August 27.

From Kevin Lattu, Children's Choir Director

It has been an honor this past year to work with the kids, make beautiful music, and provide a safe space for all children to learn and grow. I look forward to continuing to support HOL children in meeting our call to "put more of God's love into the world".



FREE GUN SAFES WILL PROTECT LIVES

On June 24th, individuals from the Heart of Longmont (HOL), the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Longmont Community Foundation, gave away free gun safes.

In 2022 349 gun safes were given away and 25 hand guns and rifles were collected and repurposed into garden tools, toys and jewelry.

Guns have become the number one cause of death for children in the US. Taking a proactive stance to help reduce accidental deaths is one way HOL and UCC can take part in making positive changes.

As of May 31, 17,000 people have died as a result of guns, including by suicide. This includes 109 children under the age of twelve. (Figures from the Gun Violence Archive)

The news of gun violence in our country has become all too commonplace. We need to continue to change a culture that makes murder and suicide by gun violence a daily occurrence.

Taking action in creating a safe environment for all in schools; in grocery stores; in churches; at public events requires us to speak out not only with our words, but with

our actions.

Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword."



TAKE PRIDE

This past year has seen a deluge of legislation across the country against LGBTQIA2S+ individuals. According to a CNN report, as of April 3 this year 417 bills restricting the rights of LGBTQIA+ people have been introduced nation wide. The ACLU is currently tracking 419 anti-LGBTQ+ bills as of this writing. These bills target expression, visibility, and speech; access to healthcare; opportunities in education and employment; nondiscrimination laws; and more. (Read more [at CNN here](#) and [on the ACLU website here.](#))

Restricting the rights of others is not a reflection of justice. Heart of Longmont supports and openly accepts LGBTQ+ folks, recognizing all people are children of God.

Heart of Longmont has participated in Longmont's annual Pride Fest in June, during Pride Month, for many years. This year's Pride Fest will take place on June 30 in Roosevelt park and Heart of Longmont will be there again! Visitors to the HOL booth will be welcomed, invited to make small craft projects, and take an informational pamphlet about Heart of Longmont. We are honored and happy to stand in allyship with our LGBTQ+ siblings.

Please check out the weekly Pulse and the next issue of the Heart for photos from this year's Pride Fest! Pride doesn't end in June, but continues throughout the year.



Pride Fest 2022 Heart of Longmont's booth at Longmont's Pride Fest in June 2022.



Pride Fest 2022 Another photo from Longmont's Pride Fest in June 2022.



Pride Fest 2022 The Pride Parade at Longmont Pride Fest in June 2022.



THANK YOU, DAN!

After 14 years directing the Chancel Choir, Dan Chaikin retires

Dan Chaikin, our Chancel Choir Director of 14 years, is retiring at the end of this choir season. Dan recently retired from his day job, and, after several weeks of half-retirement, came to the conclusion that at this point in his life he is ready to be fully retired.

We celebrated Dan with a card shower and cake after service on June 25, and the Chancel Choir had their own celebration after their last rehearsal.

Congratulations, Dan, on your retirement and thank you for your many years of service and music!



THE FRIDGE IS OPEN!

A new partnership with Longmont Food Rescue

Heart of Longmont is now home to a Longmont Community Fridge in partnership with Longmont Food Rescue! You may recall seeing photos of the fridge being painted and set up outside, near the Blessing Box—now it's ready to accept donations!

Longmont Food Rescue will be providing some food to stock the fridge, but, like our Blessing Box, this is a collaborative community effort. Please donate as you are able. For guidelines for donating and what donations are accepted, check the community guidelines appended to this newsletter.

This is another way we're putting more of God's Love into our community!

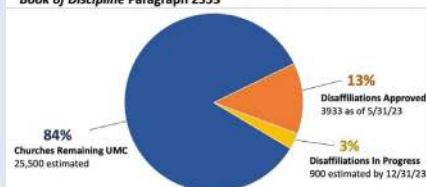
Longmont Food Rescue's mission is to create a more just and equitable food system by redistributing nutritious food that retailers have deemed food "waste" directly to individuals in Longmont who are experiencing food insecurity. Through the creation of partnerships with local retailers, restaurants, food producers, and nonprofits, they have created a community-led initiative that promotes food justice and supports sustainability goals.

[Visit Longmont Food Rescue's website](#) to learn more about this amazing non-profit we are partnering with! Check out the fridge and blessing box on the northwest corner of our building. Feel free to contribute or take food as needed.

Now can we focus on ministry?

I do not see this as a division, I see this as a pruning. Can't wait to see what our church will look like in the years to come!

UMC Disaffiliations
Book of Discipline Paragraph 2553



As Seen on Social Media

If you're a social media user, you may have seen something like this. It's an encouraging message, right? Most churches are choosing not to disaffiliate, standing in allyship with our LGBTQ+ siblings, expressing the importance of inclusion and acceptance. There is a lot of excitement to see change and growth in the church! But amidst the encouragement we shouldn't forget the nuance that's lost in the tidbits shared on the Internet. Does a focus on ministry mean a return to "normal" or does it mean growing and changing, reaching more people, especially those in underserved groups and communities, and those left without a church home in places where churches have chosen to disaffiliate?

For an interesting look at the demographics of disaffiliations, check out this report on [UMNews.org: "Report sheds light on disaffiliating churches" by Sam Hodges.](#)

FOR THE LOVE OF A HORSE

This June, Pastor Claire hosted a special event for a handful of folks of all ages at her farm. The event was all about horses, caring for them, and the special bond that can form between equines and human beings. Special thanks to Tim Bradley for the wonderful photos below.

Do you want to learn more about horses and the spiritual connection humans can have with them? Pastor Claire is hosting For The Love of A Horse events in July and August. Space is limited. Check the sign up sheet in the gallery if you wish to attend.

Didn't have the chance to attend this summer? Let Pastor Claire know you'd like to see more events like this in future!



Edy-Kay and her son, Jason, walking with one of the horses on a pleasant morning.



Edy-Kay's granddaughter, Sutton Whalen, with Lucci and Poco.



Paul Lloyd with Charles in the barn.



Kathy Bradley know the best kind of confidant is of the four-legged variety!



Lucci and Poco are two 29 year old horses who live on Pastor Claire's farm. Poco is blind, and Lucci is his seeing-eye companion.



Chris Mason and Larome seem to be having a very interesting conversation!



Marlen Steward co-led the For The Love of a Horse morning events. Here he is prepping the horses.



Sutton Whalen contemplating equine companionship and the long history humans and horses have had together.



Bonus barn cat! Cream isn't a horse, but she's still an important four-legged friend!



Looking for opportunities to serve at Heart of Longmont? There are many ways you can help out, all according to your interest and ability!

All Church Garage Sale Volunteers Needed - We are looking for volunteers to help with the all church garage sale in July. Contact Gloria Hinz or Lynn Greenhalge.

Help out with Sunday Kids - If you would be willing to be a "helper" either in the Nursery or Children's Church, please let Tricia Grafelman or Lynn Greenhalge know.

Sunday Kids in Mission - Sunday Kids do a mission project once a month. Help is needed for gathering supplies and organizing these mini-projects. Contact Lynn Greenhalge if

this activity speaks to you.

Youth Group Dinners - BASIC Youth are on break for the summer, but will be reconvening for regular Sunday meetings in the fall. Dinners will be needed for 12-18 youth at 5:00PM every Sunday they meet. It is helpful if you are able to stay to clean up. Please contact Emily Farrenkopf for dates and to sign up.

Prayer Shawls Ministry of Comfort and Prayer - Knitters and crocheters are called to help build our supply of prayer shawls for our members and community. Contact Peg Howard for more information.

Days for Girls Supplies Needed - Supplies are needed for building menstrual hygiene

kits for African girls: dark, all-cotton materials (no flags, animals, people, or eyes in the design); dark flannel; hotel-sized soaps; new washcloths; cotton underpants (not white) in girl sizes 10/12/14 and women's sizes 5/6/7; grosgrain 3/4" ribbon; cash donations to buy waterproof material. There is a box near the west entrance in which to put these items. Donations can be given to Marty Allison.

Library Books Available For Loving Homes - The reference books are gone, but more books are being added to the pool by the Library Team! There are many good titles for free right now, take as many as you like! Books that don't find a new home will be boxed up and included in the All Church Garage Sale July 14 and 15.

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?



SINGLE GOVERNANCE MODEL UPDATE

In December 2022, Heart of Longmont adopted a new vision for leadership called Simplified Board Governance. The primary focus of Simple Board Governance (SBG) is to simplify, or "flatten", the leadership structure of the church. This leadership structure makes a single Leadership Council and reduces the number of volunteer leaders required.

Our Leadership Council meets the 4th Wednesday every month from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Each month, the Leadership Council spends significant time reflecting on our faith, followed by the work of the church. Any change can bring its own growing pains, and our new leadership is no exception, yet we are working hard to become a vital and cohesive team, doing the important work of the church during such a difficult time in our denomination's history.

In addition to a Leadership Council, there are 3 other teams that are busy doing the work of the church. These teams are:

Facility Design Team

This team has overall management and care of all facility assets (building and surrounding grounds, systems and networks,



etc.) to ensure facility utility. This includes maintenance of the "handy person" program and rapid response for repair and maintenance items. The team is made up of 4-6 individuals focused primarily on facility maintenance and contractor oversight. Two of these team members are representatives on the Leadership Council. They meet in person monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 PM.

Mission Design Team

This team identifies opportunities for outward expressions of our gratitude and compassion to put more of God's love into the world. The team is made up of 6-8 individuals focused on building connections and relationships with organizations focused on addressing food and shelter needs, affordable housing,

social justice issues, and education. At least one member of this team is a representative of United Women in Faith and two of the team members are representatives on the Leadership Council. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Ministry Design Team

This team designs ministry to meet the needs of our faith community to include enriching and engaging worship experiences and a path to

discipleship for all who come to worship with us.

The team is made up of 6-8 individuals focused primarily on worship and program activities such as worship, children and family ministry, youth, adult ministries, Care Team, etc. Two of the team members are representatives on the Leadership Council. They meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Contact and Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes are available upon request. Contact Jeff Brown (the Chair of Simplified Board Governance) or the church office if you would like a copy. If you have any questions about Simplified Board Governance and Leadership Council, contact Jeff Brown.

NEXT ISSUE

- Gun Safe Give Away numbers and results
- Pride Fest 2023 photos!
- Update from UWF on the All Church Garage Sale
- Fall kids and families events
- BASIC Youth Group mission trip updates
- And more!

CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Send your prayer requests to prayers@heartoflongmont.org

SUBMISSIONS?

Do you have a worshipful moment, memorable experience, story, photo, or other interesting Heart of Longmont tale you'd like to share with our community? Send them to digitalcontent@heartoflongmont.org!

BY DAY THE LORD DIRECTS THEIR LOVE,
AT NIGHT THEIR SONG IS WITH ME—
A PRAYER TO THE GOD OF MY LIFE.

PSALM 42:8

Give Online



Scan here to give to HOL programs
and compassion offering.
Thank you for your generosity!

WORSHIP WITH US!

Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM
in person or online on our YouTube channel!
We look forward to seeing you there!

Follow Us on Social Media!



www.youtube.com/HeartofLongmont



www.facebook.com/HeartofLongmont



[@heartoflongmont](https://www.instagram.com/heartoflongmont)



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[@heartoflongmont](https://www.tiktok.com/@heartoflongmont)

HOL CARES ABOUT YOUR HEALTH

A return to "normal" is a precarious place for many of our friends and neighbors, especially those who are immunocompromised, disabled, or otherwise at risk.

Please continue to show love and respect for all our friends, neighbors, and siblings in Christ and stay home if you are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness in order to curb the spread of disease. We still encourage you to wear a mask and practice social distancing.



CONTACT US

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The Heart of Longmont office is open Monday through Thursday,
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

www.heartoflongmont.org

OUR MISSION

Putting More of God's Love Into The World; Helping all persons find deeper meaning and God's purpose for their lives as committed Christ-followers.

Serving as the Heart of Longmont means:

We will welcome all persons, without reservation or judgment, just as Jesus Christ would do.

We will work tirelessly by entering into intentional acts of compassion and social justice to make our community a place where God's love is known by all, where poverty and deprivation are unknown by any, and where respect for the worth and dignity of each person is the norm.

We will respect and honor other religious traditions while choosing Christ as our way of knowing God best.

We will emphasize life-long learning so that we may engage our world from a dynamic and creative perspective.

We will work to protect God's creation.

We will practice stewardship of all aspects of our lives, including time, talent, financial resources, and spiritual gifts.

For free and accessible local Longmont news, visit:

LONGMONT LEADER.com



WHAT IS SECURE FIREARM STORAGE?

“Secure firearm storage” means locking your firearm(s) in a location or with a device that prevents unauthorized users from accessing them.

WHY IS SECURE FIREARM STORAGE IMPORTANT?

Secure storage is a key component of responsible firearm ownership and ensuring household and community safety.

It can prevent

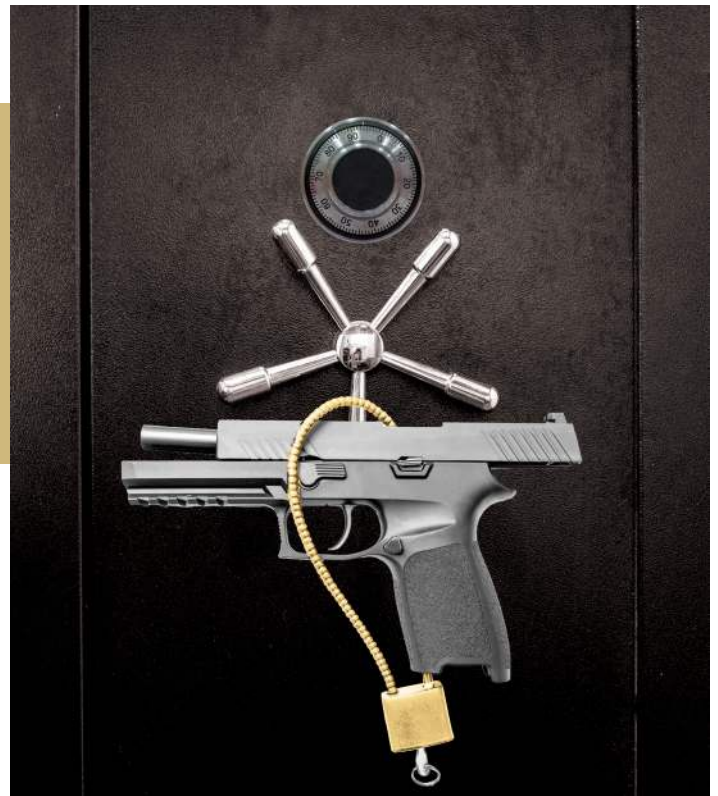
- 1 theft and the likelihood that the stored firearm(s) be used in criminal activity,
- 2 accidental injury and death among young children, and
- 3 fatal suicide attempts by delaying access to a highly lethal method of self-injury.

WHAT SHOULD I AVOID?

Only authorized firearm users should know the locations of device keys or device locking combinations. Avoid giving access to household members who might be at risk of hurting themselves or others, whether from a mental health condition, drug or alcohol use, cognitive impairment, or life stresses.

Avoid giving unsupervised access to children and adolescents under the age of 18. Children and adolescents can face mental health challenges and life stressors and are also prone to emotional swings and impulsivity.

Avoid hiding firearms as the main method of secure firearm storage. Research studies have shown that, in households where firearms are hidden, children commonly know the hiding place.



WHAT COULD SECURE FIREARM STORAGE LOOK LIKE IN MY HOUSEHOLD?

Firearm advocacy organizations and medical professionals suggest that firearms be stored locked and unloaded, with ammunition stored separate.

Deciding what storage will look like in your home will be influenced by:

- Type and quantity of firearms owned
- Intended use
- Financial limitations
- Household makeup

For example:

- If you are primarily a hunter, recreational shooter, or collector and immediate access is not a priority, a large safe or secure gun room may be appropriate.
- If you use a firearm for home- or self-defense, that firearm can be securely stored but remain quickly accessible by using locking devices with biometric (e.g., fingerprint) or traditional locking features (i.e., keys, number codes).

WHAT DEVICES CAN BE USED TO SECURE MY FIREARMS?

Locking devices designed specifically for firearms are best, but any locked room, cabinet, or device which limits access is better than leaving firearm(s) unsecured and accessible to anyone who may find them or knows where they are stored.

Devices have a variety of locking mechanism options:



Standard key locks



Combination locks



Biometric (e.g., fingerprint) locks



Digital keypad

Some common firearm-specific devices include:



Large gun safes: Depending on the model, large gun safes can be capable of storing several firearms up to a dozen or more, including long guns.

- Prevents theft
- Prevents damage
- \$\$\$



Smaller lockboxes or vaults: Ranging in sizes capable of holding one to several handguns. Many models are capable of being mounted securely into vehicles, cabinets, drawers, etc.

- Portable
- Prevents damage
- \$\$



Trigger or cable locks: These devices work for a single firearm and are typically able to accommodate both handguns and long guns of varying types.

- Prevents theft
- \$

Secure storage and firearm suicide prevention

In Colorado, 3 out of 4 firearm-involved death are due to suicide.¹ Firearms are particularly dangerous to those experiencing a suicidal crisis because they are lethal. Approximately 90% of people who attempt suicide using a firearm will die from their injury.²

Around 100 youth in Colorado die by suicide each year, and firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in Colorado. Among youth who die by suicide, around 40% use a firearm – and 4 out of 5 times that firearm belonged to a family member.¹

The good news is that suicidal crises are often very brief, often with only minutes between the final decision to attempt suicide and the act itself.³ Putting time and space between an at-risk person and a lethal method (like a firearm) can be lifesaving.

If you're worried that you or someone you know is at risk of suicide, reducing firearm access can save lives. But you should also seek professional help; call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 988 24/7 for free guidance.

Secure storage and theft prevention

Thousands of firearms are stolen in Colorado every year, some of which are then diverted to crime.⁴ Secure storage inside the home can help prevent theft. Firearm owners are advised against storing firearms in their cars/vehicles, especially if they are unsecured.

Temporary Out of Home Storage

There may be times when the safest option is to move all firearms out of your home, such as during a family crisis or if you or a family member is feeling suicidal. In some states, in the context of a crisis, individuals can temporarily transfer firearms to certain persons (e.g., spouse, family member, friend) without going through a firearm transfer process/background check. Additionally, locations in your community, such as gun shops, shooting ranges, and police departments may be willing store your firearms temporarily.

Find locations in Colorado:



Extreme Risk Protection Orders

If a person poses a significant risk to themselves or others – and voluntary reduction in access will not work – an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) may be an option. An ERPO is a legal order that prohibits an at-risk individual from possessing or purchasing firearms. In Colorado, ERPOs can be requested by law enforcement officers, family members, and/or household members. A judge determines whether to issue an order, which can be for 14 days or (after a hearing) up to one year. Learn more via the [Colorado Judicial Branch website](https://www.colorado.gov/branch-website).

SOURCES:

1. Colorado Violent Death Reporting System, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
2. Suicide Case-Fatality Rates in the United States, 2007 to 2014. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 2019;171(12):885-95. doi: 10.7326/m19-1324

3. Harvard Injury Control Research Center, <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/means-matter>
4. Colorado Attorney General, <https://coag.gov/firearmsafety/>

Longmont Community Fridges

COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC 24/7

USER GUIDE

- NO NEED TO PROVIDE ID OR EXPLANATION
- ALL FOOD INSIDE FRIDGES & DRY STORAGE UNITS IS FREE
- PLEASE TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU NEED
- PLEASE DO NOT DRAW ON OR MARK THE FRIDGES
- COMPLETE THE SURVEY TO KEEP FRIDGES STOCKED

DONATION GUIDE

- GIVE WHAT YOU CAN
- MUST BE UNOPENED & IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING WITH EXPIRATION LABELS
- NO HOME PREPARED MEALS
- NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
- TAKE TIME TO ORGANIZE OR CLEAN FRIDGE & TAKE OUT ANY ROTTEN OR EXPIRED ITEMS

Website



LONGMONTCOMMUNITY
FRIDGES.ORG

Instagram



@LONGMONT
COMMUNITYFRIDGES

Stay Updated!

LONGMONT COMMUNITY FRIDGES IS PROTECTED FROM ANY LIABILITY UNDER THE FOOD DONATION ACT OF 2017, THE GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD DONATION ACT OF 1996, AND COLORADO C.R.S. §§ 13-21-113. INTERACT AT YOUR OWN RISK.